

STEPHEN IS KILLED & BELIEVERS IN JESUS ARE PERSECUTED Acts 6:7-8:4

6:7 God's Word spread. In Jerusalem more and more people followed Jesus. And many priests believed in Jesus.

8 (A man named) Stephen was full of Creator God's power and full of God's grace. He did many miracles and amazing things. Many people saw what Stephen did.

9 But a group of Jews did not like Stephen (because he believed in Jesus). This group argued with Stephen. 10 But Stephen was very wise, and God's Spirit helped Stephen speak. So this group could not win the argument with Stephen.

11 Then the group told lies about Stephen. 12 So, many people and the religious leaders got angry at Stephen. They took Stephen to the Jewish Council. 13-14 They told more lies about Stephen. 7:1 The High Priest asked Stephen, "Are these things true?"

2 Then Stephen answered: 51 "Your ancestors (in the Old Testament) did not obey God's Spirit – and you do not obey God's Spirit. You are just like your ancestors. 52 Your ancestors persecuted all God's prophets. Some of God's prophets said, 'The Messiah (God's Son) will come.' But your ancestors killed those prophets. And, now, you have killed Jesus the Messiah."

54 Then the Council and the religious leaders and the people became very angry. 55 But Stephen was full of God's Spirit. Stephen looked up to heaven – and he saw God's glory – and he saw Jesus standing beside God. 56 Stephen said, "Look! I see heaven. And I see Jesus standing by God."

57 The Council and religious leaders and people hated what Stephen said – so they covered their ears. And they ran toward Stephen – 58 and they dragged him out of the city. Then they threw rocks at Stephen to kill him.

59 While they were killing Stephen with rocks, Stephen prayed, "Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then Stephen fell on his knees. And Stephen shouted, "God, forgive these people's sin – forgive them for killing me." Then Stephen died.

8:1 That day, a big persecution started in Jerusalem – the persecution was against the believers in Jesus. So, all the believers in Jesus ran away from Jerusalem. They went to the area around Jerusalem – and they went to the next country, Samaria.

Only Jesus' twelve, main disciples stayed in Jerusalem. 4 The believers went many places – and everywhere the believers went, the believers told everyone about Jesus.

(8:)1 (A man named) Paul watched Stephen die. He was happy that Stephen died. 3 Then Paul started to destroy Jesus' people. Paul went from house to house – and he looked for believers in Jesus. And Paul put the believers, men and women, in jail.

CONTENT QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was Stephen full of? (Acts 6:8)
- What did Stephen do? (verse 8)
- **Who** did not like Stephen? (verse 9)
- **Why** didn't the group of Jews like Stephen? (verse 9)
- What did they do with Stephen? (verse 9)

What do you think they were arguing about?

- Why couldn't the Jewish group win the argument? (verse 10)
- What did the Jewish group and the religious leaders do to Stephen? (verses 11-14)
- What did the High Priest ask Stephen? (Acts 7:1)
- What did Stephen answer the High Priest and the Jewish Council? (verses 51-52)

What did the Jew's ancestors do (in the Old Testament)? (verses 51-52)

What did the High Priest and the religious leaders do to Jesus? (verse 52)

- **How** did the Council and religious leaders **feel**? (verse 54)
- What did Stephen see? (verses 55-56)
- How did the Council and religious leaders feel about what Stephen saw? (verse 57)
- What did the Council and religious leaders do to Stephen? (verse 58)
- What did Stephen shout to God? (verse 60)

What do you think about what Stephen said to God?

- What **happened** to Stephen? (verse 60)
- Then what happened to believers in Jesus in Jerusalem? (Acts 8:1)
- So where did the believers go? (verse 1)
- But what did the believers do when they ran away? (verse 4)

What do you think?

Was it **dangerous** to talk about Jesus?

But were the believers **afraid** to talk about Jesus?

Why do you think the believers talked about Jesus everywhere?

- How did Paul feel about Stephen's **death**? (verse 1 – **last paragraph**)
- What did Paul do? (verse 3)

What do you think will happen **next**? (What will happen in the next story?)

