

## **Setting the world on fire**

### **Acts 6:8-8:4**

#### **Introduction**

How do you worship God? When? Where? How?

This passage is all about the right worship of God. The events described in this passage mark a turning point in the life of the church from being a sect of Judaism to becoming separate.

#### **The spark**

Read **Acts 6:8-15**. What type of man is Stephen? What complaints are made against Stephen?

Let's read **Acts 7:1-53**. As we read notice the places mentioned and what happens there. Use an atlas to help and mark the map provided to help you follow the message. I used a jpg map downloaded from the internet and put it up on a big screen. This was brilliant to navigate: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/17/Middle\\_East\\_topographic\\_map-blank.svg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/17/Middle_East_topographic_map-blank.svg)

Stephen was accused of being against the temple. What does Stephen say about the temple in 7:44-50? How is his response a defence against these accusations?

Stephen was accused of being against Moses. What does Stephen say about Moses in 7:35-39? How is his response a defence against these accusations?

What does Stephen say about the leaders accusing him?

What do we learn about worshipping God?

What finally happens to Stephen?

Stephen was a man said to be full of God's grace and power (6:8); full of wisdom (6:3) and full of faith and the Holy Spirit (6:5). How does Stephen demonstrate these qualities throughout this account?

In your life how would you like to reflect more Spirit and wisdom, more faith and power and grace?

#### **The Fire**

Read Acts 7:54-8:4. What is the result of Stephen's speech?

How does this fit with Jesus' plan for his church? Hint: see Acts 1:8

#### **Application**

God's mission advances as Stephen proclaimed the gospel, suffer and dies. What are your thoughts, experiences and feeling around suffering for the gospel?

How are we seeing the persecution of Christianity creeping into our society?

Are you willing to suffer for the promotion of the gospel?

How are you dying to self to live for Jesus?

When was the last time you suffering for the sake of the gospel?

When was the last time you went without for the sake of the gospel?

**Prayer**

Pray for God's work in your heart that you would be willing to live and die for Christ.

Pray for the persecuted church around the world that Christians would hold fast to Christ.