

## **Book of Acts Study, Part 30 – Wednesday, September 2, 2020**

Acts 6:8-15

*<sup>8</sup> Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup> Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. <sup>10</sup> But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.*

*<sup>11</sup> Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God."*

*<sup>12</sup> So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. <sup>13</sup> They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. <sup>14</sup> For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."*

*<sup>15</sup> All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.*

Ephesians 2:8-9

*<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Exodus 33:19

*<sup>19</sup> ...I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.*

*God's power and presence dwell in us in the person of the Holy Spirit.*

Ephesians 1:18-20

*<sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms*

2 Corinthians 2:11

*11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.*

1 Peter 5:8

*8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

*God promises to vindicate us.*

Psalm 135:14

*14 For the LORD will vindicate his people  
and have compassion on his servants.*

Isaiah 50:8

*8 He who vindicates me is near.  
Who then will bring charges against me?  
Let us face each other!  
Who is my accuser?  
Let him confront me!*

Psalm 37:5-9

*5 Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him and he will do this:  
6 He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,  
your vindication like the noonday sun.  
7 Be still before the LORD  
and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,  
when they carry out their wicked schemes.  
8 Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;  
do not fret—it leads only to evil.  
9 For those who are evil will be destroyed,  
but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.*

Romans 12:14, 17-19

*<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.*

*<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

*What shows on your face when you face opposition?*

*The way we handle stress and opposition says more about our faith than anything we profess on Sunday morning!*