Over 5000 men **plus** women in Jerusalem had believed in Jesus.

Now, what do you think will happen to the believers in Jesus?

Stephen	ステファノ、ステパノ（イエス・キリストのための最初の殉教者）
kill	殺す
believer	信者
persecute	迫害する
God's Word	神様のことば、聖書
spread	広まる、広がる
Jerusalem	エルサレム（イスラエルの都、南王国ユダの都）
more and more	益々、いよいよ
follow	従う、後をついていく
many	多くの、大勢の
priest	祭司
believe	信じる
named	名付けられた
full	満ちる、一杯になる
Creator God	創造者、創造主、天地創造の神様
power	力
grace	恵、神様からの大いなる祝福
miracle	奇跡、すばらしい業
amazing	驚くべき、不思議、びっくりするような、すごい
group	グループ、群れ、仲間、集団、団体
Jew	ユダヤ人（イスラエル人）
like	好き、好む
because	～のため、～のせい、なぜなら
argue	言い争う
but	しかし
very	非常に
wise / wiser / wisest	知恵に満ちる、知恵ある
God's Spirit	聖霊、神様の霊、キリストの霊
speak - spoke - spoken	話す、語る

so	だから、それで、それに従って、そのためには、そんなに
win - won - won	勝つ
argument	言い争い
then	そして、その場合、その時、そしたら
tell a lie - told a lie - told a lie	嘘をつく
about	について、約
religious leader	宗教のリーダー
angry	怒る
take - took - taken	連れていく、取る、受け取る、持っていく、奪う
Jewish	ユダヤ教の、ユダヤ人の
Council	
High Priest	大祭司
true	本当の、真の、純正な
answer	答える、答え
ancestor	先祖
Old Testament	旧約聖書（イエス・キリスト以前の聖書の話）
obey	従う、聞き従う
just	ちょうど、ぴったり、只、だけ、ジャスト
like	のように、似る
prophet	預言者
Messiah	メシア、メシア＝キリスト、メシヤは神に任命された方、救い主、王、大祭司
heaven	天国
glory	栄光
stand - stood - stood	立つ
beside	となりに、そばに
Look!	ほら
hate	憎む
cover	(耳を) 塞ぐ
toward	～に対する、向く
drag	引きずる

city	市
throw - threw - thrown	投げる
rock	石
while	しながら、～ながら、している間
pray	祈る
receive	受ける、得る、受け取る
spirit	霊、魂
fall - fell - fallen	落ちる、倒れる、転ぶ
knee	膝
shout	叫ぶ
forgive - forgave - forgiven	赦す
sin	悪い考え、態度、言葉、行い – 罪、罪を犯す
die	死ぬ
persecution	迫害
start	始める、始まる
against	に対して、に反して、逆らう
run away - ran away - run away	逃げる
area	地方
around	に回る、～の回り、（歩き）回る
next	次の
country	国
Samaria (In New Testament times, Samaria was the next door country to Israel – and they didn't like each other.)	サマリア、サマリヤ（新約聖書時代ではイスラエルの隣りの国。サマリア人とユダヤ人[イスラエル人]は仲が悪い。）
only	だけ、のみ、ただ、ひとりの、ただ一人の、ただ一つの
main	中心の
stay	いる、待つ、止まる、泊まる、滞在する、そのままに、残る
place	場所
everywhere	いたるところ
everyone	皆
watch	眺める、見つめる、（動いてるものをわざと）みる、番をする、注目する

happy	嬉しい、喜ぶ、幸せだ
destroy	滅ぼす、打ちこわす
look for	探す、探し求める
jail	牢獄

who	誰
why	なぜ、どうして
how	どう、どのくらい
feel - felt - felt	感じる
happen	起こる
dangerous	危ない、危険な
afraid	恐れる、恐る、怖くなる
death	死
last	最後の
paragraph	パラグラフ、段落
next	次
plus	足す、加える