

33 AD – STONING OF STEPHEN: CHURCH SCATTERED

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.” (Isaiah 2 v 2)



BLESSED STEPHEN

Stephen is the picture of the ideal Christian. He had a servant's heart: happy to serve the widows a daily ration of food. The first recorded unpaid lay worker in the Bible. Scripture says **“They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit”** (Acts 6:5)

The number of believers was increasing in Jerusalem. Stephen did wonders and miraculous signs among the people. He spoke with wisdom from the Spirit that Jews could not refute. So a conspiracy arose to silence him.

Members of the Synagogue of Freedmen seized Stephen and brought him to trial. They produced false witnesses who accused Stephen 'of speaking against the holy place and the Law'. The high priest asked Stephen 'Are these charges true?' Stephen made a speech in which he recalled all the history of the Jews. He quoted Scripture which showed how stiff-necked and hard hearted the Jews had been from the beginning of their journey to the end.

“When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.”

“Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, and **cast him out of the city, and stoned him**: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

“And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, ‘**Lord Jesus, receive my spirit**’. And he kneeled down and cried with a loud voice; ‘**Lord, lay not this sin to their charge**’. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” (Acts 7 v 54-60)

On the day Stephen was martyred a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

PROPHECY OF ISAIAH 2 V 2

“**And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.**” (Isaiah 2 v 2)

Scripture calls the days of Stephen “**the last days**”. This seems remarkable to us considering we look back at the early church in Jerusalem and very much think of it as early days! That is not how the apostles understood the times. At Pentecost Peter quoted Scripture referring to the time they were living in as ‘the last days’ (Acts 2:17). Later James quoted Scripture to show ‘last days’ fulfillments were occurring before their eyes (Acts 15:16).

We can take it then that the entire Age of Grace falls into the category of the ‘last days’. Therefore the prophecy of Isaiah 2 v 2 appropriately fits the stoning of Stephen.

We have a paper to show the Book of Acts is prophetic of the entire Age of Grace plus the Great Tribulation: ‘[Acts A Prophetic Witness](#)’ and ‘[Graphic of Acts a Prophetic Witness](#)’.

“**the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains**” Stephen was a witness of this and had a glorious vision of it in **33 AD**. The LORD’s house is the Heavenly Zion – the Kingdom of God – all believers who put their trust in Jesus to save them.

“**shall be exalted above the hills**”: Jerusalem boasts of hills: Temple Mount being foremost. Isaiah tells us the days of the Temple in Jerusalem are numbered: destroyed in 70 AD.

“**and all nations shall flow unto it**”: The stoning of Stephen was not the end. It was the beginning of the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation on earth. Believers will

stream to the mountain of the LORD – the Heavenly Jerusalem – where our Lord sits at the right hand of the Father. Hallelujah!

The same Holy Spirit that filled Stephen to overflowing filled Saul to overflowing - at his conversion in **36 AD**. Paul would fulfill the powerful witness of Stephen to the Jews and Greeks. Paul would also fulfill the wisdom of Stephen and write the epistles we treasure.

SPIRITUAL NUMBER ANALYSIS

For a mind that has wisdom please read on. See truth from another perspective.

PART ONE

Chapter **2** of Isaiah is the **2nd** chapter of The Prophets.

The spiritual number **2** means 'Division' or 'Discern'

The stoning of Stephen marked a 'Division' in the history of the church. Henceforth the church would not be Jerusalem on Earth centered – but Jerusalem in Heaven centered.

PART TWO

Isaiah **2 v 2** is the **17,688th** verse in the whole Bible starting at Gen **1 v 1**.

The number **17,688 = 33 x 536**

The spiritual meaning of **33** is 'Scattered Remnant'

The spiritual meaning of **536** is 'Rulers are Venomous Snakes'

The Christians in the early church were now as clear in their minds as they could possibly be – the religious rulers in the city of Jerusalem on earth were as deadly as venomous snakes. All must flee the servants of the Devil and their unholy temple and their godless city.

PART THREE

Isaiah **2 v 2** is the **33rd** verse of The Prophets starting at Isaiah **1 v 1**.

The spiritual meaning of **33** is 'Scattered Remnant'

The story we have been saying is corroborated in the spiritual numbers yet again.

APPLICATION

Dear believers. Are you looking to build temples on earth? Is your wish to anoint priesthods to inhabit those temples? Are you trying to build a Jerusalem-centered church that since the time of Stephen saints have fled?

Do not in a mistaken zeal rebuild religion. Religion (temples and priesthods and clergies) have persecuted believers since the time of Moses to David to Stephen to this day.

Jerusalem is already rebuilt – it in Heaven.

You are the temple of the Holy Spirit who is from God.

Go into the world and share the gospel with every creature.

Teach them to obey all that Jesus has commanded.

Baptise them in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; (not in the name of Religion).