

KJV	American Standard	The Message
<p><b>Acts 6</b></p> <p><b>1</b> And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.</p> <p><b>2</b> Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.</p> <p><b>3</b> Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.</p> <p><b>4</b> But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.</p> <p><b>5</b> And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:</p> <p><b>6</b> Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid</p>	<p><b>Acts 6</b></p> <p><b>1</b> Now in these days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a murmuring of the [a]Grecian Jews against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. <b>2</b> And the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not [b]fit that we should forsake the word of God, and [c]serve tables. <b>3</b> [d]Look ye out therefore, brethren, from among you seven men of good report, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. <b>4</b> But we will continue stedfastly in prayer, and in the ministry of the word. <b>5</b> And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus a proselyte of Antioch;</p> <p><b>6</b> whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands upon them.</p>	<p><b>Acts 6</b></p> <p><b>1-4</b> During this time, as the disciples were increasing in numbers by leaps and bounds, hard feelings developed among the Greek-speaking believers—"Hellenists"—toward the Hebrew-speaking believers because their widows were being discriminated against in the daily food lines. So the Twelve called a meeting of the disciples. They said, "It wouldn't be right for us to abandon our responsibilities for preaching and teaching the Word of God to help with the care of the poor. So, friends, choose seven men from among you whom everyone trusts, men full of the Holy Spirit and good sense, and we'll assign them this task. Meanwhile, we'll stick to our assigned tasks of prayer and speaking God's Word."<b>5-6</b> The congregation thought this was a great idea. They went ahead and chose—Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, Nicolas, a convert from Antioch. Then they presented them to the apostles. Praying, the</p>

