



APOSTLES

OF THE APOSTLES

THE LIFE OF STEPHEN

ACTS 6 AND 7

Stephen, the man God crowned.

- There are two words for “*crown*” in the New Testament: ***diadema***, which means “a royal crown;” and ***stephanos***, the “victor’s crown,” which gives us the popular name Stephen.
- You can inherit a ***diadema*** by the blood of Jesus, but the only way to get a ***stephanos*** is to earn it by living a victorious life for the Lord. Stephen earned one!

FOUR WINDOWS OF A FIERY FAITH

1. STEPHEN THE SUPER SERVANT **ACTS 6:1-7**

- D.L. Moody used to say *“that it was better to put ten men to work than to try to do the work of ten men.”*
- The Church needs to raise up from within godly leaders and let them use their gifts.
- We commonly call these seven men of **ACTS 6** “deacons” because the Greek noun *diakonos* is used in **ACTS 6:1**. *“Distributions”* and the verb *diakoneo* (serve) is used in **ACTS 6:2**.
- Stephen was a servant who trained up and turned loose another generation of servants!

2. THE RADICAL WITNESS **ACTS 6:8-15**

- This Spirit-filled man did not limit his ministry to the serving of tables; he also won the lost, and even did miracles.
- Nobody could match or resist Stephen's wisdom and power.
- Their only alternative was to destroy him, just as they tried to do with Jesus, which did not work!
- It was not even necessary for Stephen to speak in order to give witness, the glow on his face told everybody that he was a true servant of God.
- They would see in him Moses' shining face. **EX. 34:29-30**

3. THE GODLY JUDGE **ACTS 7:1-53**

This is the longest address in Acts and one of the most important; in it, Stephen reviewed the history of Israel.

- A. They misunderstood their own spiritual roots in Abraham. **v. 1-8**
- B. They rejected their God-sent deliverers like Joseph and Moses. **v. 9-36**
- C. They disobeyed their own God-given law. **v. 37-43**
- D. They despised their temple built by Solomon. **v. 44-50**
- E. They stubbornly resisted God and His truth. **v. 51-53**

4. THE MIGHTY MARTYR **ACTS 7:54-60**

You wonder what kind of a world we live in when good and godly men like Stephen can be murdered by religious bigots! Yet, this is exactly what Islamic Jihad is!

What were the results of Stephen's death?

- A. For Stephen, death meant **CORONATION. REV. 2:10**
- B. For Israel, Stephen's death meant **CONDEMNATION.**
- C. For the church in Jerusalem, the death of Stephen meant **LIBERATION.**
- D. Finally, as far as Saul (**ACTS 7:58**) was concerned, the death of Stephen eventually meant **SALVATION.**

MAY WE ALL BE LIKE STEPHEN!