

ACTS: Stephen

Acts 7 | James Choung | March 22, 2026

^{6:8} Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

⁹ Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.

¹¹ Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God." ¹² So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin.

¹³ They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. ¹⁴ For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."

They view me as the person who blew everything up -- when I'm not the one who cooked the books."
- Sherron Watkins

¹⁵ All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel. ¹⁶ Then the high priest asked Stephen, "Are these charges true?"

⁴⁸ However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says: ⁴⁹ "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord, Or where will my resting place be? ⁵⁰ Has not my hand made all these things?"

⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! ⁵² Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— ⁵³ you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it."

⁵⁴ When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ 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. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ 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.

Stephen, like Jesus

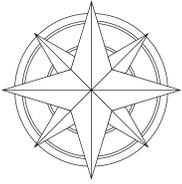
Both are accused by false witnesses in front of the Sanhedrin (Acts 6:13, Mark 14:56-57)

Both are accused of speaking against the Temple (Acts 6:13-14, Mark 14:58)

Both understand that the Son of Man is at the right hand of God (Acts 7:56, Mark 14:62, Luke 22:69)

Both, at death, ask God to receive their spirit. (Acts 7:59, Luke 23:46)

Both ask God to forgive their accusers (Acts 7:60, Luke 23:34)



ACTS: Stephen

Acts 7 | James Choung | March 22, 2026

Seek the truth. Love the truth. Speak the truth. Hear the truth. Hold the truth. Defend the truth -- unto death."
- Jan Hus (c. 1370-1415)