<p>their hands on them.</p> <p><b>7</b> And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.</p> <p><b>8</b> And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.</p> <p><b>9</b> Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.</p> <p><b>10</b> And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.</p> <p><b>11</b> Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God.</p> <p><b>12</b> And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council,</p> <p><b>13</b> And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words</p>	<p><b>7</b> And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem exceedingly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.</p> <p><b>8</b> And Stephen, full of grace and power, wrought great wonders and signs among the people. <b>9</b> But there arose certain of them that were of the synagogue called <i>the synagogue</i> of the [e]Libertines, and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and Asia, disputing with Stephen.</p> <p><b>10</b> And they were not able to withstand the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spake. <b>11</b> Then they suborned men, who said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and <i>against</i> God. <b>12</b> And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and seized him, and brought him into the council, <b>13</b> and set up false witnesses, who said, This man ceaseth not to speak words against this holy place, and the law: <b>14</b> for we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place,</p>	<p>apostles laid on hands and commissioned them for their task.</p> <p><b>7</b> The Word of God prospered. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased dramatically. Not least, a great many priests submitted themselves to the faith.</p> <p><b>8-10</b> Stephen, brimming with God’s grace and energy, was doing wonderful things among the people, unmistakable signs that God was among them. But then some men from the meeting place whose membership was made up of freed slaves, Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and some others from Cilicia and Asia, went up against him trying to argue him down. But they were no match for his wisdom and spirit when he spoke.</p> <p><b>11</b> So in secret they bribed men to lie: “We heard him cursing Moses and God.”</p> <p><b>12-14</b> That stirred up the people, the religious leaders, and religion scholars. They grabbed Stephen and took him before the High Council. They put forward their bribed witnesses to testify: “This man talks nonstop against this Holy Place and God’s Law. We</p>
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<p>against this holy place, and the law:</p> <p><b>14</b> For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.</p> <p><b>15</b> And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.</p> <p><b>Acts 7</b></p> <p><b>1</b> Then said the high priest, Are these things so?</p> <p><b>2</b> And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,</p> <p><b>3</b> And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee.</p> <p><b>4</b> Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.</p> <p><b>5</b> And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot</p>	<p>and shall change the customs which Moses delivered unto us.</p> <p><b>15</b> And all that sat in the council, fastening their eyes on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.</p> <p><b>Acts 7</b></p> <p><b>1</b> And the high priest said, Are these things so? <b>2</b> And he said, Brethren and fathers, hearken: The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, <b>3</b> and said unto him, Get thee out of thy land, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall show thee. <b>4</b> Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Haran: and from thence, when his father was dead, <i>God</i> removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell: <b>5</b> and he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: and he promised that he would give it to him in possession, and to his seed after him, when</p>	<p>even heard him say that Jesus of Nazareth would tear this place down and throw out all the customs Moses gave us.”</p> <p><b>15</b> As all those who sat on the High Council looked at Stephen, they found they couldn’t take their eyes off him—his face was like the face of an angel!</p> <p><b>Acts 7</b></p> <p><b>1</b> Then the Chief Priest said, “What do you have to say for yourself?”</p> <p><b>2-3</b> Stephen replied, “Friends, fathers, and brothers, the God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was still in Mesopotamia, before the move to Haran, and told him, ‘Leave your country and family and go to the land I’ll show you.’</p> <p><b>4-7</b> “So he left the country of the Chaldees and moved to Haran. After the death of his father, he immigrated to this country where you now live, but God gave him nothing, not so much as a foothold. He did promise to give the country to him and his son later on, even though Abraham had no son at the time. God let him know that his offspring</p>
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<p>on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.</p> <p><b>6</b> And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years.</p> <p><b>7</b> And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place.</p> <p><b>8</b> And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs.</p> <p><b>9</b> And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him,</p> <p><b>10</b> And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.</p>	<p><i>as yet</i> he had no child.</p> <p><b>6</b> And God spake on this wise, that his seed should sojourn in a strange land, and that they should bring them into bondage, and treat them ill, four hundred years. <b>7</b> And the nation to which they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place.</p> <p><b>8</b> And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so <i>Abraham</i> begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac <i>begat</i> Jacob, and Jacob the twelve patriarchs. <b>9</b> And the patriarchs, moved with jealousy against Joseph, sold him into Egypt: and God was with him, <b>10</b> and delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.</p>	<p>would move to an alien country where they would be enslaved and brutalized for four hundred years. ‘But,’ God said, ‘I will step in and take care of those slaveholders and bring my people out so they can worship me in this place.’</p> <p><b>8</b> “Then he made a covenant with him and signed it in Abraham’s flesh by circumcision. When Abraham had his son Isaac, within eight days he reproduced the sign of circumcision in him. Isaac became father of Jacob, and Jacob father of twelve ‘fathers,’ each faithfully passing on the covenant sign.<b>9-10</b> “But then those ‘fathers,’ burning up with jealousy, sent Joseph off to Egypt as a slave. God was right there with him, though—he not only rescued him from all his troubles but brought him to the attention of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. He was so impressed with Joseph that he put him in charge of the whole country, including his own personal affairs.</p>
