

Study #10 Bible Reading: Acts 6:8-15, 7:51-60

6:8 Stephen, full of God's gifts and power, was doing great wonders and miracles among the people. 9 Some men from the Synagogue of the Freedmen, as it was called, and men from Cyrene and Alexandria, and men from Cilicia and Asia got up to argue with Stephen. 10 But they couldn't resist the wisdom and the Spirit by Whom he spoke.

11 Then they secretly got some men to say, "We heard him slander Moses and God." 12 They stirred up the people, the elders, and the men of the Law, and rushing at him, took him by force and brought him before the Jewish council. 13 There they had witnesses stand up and lie, "This man won't stop talking against the holy place and the Law. 14 We heard him say, 'This Jesus from Nazareth will tear this place down and change the customs Moses gave us.'"

15 All who sat in the council stared at him and saw his face – it was like an angel's face.

7:51 "How stubborn you are and pagan at heart and deaf to the truth!" [Stephen said.] "You're always opposing the Holy Spirit. Your fathers did it, and so do you! 52 Was there ever a prophet your fathers didn't persecute? They killed those who announced, 'The Righteous One will come!' and now you betrayed and murdered Him. 53 Angels were ordered to give you the Law, but you didn't keep it!"

54 While they were listening, the men of the council became furious and ground their teeth at him. 55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed up to heaven and saw God's glory and Jesus standing at God's right hand. 56 "Look!" he said, "I see heaven opened and the Son of Man standing at God's right hand."

57 But they yelled at the top of their voices, held their ears shut, and all together rushed at him. 58 They threw him out of the city and started to stone him. The witnesses had laid their outer clothes at the feet of a young man – his name was Saul.

59 While they were stoning Stephen, he called, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then, kneeling, he called out loud, "Lord, don't hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.