



EPISODE 1: September 6/7
FROM SAUL TO PAUL
(Acts 6:8-13:3)

THE SERVANT AND THE PROSECUTOR

THE MARTYRDOM OF STEPHEN

- I. The Slander against Stephen (Acts 6:8–15)
 - a. Stephen's Miracles (6:8): He performs great wonders among the people through the power of God.
 - b. The Case against Stephen (6:9–14)
- II. Stephen's Trial
 - a. 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!
 - b. Stephen is an Educated Man. His argument shows both intelligence and training.
 - c. **Israel was favored by God before possessing either its Tabernacle or two Temples (7:1–38).**
 - i. *As illustrated by the life of Abraham (7:1–8)*
 - ii. *As illustrated by the life of Joseph (7:9–16)*
 - iii. *As illustrated by the life of Moses (7:17–38)*
 - d. **But, Israel was faithless to God after possessing both its Tabernacle and two Temples (7:39–53).**
 - i. *They rebelled during the Tabernacle period (7:39–43a, 44–45).*
 - ii. *They rebelled during the first Temple period (7:43b, 46–50).*
 - iii. *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).
 - e. **Chaos in the Courtroom**
 - i. Some members of the Sanhedrin mob Stephen and drag him out of the city to stone him. (7:54, 57–58a)
 - ii. **Saul of Tarsus watches the coats of the killers. (7:58b)***
 - iii. **Stephen's vision of glory (7:55–56):** Stephen sees the glory of God and Jesus standing at God's right hand!

- f. **Stephen's prayers** (7:59–60)
 - i. Stephen prays for himself (7:59): *"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"*
 - ii. Stephen prays for his foes (7:60a): *"Don't charge them with this sin!"*
- g. **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]

- III. Saul's hometown? (Acts 9:11) *a man of Tarsus named Saul*
- IV. Jewish heritage and sectarian affiliation (Philippians 3:5-6)
 - a. ***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.***
- V. Legal status (Acts 22:22-29)
 - a. ... 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."*
- VI. Paul's mission? What does it show about his career in Judaism? (Acts 8:1-3)

FROM PERSECUTION TO TRANSFORMATION ACTS 9:1–31

- VII. Saul's vendetta against the saints of God (9:1–2)
- VIII. The Damascus Road: Saul's vision of the Son of God (9:3–9)
- IX. Ananias meets the great prosecutor (9:10–25)
 - a. God appears to a believer in Damascus named Ananias and instructs Ananias to go and minister to Saul (9:10–12).
 - b. Knowing Saul's evil past, Ananias is afraid to go (9:13–14).
 - c. God assures Ananias that Saul is now a believer (9:15–16).
 - i. 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."*
 - d. Ananias lays hands and Saul is healed of his blindness (9:17a, 18a).
 - e. Saul is filled with the Spirit (9:17b, 18b–19).
- X. Saul begins his Ministry
 - a. Saul preaches Christ in all the synagogues. (9:20–22)
 - b. Saul's escape from Damascus (9:23–25): Upon hearing of a plot against him, Saul leaves for Jerusalem.
- XI. Saul's validation (9:26–31)
 - a. The highly respected Barnabas reassures some fearful Jerusalem believers of Saul's sincerity. (9:26–27)
 - b. Saul preaches the gospel in Jerusalem as he did in Damascus. (9:28)
 - c. After an attempt is made on Saul's life, he departs for his hometown of Tarsus. (9:29–31).
 - d. A church begins to flourish in the city of Antioch. (11:19–30)
 - e. Barnabas is sent by the Jerusalem church to help the new church in Antioch. (11:19–24)
 - f. Barnabas brings Saul to Antioch from Tarsus to assist him (11:25–26)