

**📍 Background**

- Acts 1:1 – 4:4 – The Lord revealed His plan for the restoration of all things
- Acts 4:5 – 6:7 – Opposition/ Threats/ Distractions to the restoration programme

📍 Summary statement: Acts 6:7

The word of God kept spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

📍 Two Questions

1. What is at the very heart of the gospel
2. What is in the heart of the evangelist

ACTS 6:8 - 8:3

- 📍 6:8 – 15 Immediate context to Stephen's speech

- 📍 7:1 – 53 Key message of Stephen's speech:

1. God reveals Himself and His salvation plan by sending prophets
[but Israel disobeyed God by rejecting God's prophets and thus shown themselves not to be God's people]



2. God's covenant is the means to restore man's personal relationship with Him [but Israel has grossly mistaken the outworking of God's covenant as being restricted to the nation of Israel by their veneration of the temple and the Law of Moses]
 - Abraham (7:2 – 8)
 - Joseph (vv. 10 – 16)
 - Moses (vv. 17 – 43)

📍 7:51 – 8:3 Stephen's indictment on Israel & his martyrdom

📍 God's worldwide plan to save man

Think and Pray...

1. We all would like to be a Stephen in all that is described of him. What is the key to Stephen's impeccable character?
2. How is Christian martyrdom different from the martyrdom of believers of other faiths?
3. How would you describe Stephen's evangelism in this instance? Evaluate this in the light of his message and his audience.
4. How does looking at this episode as part of a bigger movement of God's plan to restore the world through and in Christ help you in evangelism?

