

# Lesson 4



## *“The Scattering”*



MEMORIAL DRIVE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH





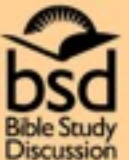
*Opening Music:*

*”Forever Reign”*

<https://youtu.be/3f3sNiYpuF4>



MEMORIAL DRIVE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Acts: 4:31*

*“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God boldly.”*

*Acts: 4:31*

*Dave and I are officially Empty Nesters!*




*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

*Acts 1:8*

# THE HOLY SPIRIT



- ◇ The Spirit of the Lord
  - ◇ Spirit of wisdom
  - ◇ Spirit of understanding
  - ◇ Spirit of counsel
  - ◇ Spirit of might
  - ◇ Spirit of knowledge
  - ◇ The Spirit of the fear of the Lord
- 



*Stephen*

# *4 Key Symbols of Judaism*

✧ *The Temple*

✧ *The Law*

✧ *The Land*

✧ *The National Ethnic Identity*

*N.T. Wright*

*Acts For Everyone*



# The Sanhedrin

## Pharisees – Religious Leaders

- ◇ Committed to obeying all of God's commands as well as their own religious rules.
- ◇ Believed in bodily resurrection and eternal life.
- ◇ Believed in angels and demons.

## Sadducees – Political Leaders

- ◇ Believed only in the law of Moses and in Levitical purity.
- ◇ Did not believe that all of the Old Testament was God's Word.
- ◇ Did not believe in bodily resurrection or eternal life.
- ◇ Did not believe in angels or demons.



*Rembrandt's "The Stoning of St. Stephen" (1625)*

***“You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors. You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him – “***

***Acts 7:51-52***

***“When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ‘Look’, he said. ‘I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.’” Acts 7:54-56***

*“At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.”*

*Acts 7:57-58*

*“While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he fell on his knees and cried out ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he fell asleep.”*

*Acts 7:59-60*

***“On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered through Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.”***

***Acts 8:1-2***

*“Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown (the ‘Stephanos’) of life.”*

*Revelations 2:10*



# *The Effects of Stephen's Death*

- ◇ *Expansion of the church and spread of the gospel.*
- ◇ *Philip's evangelistic tour to Samaria.*
- ◇ *Paul's conversion.*
- ◇ *Peter's missionary tour.*
- ◇ *The church in Antioch founded.*

*The Blood of Martyrs is  
the Seed of  
the Church*

*- Tertullian*

## *Stephen and Philip*

*“Stephen dies proclaiming his faith and Philip lives to proclaim his. Together, they are a beautiful reminder that it is only when we are willing to die for our belief that we are truly able to live for Christ.”*

*from Sharpening Your Acts*



*Philip*



# The Divided Kingdom

# Israel Judah

930 B.C.- 722 B.C.

Assyria

930 B.C.- 586 B.C.

Babylon

1

KINGS

*Simon,  
the Magus*





*Aelbert Cuyp's "St. Philip Baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch"*



*“The Holy Spirit is the spirit of the sovereign God, who blows where He wants and how He wants. No human being then, since, or now, can do anything other than be open to what the Spirit wants - ready to be blown along by the rushing, mighty wind.”*

*from Acts for Everyone*

*N.T. Wright*



# *The Spread of the Gospel on Vimeo*

<https://vimeo.com/113801439>

## *Application*

*Persecution found the believers out of their homes in Jerusalem, and along with them the gospel message. Sometimes we have to become uncomfortable before we'll move. When you are tempted to complain about uncomfortable or painful circumstances, stop and ask if God may be preparing you for a special task.*