

The Stoning of Stephen Acts 6:8-7:60

Stephen's speeches provoke false accusations. 6:8-15

- Stephen is enabled to do apostolic-like miracles. Note the Spirit's presence in this recently appointed deacon who debates so well, 6:3,5,10, 7:55
- False accusations of disrespecting the Law and temple recall Mk. 14:55-59.

Stephen's sermon-like defense nails his accusers. 7:1-53

- Stephen's condensed summary of Israel's history focuses on (1) God's plan to bring Messiah, (2) God's blessing independent of the temple (3) Israel's repeated opposition to God's plans and His messengers.
- This = 3rd time the Jewish leaders are blamed for killing Messiah, 3:10, 5:30.

Stephen is stoned to death by an angry mob before Saul. 7:54-60

- Verse 54 = *cut to the heart* (KJV, AMP) as in 5:33, but no Gamaliel here.
- Note parallels to Jesus' death (witnesses, temple, Stephen's last words).

Why so much attention to Stephen?

