

Acts 7:54—8:3 (New English Translation—NET)

⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they became furious and ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently toward heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look!” he said. “I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, shouting out with a loud voice, and rushed at him with one intent. ⁵⁸ When they had driven him out of the city, they began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ They continued to stone Stephen while he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” ⁶⁰ Then he fell to his knees and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” When he had said this, he died.¹ And Saul agreed completely with killing him.

Now on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were forced to scatter throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria. ² Some devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him.³ But Saul was trying to destroy the church; entering one house after another, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

Sermon Notes:**Discovery Bible Study Questions**

1. What do you think of when you hear the word ‘persecution’? When does it come up these days?
2. Review ch 6-7. Why were the leaders furious (v54) and what does the figure of speech mean?
3. Read 7:55-8:1. Verse 55 says that Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit. Why was this important?
4. How do you feel about the vision that Stephen had in v55-56?
5. How do you feel about Stephen’s response to his persecutors (59-60)? Does it sound familiar?
6. Read 8:1-3. What was the result of the persecution? How does it relate to Acts 1:8?
7. What can we discover about Saul from this passage?

