79. Stephen Prayed for His Murderers

Acts 6:8-12 NIV

Now <u>Stephen</u>, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. Opposition arose, however, from <u>members</u> of the Synagogue of the <u>Freedmen</u> (as it was called)—Jews of <u>Cyrene</u> and <u>Alexandria</u> as well as the provinces of <u>Cilicia</u> and <u>Asia</u>. These men began to argue with Stephen, but they could not <u>stand</u> up against his <u>wisdom</u> or the Spirit by whom he spoke.

Then they <u>secretly</u> persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God."

So they <u>stirred</u> up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law.

Acts 7:51-60 NLT

"You <u>stiff-necked</u> people, with uncircumcised hearts and <u>ears</u>! 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 <u>predicted</u> the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have <u>betrayed</u> and <u>murdered</u> him— you who have received the law that was put into <u>effect</u> through angels but have not obeyed it."

When they heard this, they were <u>furious</u> and <u>gnashed</u> their teeth at him. 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."

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

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his <u>knees</u> and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he <u>fell asleep</u>.



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ALEXANDRIA	FELL	SAUL
ASIA	FREEDMEN	SECRETLY
ASLEEP	FURIOUS	STAND
BETRAYED	GNASHED	STEPHEN
CILICIA	KNEES	STIFF
COVERED	MEMBERS	STIRRED
CYRENE	MURDERED	STONE
DRAGGED	NECKED	VOICES
EARS	PREDICTED	WISDOM
EFFECT	RUSHED	WITNESSES