

ACTS OF GOD

Acts 7:54-8:3

Let's Understand that the World Is
Not Our Friend but Jesus Is

*Four encouragements for when (not “if”)
the world persecutes us*

ACTS OF GOD

Acts 7:54-8:3

7:54 Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at [Stephen]. ⁵⁵ But he, 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 he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.

ACTS OF GOD

Acts 7:54-8:3

⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

ACTS OF GOD

Acts 7:54-8:3

8:1 And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Four encouragements for when (not “if”) the world persecutes us

1. The world has an extreme aversion to Truth and its followers. (v. 54, 57-58, 8:1-3)
2. We must always keep an unwavering view of Jesus in our hearts and minds. (v. 55-56)
3. When the world comes at us with hearts of stone, we must respond with hearts of faith and mercy. (v. 59-60)
4. When the world dishonors us because of our faithfulness, Jesus isn't just honored by us. We are also honored by Him! (v. 55-56)

ACTS OF GOD

Acts 7:54-8:3