

## Why Was Stephen Stoned?

Acts 7:51-60

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He went among the people. Acts 6:8

- “Go preach ...” Mark 16:15; Acts 8:4
- Barnabas & Paul. Acts 11, 13-15

## Why Was Stephen Stoned?

They could not withstand ... Acts 6:10

- **“Disputing with Stephen”** (suzeteoo)
  - a. To seek or examine together
  - b. In the NT to discuss, dispute (question) (Thayer).
- It is probable that the discussion began in this way, and when they were overcome by “argument,” they resorted to angry accusations and violence.

## Why Was Stephen Stoned?

They could not withstand ... Acts 6:10

**“The wisdom and the Spirit by which he spake.”**

- He spoke the truth. Acts 2; 3; 4; 5
  - Truth cannot be hidden.
- He spoke boldly. cf. Acts 4:13
- Did this include Saul? cf. Acts 22:3, 20

## Why Was Stephen Stoned?

They suborned false witnesses and false accusations. Acts 6:11-14

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**“Suborned” *hupobalaxi***

1. “To hire a person to act in a particular way, often involving dishonest activities - 'to hire, to bribe, to induce.’” (Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain)
2. “To introduce underhandedly, to make a secret agreement, to suborn, put forward by collusion, trans. (Acts 6:11). To suborn in the legal sense is to induce a person to make a false oath, i.e., to commit perjury.” (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

## Why Was Stephen Stoned?

They suborned false witnesses and false accusations. Acts 6:11-14

- Accusations:
  - Blasphemy against Moses, against God, against the temple and against the Law.
- Don't misrepresent your opponent.
  - 1 Peter 3:9, 16.
  - Weapons. Ephesians 6:17-18; 2 Corinthians 10:5

## Why Was Stephen Stoned?

They stirred up the people. Acts 6:12

- Jesus. Mark 15:11
- Paul. Acts 13:44-52; 14:2; 19:32; 21:27
- Branded Stephen. **"Blasphemer"**
- Can't stand the message, attack the messenger. Titus 3:2.

## Why Was Stephen Stoned?

They were cut to the heart. Acts 7:54

- **"Are these things so ..."** Acts 7
  - Stephen's defense.
  - Conclusion. Acts 7:51-53
- **Are we reaching the audience?**
  - cf. Acts 20:27
  - God's word cuts! Hebrews 4:12; Acts 7:54; 2:37

## Why Was Stephen Stoned?

They stopped their ears. Acts 7:57

- Already heard! Verse 54
  - Determined to stop Stephen's mouth. Verse 58
- These were the actions of Stephen's own Jewish brethren.**
1. Jews slew the prophets.
  2. Jews slew the Righteous One. Acts 7:52
  3. Often trouble arises from within. Acts 20:28ff; cf. Galatians 5:15; James 1:19

## Why Was Stephen Stoned?

Some stood and watched. Acts 7:58;

cf. Acts 22:20

- Some watched Jesus be crucified. Matthew 27:36
- Edomites condemned for being spectators.
  - "In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that strangers carried away his substance, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou wast as one of them."* Obadiah 11

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- He went among the people. Acts 6:8
- They could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spake. Acts 6:10
- They suborned false witness & false accusations. Acts 6:11-14
- They stirred up the people. Acts 6:12
- They were cut to the heart. Acts 7:54
- They stopped their ears. Acts 7:57
- Some stood and watched. Acts 8:58