

The Martyrdom of Stephen / Introduction to Saul (Paul) (c. Spring 34)

Acts 7:54–8:1a

7:54 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they *began* gnashing their teeth at him.
 55 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;
 56 and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”
 57 But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse.
 58 When they had driven him out of the city, they *began* stoning *him*; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.
 59 They went on stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!”
 60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” Having said this, he fell asleep.
 8:1a Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death.

The Great Persecution (c. Spring–Summer 34)

| Acts 8:1b–3 | Acts 22:4, 19b | Acts 26:10–11a |
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| <p>1b And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 <i>Some</i> devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. 3 But Saul <i>began</i> ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.</p> | <p>4 “I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons, 19b in one synagogue after another I used to imprison and beat those who believed in You.</p> | <p>10 “And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them. 11a And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme;</p> |

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