

Lesson Seven: First Martyr

Stephen Seized (*read verses 6:8-15*)

- 1) The Hellenistic Jews accused Stephen of speaking against the temple and the Law. Were these accusations true? What does Luke say?

Stephen's Speech to the Sanhedrin (*read verses 7:1-53*)

- 2) Stephen answered the charges and gave his testimony (7:2-53). What pattern in Jewish history did he trace through Joseph (7:9-16), Moses (7:17-39), and Jesus (7:51-52)? What was similar about these men and their experiences with the Jews?
- 3) Stephen also repeatedly mentioned God's promises to Abraham (7:2-8, 17, 32, 34-37). How was God's promise relevant to Stephen's view of the Jewish laws?
- 4) What did Stephen imply was wrong with the Jews' attitude toward the temple (7:48-50)?
- 5) Stephen did not just answer the charges against him; he responded with charges of his own (7:51-53). What were his accusations that roused the Jews to fury?

The Stoning of Stephen (*read verses 7:54-60*)

- 6) Stephen's words in 7:55-56 moved his audience to riot and stone him for blasphemy (7:57-58). Why?
- 7) Stoning is an agonizing death. What is significant about Stephen's response to it (7:59-60)?

The Church Persecuted and Scattered (*read verses 8:1-3*)

- 8) How did the persecution of the Hellenistic Jewish Christians in Jerusalem serve to advance the progress of the church?
- 9) What lessons for us does 6:8 - 8:3 offer?