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<p><b>11</b> Now there came a dearth over all the land of Egypt and Chanaan, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance.</p> <p><b>12</b> But when Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first.</p> <p><b>13</b> And at the second time Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto Pharaoh.</p> <p><b>14</b> Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls.</p> <p><b>15</b> So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers,</p> <p><b>16</b> And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem.</p> <p><b>17</b> But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,</p> <p><b>18</b> Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph.</p> <p><b>19</b> The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so</p>	<p><b>11</b> Now there came a famine over all Egypt and Canaan, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance. <b>12</b> But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent forth our fathers the first time. <b>13</b> And at the second time Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's race became manifest unto Pharaoh. <b>14</b> And Joseph sent, and called to him Jacob his father, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls.</p> <p><b>15</b> And Jacob went down into Egypt; and he died, himself and our fathers;</p> <p><b>16</b> and they were carried over unto Shechem, and laid in the tomb that Abraham bought for a price in silver of the sons of [a]Hamor in Shechem.</p> <p><b>17</b> But as the time of the promise drew nigh which God vouchsafed unto Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,</p> <p><b>18</b> till there arose another king over Egypt, who knew not Joseph. <b>19</b> The same dealt craftily with our race, and ill-treated our fathers, that [b]they</p>	<p><b>11-15</b> "Later a famine descended on that entire region, stretching from Egypt to Canaan, bringing terrific hardship. Our hungry fathers looked high and low for food, but the cupboard was bare. Jacob heard there was food in Egypt and sent our fathers to scout it out. Having confirmed the report, they went back to Egypt a second time to get food. On that visit, Joseph revealed his true identity to his brothers and introduced the Jacob family to Pharaoh. Then Joseph sent for his father, Jacob, and everyone else in the family, seventy-five in all. That's how the Jacob family got to Egypt. <b>15-16</b> "Jacob died, and our fathers after him. They were taken to Shechem and buried in the tomb for which Abraham paid a good price to the sons of Hamor.</p> <p><b>17-19</b> "When the four hundred years were nearly up, the time God promised Abraham for deliverance, the population of our people in Egypt had become very large. And there was now a king over Egypt who had never heard of Joseph. He exploited our race mercilessly. He went so far</p>
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<p>that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.</p> <p><b>20</b> In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months:</p> <p><b>21</b> And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son.</p> <p><b>22</b> And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.</p> <p><b>23</b> And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.</p> <p><b>24</b> And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian:</p> <p><b>25</b> For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.</p> <p><b>26</b> And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would</p>	<p>should cast out their babes to the end they might not [c]live.</p> <p><b>20</b> At which season Moses was born, and was [d]exceeding fair; and he was nourished three months in his father's house: <b>21</b> and when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son. <b>22</b> And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians; and he was mighty in his words and works.</p> <p><b>23</b> But when he was well-nigh forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. <b>24</b> And seeing one <i>of them</i> suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, smiting the Egyptian: <b>25</b> and he supposed that his brethren understood that God by his hand was giving them [e]deliverance; but they understood not. <b>26</b> And the day following he appeared unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are</p>	<p>as forcing us to abandon our newborn infants, exposing them to the elements to die a cruel death.</p> <p><b>20-22</b> “In just such a time Moses was born, a most beautiful baby. He was hidden at home for three months. When he could be hidden no longer, he was put outside—and immediately rescued by Pharaoh’s daughter, who mothered him as her own son. Moses was educated in the best schools in Egypt. He was equally impressive as a thinker and an athlete.</p> <p><b>23-26</b> “When he was forty years old, he wondered how everything was going with his Hebrew kin and went out to look things over. He saw an Egyptian abusing one of them and stepped in, avenging his underdog brother by knocking the Egyptian flat. He thought his brothers would be glad that he was on their side, and even see him as an instrument of God to deliver them. But they didn’t see it that way. The next day two of them were fighting and he tried to break it up, told them to shake hands and get along with each other: ‘Friends, you are brothers, why are you beating up on</p>
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<p>have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?</p> <p><b>27</b> But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us?</p> <p><b>28</b> Wilt thou kill me, as thou diddest the Egyptian yesterday?</p> <p><b>29</b> Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two sons.</p> <p><b>30</b> And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sinai an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.</p> <p><b>31</b> When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, the voice of the LORD came unto him,</p> <p><b>32</b> Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold.</p> <p><b>33</b> Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground.</p> <p><b>34</b> I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my</p>	<p>brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?</p> <p><b>27</b> But he that did his neighbor wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us? <b>28</b> Wouldest thou kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian yesterday? <b>29</b> And Moses fled at this saying, and became a sojourner in the land of Midian, where he begat two sons.</p> <p><b>30</b> And when forty years were fulfilled, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. <b>31</b> And when Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold, there came a voice of the Lord, <b>32</b> I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob. And Moses trembled, and durst not behold.</p> <p><b>33</b> And the Lord said unto him, Loose the shoes from thy feet: for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. <b>34</b> I have surely seen the affliction of my people that is in Egypt, and have heard their groaning, and I am come down to deliver</p>	<p>each other?'</p> <p><b>27-29</b> "The one who had started the fight said, 'Who put you in charge of us? Are you going to kill me like you killed that Egyptian yesterday?' When Moses heard that, realizing that the word was out, he ran for his life and lived in exile over in Midian. During the years of exile, two sons were born to him.</p> <p><b>30-32</b> "Forty years later, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, an angel appeared to him in the guise of flames of a burning bush. Moses, not believing his eyes, went up to take a closer look. He heard God's voice: 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.' Frightened nearly out of his skin, Moses shut his eyes and turned away.</p> <p><b>33-34</b> "God said, 'Kneel and pray. You are in a holy place, on holy ground. I've seen the agony of my people in Egypt. I've heard their groans. I've come to help them. So get yourself ready; I'm sending you back to Egypt.'</p>
