

5. The True Tabernacle of God – Is No Ordinary Temple (Acts 7:44-50)

- ✧ *Stephen's Climax:* "They should realize that God is not limited to the temple. The fact that God does not live permanently in what is made by hands also implied that the temple would pass away just as the tabernacle did. Therefore, prophesying [of] the destruction of the temple was not a betrayal of true Judaism nor was it apostasy." ⁵

✧ Now believers individually and as a body are temples of the Holy Spirit (See 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; cf. Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5).

6. Israel Resists The Holy Spirit – Killing The Prophets & The Coming Just One (Acts 7:51-53)

- ✧ *Stephen's Alternate Accusation:* vv.51-53 – ⁵¹ "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! **You always resist the Holy Spirit**; as your fathers did, so do you. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of **the Just One**, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, ⁵³ who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."

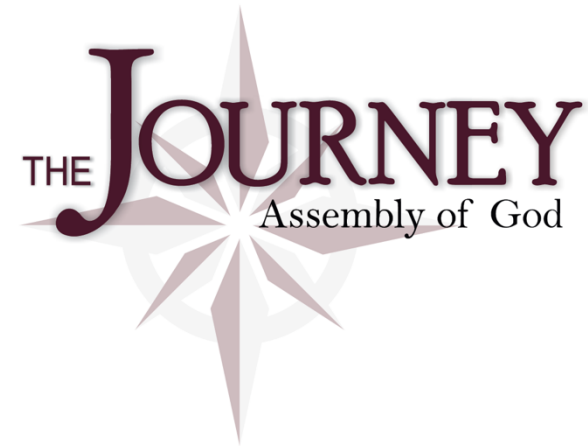
7. Stephen Is Stoned – The First Martyr of The Early Christian Church (Acts 7:54-60)

- ✧ *Stephen's State of Heart & Mind:* ⁵⁵ "But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, ⁵⁶ and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"



✧ Note Acts 8:1-4 – "And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him." (v.2)

Live a Life Worthy of the Gospel!



MESSAGE GUIDE

Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer
Sunday: October 5, 2025



Message Guide

Date: October 5, 2025

Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer

Today's Message:

SERIES: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A Study of the Early Church With Contemporary Application

"The Ministry of Stephen – A Martyr Full of the Holy Spirit"

Text: Acts 6:8 – 7:60

"The Ministry of Stephen"

Text: Acts 6:8-15 – Stephen Accused of Blasphemy

- ✧ v.8 – "And Stephen, full of faith [grace] and power, did great wonders and signs among the people."
- ✧ vv.9-10 – ⁹ "Then there arose some from what is called **the Synagogue of the Freedmen...** disputing with Stephen.
¹⁰ And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke."



The Charge Against Stephen – Blasphemy (Acts 6:8-15)

- ✧ The Ministry of Stephen: Full of faith & power; Full of God's grace (v.5)
- ✧ The Opposition: The Synagogue of Freedman (v.9)
- ✧ The Charge: Blasphemy (vv.11, 13-14)
 - ✧ Similar charges were raised against Jesus (Matthew 26:61, Mark 14:57-59 and John 2:19-21).
 - ✧ v.15 – "And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at [Stephen], saw his face as the face of an angel."



1. Stephen's Address To the Sanhedrin – The Call of Abraham (Acts 7:1-8)

- ✧ His Purpose: "His purpose was to defend the gospel against false charges and to show a parallel, between the way Old Testament Jews treated their prophets and the way the Jewish leaders treated Jesus." ¹

2. The Patriarchs In Egypt – God's Providential Use of Joseph (Acts 7:9-16)

- ✧ Stephen's Strategy at Work: "He strongly contrasts the way Joseph's brothers treated him and the way God treated [Joseph] ... Stephen is leading also to a comparison with the way the Jewish leaders treated Jesus and the way God exalted Him." ²

3. The Enslavement of Israel In Egypt – God's Selection of Moses as their Deliverer (Acts 7:17-37)

- ✧ Stephen's Main Point: "This Moses whom they had rejected, God Himself had sent, through the angel who had appeared to him in the bush, to be 'their ruler and deliverer' ... and God used [him] to save them out of Egypt!" ³
 - ✧ v.37 – "**This is that Moses** who said to the children of Israel, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you **a Prophet** like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.' " (See Deuteronomy 18:15)

4. Israel Rebels Against God In The Wilderness – The Rejection of Moses' Leadership (Acts 7:38-43)

- ✧ Stephen Drove Home His Main Point: "It was 'our fathers' who rejected Moses and the Law, thereby rebelling against the God who gave the Law. The Fathers of Israel, not Jesus, had been the ones who wanted to change the laws, customs, and teachings given by Moses." ⁴
 - ✧ The Jewish people and the Sanhedrin had followed in their rebellious footsteps. (See Matthew 15:6-9; 23:4-7, 23-39; 24:1-2).



