

## Acts 8:1-4 **Burial of Stephen – Church Scattered**

### Saul Consenting

1 Now Saul was consenting to his death.

### Church Scattered

At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

### Burial of Stephen

2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

### Saul began Assault on the Church

3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.

### Church Scattered Preaching the Word

4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. NKJV

#### Facts Revealed:

- ✚ The first Church was one that was conducted as a communal society in Jerusalem where everyone had all things in common with one another. [Acts 2:44-47, 4:32-37]
- ✚ Communal living was great at first, but not what God had in mind for the Church, so persecution began to attack the believers to scatter them around the world. [Acts 8:1-4, 11:19]
- ✧ Jesus had said, "**Go into all the world** and **preach the Gospel to everyone, baptizing** them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, **teach them to obey all I have commanded you**, and lo, I am with you always until the end. [Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16]
- ✧ Jesus wanted them to go around the world with the Gospel, not cluster in Jerusalem.
- ✚ The Apostles had appointed seven Deacons to oversee the distribution of goods in an impartial manner. [Acts 6:1-7]
- ✚ Stephen, one of the seven appointees was full of the Holy Spirit with the Lord working miracles at his hand and with such a powerful presentation of the Gospel message that the religious leaders of the Jews could not refute him. [Acts 6:8-10]
- ✧ Stephen, one of the seven appointed by the Apostles to oversee the serving of tables in the distribution of support for the needy. The qualifications required that he was known to be: a man with a **good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom**. [Acts 6:1-5]
- ✧ Not only did Stephen enjoy a **good reputation, Holy Spirit, and wisdom**, but he also was full of **faith**, having his ministry confirmed by the **power** of the **Holy Spirit working great wonders and signs through him among the people**. [Acts 6:8]
- ✚ Out of their inferior position the religious leaders rose in fury and stoned Stephen. [Acts 6:9-7:60]

### Saul Consenting

- ✚ Saul a young zealous Pharisee was consenting to the stoning of Stephen and stood guard over the garments of those doing the stoning. [Acts 7:58, 8:1]

### Church Scattered

- ✚ At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and **they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria**, except the apostles. [Acts 8:1]

- ✧ By allowing great persecution to arise, God quickly brought an end to the communal living clustered in Jerusalem, and drove everyone out of Jerusalem except for the Apostles, right after they had appointed the seven Deacons to oversee the distribution of goods.
- ✧ Jesus had said, **go into all the world and preach the Gospel** to every creature. [Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16]
- ✧ Just as God had done at the tower of Babel when He divided the languages and **scattered the people around the world** when they wanted to stay together in one place, After God had said, "**Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth.**" [Genesis 9:1, 11:1-8]
- ✧ So also with the Church, God scattered them around the world by allowing persecution to attack them. [Acts 8:1]

### Burial of Stephen

- ✧ And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. [Acts 8:2]

### Saul began Assault on the Church

- ✧ As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. [Acts 8:3]
- ✧ In his zeal, thinking He was doing God a service, Saul persecuted believers viciously fulfilling the words of Jesus saying, "They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service". [John 16:2, Acts 8:3, 22:19-20]

### Church Scattered Preaching the Word

- ✧ Therefore **those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.** [Acts 8:4]
- ✧ God's will and the commandment of Jesus was fulfilled.