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<p>people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt.</p> <p><b>35</b> This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.</p> <p><b>36</b> He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.</p> <p><b>37</b> This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.</p> <p><b>38</b> This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:</p> <p><b>39</b> To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back</p>	<p>them: and now come, I will send thee into Egypt.</p> <p><b>35</b> This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? him hath God sent <i>to be</i> both a ruler and a [f]deliverer with the hand of the angel that appeared to him in the bush.</p> <p><b>36</b> This man led them forth, having wrought wonders and signs in Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years. <b>37</b> This is that Moses, who said unto the children of Israel, [g]A prophet shall God raise up unto you from among your brethren, [h]like unto me. <b>38</b> This is he that was in the [i]church in the wilderness with the angel that spake to him in the mount Sinai, and with our fathers: who received living oracles to give unto us:</p> <p><b>39</b> to whom our fathers would not be obedient, but thrust him from them, and turned back in their hearts unto Egypt, <b>40</b></p>	<p><b>35-39</b> “This is the same Moses whom they earlier rejected, saying, ‘Who put you in charge of us?’ This is the Moses that God, using the angel flaming in the burning bush, sent back as ruler and redeemer. He led them out of their slavery. He did wonderful things, setting up God-signs all through Egypt, down at the Red Sea, and out in the wilderness for forty years. This is the Moses who said to his congregation, ‘God will raise up a prophet just like me from your descendants.’ This is the Moses who stood between the angel speaking at Sinai and your fathers assembled in the wilderness and took the life-giving words given to him and handed them over to us, words our fathers would have nothing to do with.</p> <p><b>39-41</b> “They craved the old Egyptian ways, whining to Aaron, ‘Make us gods we can see and follow. This Moses who got us out here miles from</p>
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<p>again into Egypt,</p> <p><b>40</b> Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.</p> <p><b>41</b> And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.</p> <p><b>42</b> Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness?</p> <p><b>43</b> Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.</p> <p><b>44</b> Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen.</p> <p><b>45</b> Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the</p>	<p>saying unto Aaron, Make us gods that shall go before us: for as for this Moses, who led us forth out of the land of Egypt, we know not what is become of him. <b>41</b> And they made a calf in those days, and brought a sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their hands.</p> <p><b>42</b> But God turned, and gave them up to serve the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets,</p> <p>[j]Did ye offer unto me slain beasts and sacrifices Forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?</p> <p><b>43</b> And ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, And the star of the god Rephan, The figures which ye made to worship them: And I will carry you away beyond Babylon.</p> <p><b>44</b> Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness, even as he appointed who spake unto Moses, that he should make it according to the figure that he had seen.</p> <p><b>45</b> Which also our fathers, in their turn, brought in with [k]Joshua when they entered on the possession</p>	<p>nowhere—who knows what’s happened to him!’ That was the time when they made a calf-idol, brought sacrifices to it, and congratulated each other on the wonderful religious program they had put together.</p> <p><b>42-43</b> “God wasn’t at all pleased; but he let them do it their way, worship every new god that came down the pike—and live with the consequences, consequences described by the prophet Amos: Did you bring me offerings of animals and grains those forty wilderness years, O Israel? Hardly. You were too busy building shrines to war gods, to sex goddesses, Worshiping them with all your might. That’s why I put you in exile in Babylon.</p> <p><b>44-47</b> “And all this time our ancestors had a tent shrine for true worship, made to the exact specifications God provided Moses. They had it with them as they followed Joshua, when God cleared the land of pagans, and still had it right down to the time of</p>
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<p>Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;</p> <p><b>46</b> Who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob.</p> <p><b>47</b> But Solomon built him an house.</p> <p><b>48</b> Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,</p> <p><b>49</b> Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?</p> <p><b>50</b> Hath not my hand made all these things?</p> <p><b>51</b> Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.<b>52</b> Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:<b>53</b> Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.</p>	<p>of the [l]nations, that God thrust out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;</p> <p><b>46</b> who found favor in the sight of God, and asked to find a habitation for the God of Jacob. <b>47</b> But Solomon built him a house.</p> <p><b>48</b> Howbeit the Most High dwelleth not in <i>houses</i> made with hands; as saith the prophet,</p> <p><b>49</b> [m]The heaven is my throne, And the earth the footstool of my feet: What manner of house will ye build me? saith the Lord: Or what is the place of my rest?</p> <p><b>50</b> Did not my hand make all these things?</p> <p><b>51</b> Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Spirit: as your fathers did, so do ye. <b>52</b> Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? and they killed them that showed before of the coming of the Righteous One; of whom ye have now become betrayers and murderers; <b>53</b> ye who received the law [n]as it was ordained by angels, and kept it not.</p>	<p>David. David asked God for a permanent place for worship. But Solomon built it.</p> <p><b>48-50</b> “Yet that doesn’t mean that Most High God lives in a building made by carpenters and masons. The prophet Isaiah put it well when he wrote, “Heaven is my throne room; I rest my feet on earth. So what kind of house will you build me?” says God. “Where I can get away and relax? It’s already built, and I built it.”</p> <p><b>51-53</b> “And you continue, so bullheaded! Calluses on your hearts, flaps on your ears! Deliberately ignoring the Holy Spirit, you’re just like your ancestors. Was there ever a prophet who didn’t get the same treatment? Your ancestors killed anyone who dared talk about the coming of the Just One. And you’ve kept up the family tradition—traitors and murderers, all of you. You had God’s Law handed to you by angels—</p>
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**54** When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