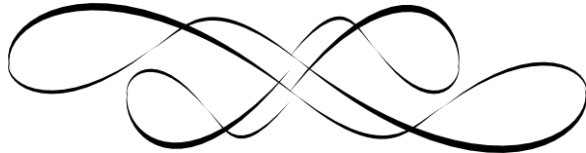
SALVATION PRAYER

Dear Jesus, I repent of my sin.
I believe You are the Son of God.
I Believe You died for my sins on the cross of Calvary.
I Believe You were buried and that You rose again three days later.
I ask You to be my Lord & Savior Today.
In Jesus' Name I Pray. Amen.



✦ MY NEXT STEPS TODAY...

- ☐ **Take A Stand for God** ~ Express my faith Jesus unashamedly!
- ☐ **Pray for the Persecuted Church** ~ In every area of the world!
- ☐ **Grow in My Knowledge of The Word** ~ Read, study, consume the Bible!
- ☐ **Engage With Others In Witnessing** ~ Take the Good News to Oak Harbor!
- ☐ **Make a Faith Decision** ~ Prayerfully place my **faith** in Jesus Christ, God's Son, by **recognizing Him** as my personal **Lord** and **Savior** and by asking and receiving the forgiveness of my sins.



Endnotes:

- ¹ Horton, Stanley M., *Acts – A Logion Press Commentary* (Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, MO, 2001), p.143.
- ² Horton, Stanley M., *Acts – A Logion Press Commentary*, p.145.
- ³ Horton, Stanley M., *Acts – A Logion Press Commentary*, p.150.
- ⁴ Horton, Stanley M., *Acts – A Logion Press Commentary*, p.152.
- ⁵ Horton, Stanley M., *Acts – A Logion Press Commentary*, p.154.

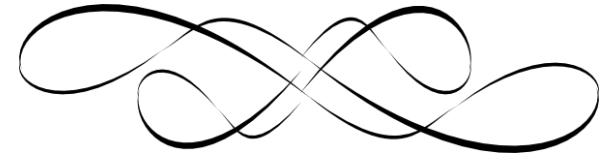
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- ² Horton, Stanley M., *Acts – A Logion Press Commentary*, p.145.
- ³ Horton, Stanley M., *Acts – A Logion Press Commentary*, p.150.
- ⁴ Horton, Stanley M., *Acts – A Logion Press Commentary*, p.152.
- ⁵ Horton, Stanley M., *Acts – A Logion Press Commentary*, p.154.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For The Week of October 5 – 11, 2025

SERIES: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A Study of the Early Church With Contemporary Application

"The Ministry of Stephen – A Martyr Full of the Holy Spirit"

Acts 6:8 – 7:60

"The Ministry of Stephen"

Text: Acts 6:8-15 – Stephen Accused of Blasphemy

- 1) Re-read this text from the Bible. Can you relate in any way to the opposition Stephen faced from those who were disputing with him?
- 2) Have you ever had a moment when you were witnessing that was similar in some degree with v.10 in the above text?

The Charge Against Stephen – Blasphemy (Acts 6:8-15)

- 1) How would you define the charge of blasphemy? What were the Jews charging Stephen with that would amount to such an accusation?
- 2) Take a moment to read the charges that were also brought against Jesus in Matthew 26:61, Mark 14:57-59 and John 2:19-21. Why do you think these charges were still "active" and being brought against Stephen these many months later after Jesus' death and resurrection?



Stephen's Address To the Sanhedrin (Acts 7:1-50)

- 1) Regarding Stephen's purpose of defending the gospel against false charges and showing a parallel between the way the Old Testament Jews treated the prophet and the way the Jewish leaders treated Jesus – how well do you think Stephen's overall address made a good case?
- 2) Why do you think Stephen began by reciting the history of Abraham and God's calling upon his life? Have you ever talked with someone and chose to go way back in time to give some context to what you wanted to talk about?
- 3) What was Stephen's point in bringing up Joseph and his brothers (known as the patriarchs) in Acts 7:9-16?
- 4) Why do you think bringing up Moses was helpful to Stephen's debate strategy in Acts 7:17-43? And what do you think is the primary verse in this passage and why?
- 5) How did the Jewish people and their leadership in the Sanhedrin follow in the rebellious footsteps of their patriarchal fathers? (Read Matthew 15:6-9; 23:4-7, 23-39; 24:1-2 and Mark 11:15-17 for more context.)
- 6) What do you think was Stephen's point in explaining that God does not live permanently in what is made by hands (e.g., the earthly tabernacle of the Old Testament or the Jewish Temple) in Acts 7:44-50?
 - ✎ How do these Scriptures in the New Testament reveal a more relevant way of worship and communion with God than merely a revering of a physical house of worship like the Jewish people did the temple? (1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; cf. Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5).

Stephen's Charge Against the Sanhedrin (Acts 7:51-60)

- 1) Read Stephen's accusation in vv.51-53. What does he charge the Jewish people and the Sanhedrin with in these verses? (Hint: There are multiple charges...)
- 2) How did the Sanhedrin respond to Stephen? What did they do to him?
- 3) How did God stand by Stephen and affirm his testimony and life?
- 4) How can Christian today live a life worthy of the gospel?