

Episode 1: September 6/7

From Saul to Paul

(Acts 6:8-13:3)

**THE SERVANT AND THE PROSECUTOR**

**The Martyrdom of Stephen**

1. The Slander against Stephen (Acts 6:8–15)
   1. Stephen’s Miracles (6:8): He performs great wonders among the people through the power of God.
   2. The Case against Stephen (6:9–14)
2. Stephen’s Trial
   1. Stephen’s Testimony to the Sanhedrin (7:1–53): Stephen has been falsely accused of speaking against the Temple. Now he says that the Temple is not necessary for worshiping the true God!
   2. Stephen is an Educated Man. His argument shows both intelligence and training.
   3. **Israel was favored by God before possessing either its Tabernacle or two Temples** (7:1–38).
      1. *As illustrated by the life of Abraham* (7:1–8)
      2. *As illustrated by the life of Joseph* (7:9–16)
      3. *As illustrated by the life of Moses* (7:17–38)
   4. But, **Israel was faithless to God after possessing both its Tabernacle and two Temples** (7:39–53).
      1. *They rebelled during the Tabernacle period* (7:39–43a, 44–45).
      2. *They rebelled during the first Temple period* (7:43b, 46–50).
      3. *They are rebelling during the second Temple period* (7:51–53): Stephen now utterly condemns his audience with a threefold indictment:
         1. They are heathens at heart and deaf to the truth (7:51).
         2. They betrayed and murdered their own Messiah (7:52).
         3. They are deliberately disobeying God’s laws (7:53).
   5. **Chaos in the Courtroom**
      1. Some members of the Sanhedrin mob Stephen and drag him out of the city to stone him. (7:54, 57–58a)
      2. **Saul of Tarsus watches the coats of the killers. (7:58b)\***
      3. **Stephen’s vision of glory** (7:55–56): Stephen sees the glory of God and Jesus standing at God’s right hand!
   6. **Stephen’s prayers** (7:59–60)
      1. Stephen prays for himself (7:59): *“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!”*
      2. Stephen prays for his foes (7:60a): *“Don’t charge them with this sin!”*
   7. **His death** (7:60b): After he says this, he dies.

**\*The Man Holding the Coats:** The Contrast: The Servant and the Solicitor (Lawyer) [Excerpts From *The Apostle* by John Pollock]

1. Saul’s hometown? (Acts 9:11) *a man of Tarsus named Saul*
2. Jewish heritage and sectarian affiliation (Philippians 3:5-6)
   1. ***Philippians 3:5–6 (ESV): 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.***
3. Legal status (Acts 22:22-29)
   1. *… 25 But when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by,* ***“Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?”*** *… Paul said,* ***“But I am a citizen by birth.”***
4. Paul’s mission? What does it show about his career in Judaism? (Acts 8:1-3)

**From Persecution to Transformation Acts 9:1–31**

1. Saul’s vendetta against the saints of God (9:1–2)
2. The Damascus Road: Saul’s vision of the Son of God (9:3–9)
3. Ananias meets the great prosecutor (9:10–25)
   1. God appears to a believer in Damascus named Ananias and instructs Ananias to go and minister to Saul (9:10–12).
   2. Knowing Saul’s evil past, Ananias is afraid to go (9:13–14).
   3. God assures Ananias that Saul is now a believer (9:15–16).
      1. ***15****But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.* ***16****For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”*
   4. Ananias lays hands and Saul is healed of his blindness (9:17a, 18a).
   5. Saul is filled with the Spirit (9:17b, 18b–19).
4. Saul begins his Ministry
   1. Saul preaches Christ in all the synagogues. (9:20–22)
   2. Saul’s escape from Damascus (9:23–25): Upon hearing of a plot against him, Saul leaves for Jerusalem.
5. Saul’s validation (9:26–31)
   1. The highly respected Barnabas reassures some fearful Jerusalem believers of Saul’s sincerity. (9:26–27)
   2. Saul preaches the gospel in Jerusalem as he did in Damascus. (9:28)
   3. After an attempt is made on Saul’s life, he departs for his hometown of Tarsus. (9:29–31).
   4. A church begins to flourish in the city of Antioch. (11:19–30)
   5. Barnabas is sent by the Jerusalem church to help the new church in Antioch. (11:19–24)
   6. Barnabas brings Saul to Antioch from Tarsus to assist him (11:25–26)