**55** But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

**56** And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

**57** Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

**58** And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

**59** And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

**60** And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

### **Acts 8**

**8** And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution

**54** Now when they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. **55** But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

**56** and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

**57** But they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and rushed upon him with one accord;

**58** and they cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. **59** And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *the Lord*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. **60** And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

### **Acts 8**

**1** And Saul was consenting unto his death. And there arose on that day a great persecution

gift-wrapped!—and you squandered it!”

**54-56** At that point they went wild, a rioting mob of catcalls and whistles and invective. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, hardly noticed—he only had eyes for God, whom he saw in all his glory with Jesus standing at his side. He said, “Oh! I see heaven wide open and the Son of Man standing at God’s side!”

**57-58** Yelling and hissing, the mob drowned him out. Now in full stampede, they dragged him out of town and pelted him with rocks. The ringleaders took off their coats and asked a young man named Saul to watch them.

**59-60** As the rocks rained down, Stephen prayed, “Master Jesus, take my life.” Then he knelt down, praying loud enough for everyone to hear, “Master, don’t blame them for this sin”—his last words. Then he died.

Saul was right there, congratulating the killers.

### **Acts 8**

**1-2** That set off a terrific persecution of the church in Jerusalem. The believers were all

<p>against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.</p> <p><b>2</b> And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.</p> <p><b>3</b> As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.</p> <p><b>4</b> Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.</p>	<p>against the church which was in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. <b>2</b> And devout men buried Stephen, and made great lamentation over him. <b>3</b> But Saul laid waste the church, entering into every house, and dragging men and women committed them to prison.</p> <p><b>4</b> They therefore that were scattered abroad went about [a]preaching the word.</p>	<p>scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. All, that is, but the apostles. Good and brave men buried Stephen, giving him a solemn funeral—not many dry eyes that day!</p> <p><b>3-8</b> And Saul just went wild, devastating the church, entering house after house after house, dragging men and women off to jail. Forced to leave home base, the followers of Jesus all became missionaries. Wherever they were scattered, they preached the Message about Jesus</p>
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