

# Book of Acts

## Lesson 13

### STUDENT OUTLINE

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#### 1. Stephen's Message (review from lesson 12)

##### a. *You Rejected Jesus – the Messiah*

- i. Israel didn't listen to Moses
- ii. Israel didn't listen to Aaron
- iii. Israel didn't listen to the prophets
- iv. And Israel missed the point
- v. The **FIRST TIME**, Israel resisted and killed the prophets and Jesus. **Jesus was rejected the "first time"!**
- vi. But the **SECOND TIME** He will be returning as King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

#### 2. *Right Hand of God*

- a. The response to Stephens message was anger and hostility. Don't let peoples rejection of the message stop you from giving it.
- b. Stephen saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Acts 7:54-56
- c. Right hand is a Hebrew idiom meaning "place of power"
  - i. God doesn't have a physical right hand
  - ii. Anthropomorphism: the attribution of human characteristics or behavior to a god, animal, or object.
  - iii. This is declaring that Jesus is the visible manifestation of God's power and authority

#### 3. **Jesus Stood up for Stephen**

- a. Hebrews 10:11-12 tells us that when Jesus made atonement for our sin He "sat down on the right hand of God"
- b. When we take a stand for God – He will stand for us.
- c. Stephen prayed for his executioners – Acts 7:57-60

### NOTES:

- d. Paul never forgot this moment – and his conversion was God's answer to Stephens prayer – Acts 22:20
- 4. He Fell Asleep
  - a. When Christians die, they "fall asleep"
    - i. John 11:11
    - ii. Matthew 9:24
    - iii. 1 Thessalonians 4:13
- 5. **Persecution pushed the church into the harvest field – Acts 8:1-4**
  - a. Jesus allowed persecution to be the means by which the church spread out to Samaria – Romans 8:28
- 6. **Phillip went to Samaria – Acts 8:5-8**
  - a. Philip was mightily used of God to do miracles, cast out devils and preach baptism in Jesus' name.
  - b. "When they believed...they were baptized" Acts 8:9-13, Mark 16:16
  - c. Receiving the Holy Spirit was a separate experience to believing, repenting, receiving miracles and even being baptized.
    - i. Peter and John were called down from Jerusalem to lay hands on the believers in Samaria.
  - d. Something visible and powerful took place – Simon desired to purchase this power.

**NOTES:**