

Rejection and Consequences

Acts 7

"You stiff-necked people with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are always resisting the Holy Spirit. As your ancestors did, you do also. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They even killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become. You received the law under the direction of angels and yet have not kept it." When they heard these things, they were enraged and gnashed their teeth at him. Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven. He saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. He said, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" They yelled at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and together rushed against him. They dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. And the witnesses laid their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he called out: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" He knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" And after saying this, he died.

Acts 7:51-60 CSB

FOCUS: Christians MUST be able to defend the faith to reach the world with the gospel.

OUTLINE:

1. The History Lesson (1 – 53)
 - a. God and Israel (1 – 16)
 - b. Moses and Israel (17 – 37)
 - c. The Law and Israel (38 – 43)
 - d. The Temple and Israel (44 – 53)
2. The Hysteria (54 – 57)
 - a. The Crowd
 - i. Filled with Anger
 - ii. Spiritual Blindness
 - b. Stephen
 - i. Filled with the Spirit
 - ii. Spiritual Sight
3. The Hit (58 – 60)