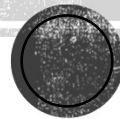


THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

Stephen the Wonder-Worker | Acts 6:8-8:3



1

STEPHEN THE WONDER-WORKER

The Main Point: Christ honors courageous faithfulness as he advances his plan through persecution.

- Stephen | seized and charged (6:8-15)
 - Speaking against the dwelling place of the presence of God
 - Speaking against Moses
- Stephen's defense and charge (7:1-53)
 - An apologetic for the dwelling place and presence of God
 - Abraham | the sojourning God (7:3-6)
 - Joseph | the God present to rescue (7:9, 11-13)
 - Moses | holy ground outside the holy land (7:33, 44)
 - David-Solomon | the God who does not dwell in handmade houses (7:48-50)



2

STEPHEN THE WONDER-WORKER

- An Apologetic for Moses
 - Moses | beautiful to God (vs. 20)
 - Moses | wonder-worker, ruler and redeemer sent to deliver (7:34-36)
 - Moses | received living oracles on Sinai (vs. 38)
 - Moses | refused and thrust aside by the people (vs. 39)
 - Moses | a precursor to a future prophet (vs. 37)

- A Bare-knuckle Accusation | “like your fathers” (vss. 51-53)
 - Superficially religious
 - Resistant to the prophets
 - Disobedient to the law of Moses
 - Murderers of the Righteous One

3

STEPHEN THE WONDER-WORKER

- Stephen's martyrdom (7:54-60)
 - A standing ovation
 - A young man named Saul
 - Two final pleas
- The great persecution begins, the witnesses spread (8:1-3)

Acts in Action

- The God who works through devastation

4