

Bible Study on CONNECT in ACTS — Acts 6:8-7:60 For Sunday May 8, 2022

This week we are looking at the story of Stephen, a faithful servant of Jesus. Below is only a piece of that story. Please read Acts 6:8-7:60 in your Bible to grasp the whole scripture!

Acts 6:8-15 (ESV)

8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. **9** Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. **10** But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. **11** Then they secretly instigated men who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” **12** And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, **13** and they set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, **14** for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.” **15** And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Acts 7:48-60 (ESV)

48 Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says,

49

“Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.
What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord,
or what is the place of my rest?

50

Did not my hand make all these things?’

51 “You stiff-necked people, 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 announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, **53** you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

54 Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. **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. **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

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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.

1. In what life situations have you seen “Holy Spirit Wisdom” as described in Acts 6:10?
2. When you read Acts 7:1-53, whose history is Stephen talking about? Who are the major names that he mentions? Why do you think Stephen mentioned each one?
3. What prophet is Stephen referencing in 7:48-50? What does this mean for us today? Where does God’s presence dwell?
4. What does Stephen mean when he says “uncircumcised in heart and ears” in 7:51? What verse is he making a connection to earlier in the chapter?
5. Why is it significant that Stephen made the request, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them”? How is Stephen making a connection to Jesus and his last moments?