Introduction:
1. Two chapters are dedicated to Steven.
2. We learn a valuable spiritual lesson from the life of Steven.

I. BACKGROUND OF STEVEN
   A. HE WAS CHOSEN TO SERVE -Ac 6:1-7
      1. The widows were neglected of their daily distribution
      2. Steven was chosen among seven to serve the widows
         a. He was full of faith and the Holy Spirit
         b. Because of his service, along with the others, the word spread
   
   B. HE WAS ACCUSED OF BLASPHEMY
      1. He displayed faith, powers, and wonders -vs 8
      2. His critics were not able to resist the wisdom and Spirit by which he spoke -vs. 10
      3. Result, they had him accused of blasphemy

II. STEVEN'S SERMON
   A. GOD CALLED ABRAHAM -7:1-8
      1. He was called to leave his country -vs. 3
      2. He prophecies that they will be in bondage, but come out and serve Him -vs. 7
   
   B. JOSEPH WAS SOLD INTO SLAVERY -7:9-16
      1. He was rejected by his brethren, but God was with him
      2. He was chosen to save his family from the famine
   
   C. MOSES CHOSEN TO DELIVER ISRAEL
      1. He killed the Egyptian -7:23-28
         a. He tried reconciling two of his brethren
         b. They questioned, “Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?”
      2. God chose Moses from the burning bush -vs. 30-36
      3. Moses predicted another Prophet would rise like him
      4. The Israelites made a golden calf in rebellion.
   
   D. GOD'S TRUE TABERNACLE
      1. Solomon built the Lord a great house
      2. Solomon comments on how inadequate it is for God's glory -vs. 49, 50
   
   E. THRUST OF THE LESSON
      1. They persecuted the prophets
      2. They killed Jesus the Son of Almighty God!

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F. THE RESULTS
   1. They were angry with Steven and took him out and stoned him
   2. During this section we are introduced to a young man named Saul

Conclusion:
   1. Throughout biblical history, the message of God has been rejected.
   2. When we look at church history, the message is still rejected by many.
   3. Application: we must not be discouraged by rejection. They do not reject us, but rather God.