

## SERMON NOTES

### **ACTS: Unleashed**

Acts 6:8-8:4  
November 13-14, 2010

“Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.” [v.8]

“Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen [as it was called] – Jews from Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen, but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.” [Vv. 9-10]

“Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, ‘We have heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God.’” [v.11]

“So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin.” [v.12]

“They produced false witnesses, who testified, ‘This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law.’” [v. 13]

“For we have heard him say that this Jesus will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us.” [v. 14]

“All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.” [v. 15]

## SERMON NOTES

### **ABRAHAM – [7:2-8]**

[v. 7:2] “The glory of God appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia”

### **JOSEPH – [Vv. 8-19]**

[Vv.9-10] “Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so he made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace.”

### **MOSES – [Vv.20-34]**

“Moses] saw one of [his fellow Israelites] being mistreated by and Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.” [Vv. 24-25]

“This is that Moses who told the Israelites, ‘God will send you a prophet like me from your own people’. [v. 37]

“He was in the assembly in the desert, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers; and he received living words to pass on to us. But our fathers refused to listen to him.” [Vv. 38-39]

## SERMON NOTES

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### **PROPHETS** – [Vv.42-50]

“But God turned away and gave them over to the worship of the heavenly bodies. This agrees with what is written in the book of the prophets.” [Summarizes Amos 5:25-27].

“However, the Most High does not live in houses made by men. As the prophet says:

Heaven is my throne,  
And the earth is my footstool.  
What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord.”  
[Vv. 48-49]

‘You stiff-necked people with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him – you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it.’  
[Vv. 51-53]

“When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.” [v. 54]

“But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.’” [Vv. 55-56]

## SERMON NOTES

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“At this they covered their ears, and yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him.” [Vv. 57-58]

“Mean while, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.” [v. 58]

“While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, ‘Lord, Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he fell asleep.” [Vv. 59-60]

“Now Saul approved of their killing him. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.” [8:1]