

  
Gospel of Grace  
FELLOWSHIP  
**Acts 7:52-60**  
(continued)  
**The Martyrdom of Stephen**  
by Bob DeWaay  
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**Stephen Sees the Glorified Messiah**

**Acts 7:56 (ESV)**  
And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

- "Son of Man" is a reference to Daniel 7:13, 14
- The right hand of God is a reference to Ps.110:1
- In Luke 23:45, the veil was torn (thus opened), here the very heavens are opened.

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**An Angry Mob Will Not Listen**

**Acts 7:57 (ESV)**  
But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.

- If what Stephen said was true, they knew they stood condemned
- This was a mob action, not a legal one
- They shouted and stopped their ears so they would not have to hear what Stephen preached
- They could not tolerate the truth!

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### The Mob Stones Stephen

**Acts 7:58 (ESV)**

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.

- Saul is introduced by Luke and will soon become a key character in Acts
- They wanted to do this to Jesus in Luke 4 but could not (thrown down a cliff was specified in Mishna)

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### He Calls on Christ Directly

**Acts 7:59 (ESV)**

And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

- This shows belief in the deity of Christ
- Christ said similar words (Luke 23:46)
- Psalm 31:5

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### Stephen Is Like Christ in Death

**Acts 7:60 (ESV)**

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.

- Because they stopped their ears, Stephen had not been able to preach forgiveness
- See Luke 23:34
- They hear about forgiveness now though they would need to repent to receive it
- "Fell asleep" is a Christian euphemism for death

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### Saul Wanted Stephen Killed

**Acts 8:1a (NASB)**

Saul was in **hearty agreement** with putting him to death.

- Saul did more than hold garments, he fully endorsed this evil action
- Paul was from Cilicia (Acts 22:3) like some who had debated Stephen (Acts 6:9)
- “Hearty agreement” is **suneudokéō** which implies taking pleasure with others (Romans 1:32; Acts 22:20)

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