

## The Church Is Scattered by Persecution (Acts 8:1-4) 1/21/24

### Introduction

At first glance, Stephen's death may seem \_\_\_\_\_. Such a distorted view of Stephen's death, however, betrays a lack of understanding of the way the \_\_\_\_\_ works.

*"The blood of the martyrs became the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church." – Tertullian*

Rejection in one place becomes the \_\_\_\_\_ for people elsewhere to receive the gospel and become part of the messianic \_\_\_\_\_.

### Saul Ignites Persecution (v. 1a)

Notes on Saul's role in the persecution:

in hearty agreement with (*syneudokeo*) =

This one event marked a \_\_\_\_\_ in the relationship between those in the church and those \_\_\_\_\_ the church.

persecution (*diogmos*) =

In the first \_\_\_\_\_ of the word persecution in [Matthew 13:20-21](#), Jesus explains that it actually exposes \_\_\_\_\_.

falls away (*skandalizo*) =

Upon Stephen's death, the predictions of the Lord Jesus were coming *true*:  
"If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:20).  
"they will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God" (John 16:2).

### The Church Disperses from Jerusalem (vv. 1b-2)

they were all scattered (*diaspeiro*) =

Jesus had declared specifically the \_\_\_\_\_ that the gospel would spread.

The devout men buried Stephen out of their \_\_\_\_\_ for God.

The loud lamentation of the devout men amounted to a public \_\_\_\_\_ of Stephen's death.

### Saul's Persecution Ignites Evangelism (vv. 3-4)

ravaging (*lymaino*) =

dragging off (*syro*) =

In spite of the \_\_\_\_\_, those believers who had been scattered were not cowering somewhere in \_\_\_\_\_.

The primary \_\_\_\_\_ of the persecution was that the Word got out of Jerusalem and spread to \_\_\_\_\_!

Satan's persecution \_\_\_\_\_ the very thing it was designed to \_\_\_\_\_.