

Chapter 7.55 - 8.3

Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked up and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's right hand.

"I can see heaven thrown open", he said, "and Jesus standing at the right hand of God"

At this, the religious leaders at the meeting covered their ears with their hands. They sent Stephen out of the city and stoned him. The false witnesses (who were required to throw the first stones) put down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Paul

As they were stoning him, Stephen prayed "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit". Then he knelt down and prayed "Lord, do not hold this sin against them". Then he died.

Paul entirely approved of the killing

That day a bitter persecution started against the church in Jerusalem, and everyone except the apostles fled to the countryside.

Paul began working for the destruction of the church. He went from house to house arresting men and women and sending them to prison.

Jesus, thank you for the example of Stephen who, like yourself, forgave those who were killing him