

JESUS AT THE CORE

LOVING THEIR NEW LIFE

JOY FILLED COMMUNITIES

EVERY OPPORTUNITY

SUMMER  
2023

SUNDAYS  
9am & 10:30am  
9am LIVE

# UNSTOPPABLE

WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH IN ACTS.

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appealing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but

to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." The Ascension 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee,

MAP OF THE WORLD

**GOD'S WAYS,  
NOT ALWAYS  
OUR PREFERENCE**

**ACTS 7:51-8:4**

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# The Setting:

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- **Stephen (6:1-15)**

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  - Full of Spirit and wisdom
  - Full of faith and the Holy Spirit
  - Full of grace and power
  - *“doing great wonders and signs”*
  - ***“his face was like the face of an angel”***

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  - Blasphemes - *“words against Moses and God”*
  - ***“speaks words against this holy place and the law”***

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  - **Moses, chosen by God, rejected by Jews, chosen again by God, rejected by Jews again (golden calf) (7:20-43)**

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  - Joseph, **chosen** by God, **rejected** by brothers – cause of their bondage in Egypt (7:9-19)
  - Moses, **chosen** by God, **rejected** by Jews, **chosen** again by God, **rejected** by Jews again (golden calf) (7:20-43)
  - **David and Solomon, God is not contained in a building** (7:44-50)

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- **Stephen's summary:**

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- Stephen's sermon (6:16-50)
- Stephen's summary: **God has been faithful, He promised extraordinary blessings to Abraham and his descendants that have been delayed because of your unfaithfulness.**

# The Stephen's sermon application:

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The Stephen's sermon application: **You guys are the ones with a lousy view of God!**

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## Acts 7:51-53

<sup>51</sup> “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.

<sup>52</sup> Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered,

<sup>53</sup> you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

# The Jew's Response:

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The Jew's Response: **Let's kill him!**

**UNSTOPPABLE**

## Acts 7:54-60

<sup>54</sup> Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” <sup>57</sup> But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup> Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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# Stephen's Response:

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Stephen's Response: ***“Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”***

**UNSTOPPABLE**

## Acts 7:59-60

<sup>59</sup> And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

# The Jew's Response:

**UNSTOPPABLE**

The Jew's Response: **Let's persecute all the Christians!**

**UNSTOPPABLE**

## Acts 8:1-3

<sup>1</sup> And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. <sup>2</sup> Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. <sup>3</sup> But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.



# The Early Believer's Response:

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The Early Believer's Response: **Let's share Jesus wherever we go.**

**UNSTOPPABLE**

## Acts 8:4

<sup>4</sup> Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

## Acts 1:8

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

## Acts 5:27-28

<sup>27</sup> And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here **you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching**, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.”

# Principles:

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## Principles:

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- **We have confidence that God is always promoting His loving plan, even in challenging circumstances.**
  - **Joseph**



## Genesis 50:20-21

<sup>20</sup> As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup> So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

## Principles:

- **We have confidence that God is always promoting His loving plan, even in challenging circumstances.**
  - Joseph
  - **Jesus**

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## Principles:

- We have confidence that God is always promoting His loving plan, even in challenging circumstances.
- **Our authentic, wholehearted embracing of Jesus, empowers us to joyfully speak and display His love, even in the midst of challenging circumstances.**
  - Saul
  - **All those who heard through the persecuted, scattered Early Church family**

## Principles:

- We have confidence that God is always promoting His loving plan, even in challenging circumstances.
- Our authentic, wholehearted embracing of Jesus, empowers us to joyfully speak and display His love, even in the midst of challenging circumstances.
- **All those who interact with us hear and experience Jesus' love.**