

“STEPHEN: CAUGHT BETWEEN A ROCK AND GOD’S GRACE”

I. STEPHEN – CHOSEN TO SERVE AND ARRESTED (Acts 6:8-15)

- A. Stephen was full of _____ and _____ (6:8)
- B. Stephen did great _____ and _____ among the people (6:8)
- C. Certain men of a synagogue disputed with Stephen but were not able to resist the _____ and the _____ by which he spoke (6:9-10)
- D. They secretly induced men who then falsely accused Stephen of blasphemy against _____ and _____ (6:11).
- E. They stirred up the people, seized Stephen and brought him before the _____ (6:12).
- F. They brought false witnesses against Stephen who said he spoke words against the _____ and _____ (6:13)
- G. They also said they heard Stephen say that this place (the temple) would be destroyed by _____ (6:14)

* Where have we seen all this before?

- H. Stephens’ face was as the face of an _____ (6:15).

II. STEPHENS’ DEFENSE BEFORE THE COUNCIL (Acts 7:1-50)

Abraham (7:2-8), Joseph (7:9-16), Moses (7:17-41), God’s Rejection of Israel (7:42-43)
The Tabernacle and the Temple (Acts 7:44-48)

III. STEPHENS’ CONCLUSION AND DEATH (7:51-60)

- A. Stephen told the council they were _____ and _____ and always resist the _____ (7:51).
- B. Stephen said they were betrayers and murderers of the _____ (7:52).
- C. Stephen said they had received the _____ but did not keep it (7:53)

- D. When they heard these things, they gnashed at Stephen with their _____ (7:54)
- E. Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, saw the heavens opened and standing at the right hand of God was _____ (7:55-56).
- F. The council cast Stephen out of the city and _____ (7:58).
- G. Witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named _____ (7:58).
- H. Stephen called upon God and said "Lord Jesus, receive my _____ (7:59).
- I. As Stephen was dying, he asked the Lord to not charge the people with this _____ (7:60).

IV. SO WHAT WERE THE RESULTS OF STEPHENS' DEATH?

For Stephen, death meant _____.

For Israel, Stephen's death meant _____.

For the church in Jerusalem, the death of Stephen meant _____.

Finally, as far as Saul (Acts 7:58) was concerned, the death of Stephen eventually meant _____.

"I seek not a long life, but a full one, like You, Lord Jesus"Jim Elliot