

Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? Heb 12:1 TMSG.

# The HighwayMen

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## One of Christ's first messengers was martyred in AD-34

We are about to introduce "Stephen". He was not one of the 12 Disciples called Apostles., but a powerful Servant of Christ, full of Faith, God's Word, Wisdom, and God's Holy Spirit. He was Chosen by the 12 Apostles at Jerusalem, to distribute needed food to widows, so the Apostles could concentrate on teaching and preaching the Gospel.

Now, how could this gentle servant, distributing needed food, be accused and Martyred? His Murder was like that of Abel, by Cain, his brother. Now we go to Young's &

Acts 6:7 And **the word of God** did increase, and the **number of the disciples did multiply in Jerusalem exceedingly**; a great multitude also of the (Jewish) priests were obedient to **the faith**.<sup>8</sup> And Stephen, full of faith and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people,<sup>9</sup> and there arose certain of those of the synagogue, called of the Lib-

ertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia, and Asia, **disputing with Stephen**,<sup>10</sup> and they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit with which he was speaking;<sup>11</sup> then they suborned men, saying—'We have heard him speaking evil sayings in regard to Moses and God.'

(So, it will be lies raised against Stephen, that will get him accused and Martyred. Isn't that how accusations and Martyrdom are still carried out today? Christians are called Blasphemers against an unknown god). Acts 6:12 They did stir up also the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and having

come upon him, they caught him, and brought him to the sanhedrim;<sup>13</sup> **they set up also false witnesses, saying, 'This one doth not cease to speak evil sayings against this holy place and the law**,<sup>14</sup> for we have heard him saying, That this Jesus the Nazarean shall overthrow this place (Temple), and shall change the customs that Moses delivered to us;' (the Murderers who martyr the Righteous, always claim their own Piety)<sup>15</sup> and gazing at him, all those sitting in the sanhedrim **saw his face as it were the face of a messenger**.



### The History of The Faith

Most of these Murders of The Faithful, hope their Victims will be Silent easy Prey, But they picked a Victor. This Stephen was not the Victim, as they had hoped, but a Wise Defender of **the Holy God** and **Jesus Christ, His Holy Son**: Acts 7:1 And the chief priest said, 'Are then these things so?'<sup>2</sup> and he (Stephen) said, 'Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken: **The God of the glory did appear to our father Abraham, being in Mesopotamia (now Iraq),**

before his dwelling in Haran,<sup>3</sup> and He said to him, **Go forth out of thy land, and out of thy kindred, and come to a land that I shall shew thee**.<sup>4</sup> **Then having come forth out of the land of the Chaldeans (now Iraq), he dwelt in Haran, and from thence, after the death of his father, He did remove him to this land wherein ye now dwell**,<sup>5</sup> and He gave him no inheritance in it, not even a footstep, and did promise to give it to him for a possession, and to **his seed** after him—he having no child.<sup>6</sup> And God spake thus, That **his seed**

shall be sojourning in a strange land (Egypt), and they shall cause **it to serve, and shall do it evil four hundred years**,<sup>7</sup> and the nation (Egypt) whom **they** shall serve **I will judge, said God**; and after these things **they** shall come forth and **shall do Me service in this place**.<sup>8</sup> And He gave to him a covenant of circumcision, and so he begat **Isaac**, and did circumcise him on the eighth day, and **Isaac begat Jacob** (Israel), and **Jacob—the twelve patriarchs;**



# Stephen, the first martyr would proclaim the **History of God's Redemptive Plan**, starting with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel) and the 12 Patriarchs., including their failures

Acts 7:9 ...and the patriarchs, having been moved with jealousy, sold Joseph to Egypt, and God was with him,<sup>10</sup> and did deliver him out of all his tribulations, and gave him favour and wisdom before Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he did set him—governor over Egypt and all his house (to Save Jacob/Israel from starvation during a area wide famine)...

14and Joseph having sent, did call for his father Jacob, and all his kindred—with seventy and five souls—15and Jacob went down

to Egypt, and died, himself and our fathers,<sup>16</sup> and they were carried over into Sychem, and were laid in the tomb that Abraham bought for a price in money from the sons of Emmor, of Sychem. 17'And according as the time of the promise was drawing nigh, which God did swear to Abraham, the people (of Jacob/Israel) increased and multiplied in Egypt,<sup>18</sup> till another king rose, who had not known Joseph;<sup>19</sup> this one (Pharaoh), having dealt sub-

tiley with our kindred, did evil to our fathers, causing to expose their babes, that they might not live; 20in which time Moses was born, and he was fair to God, and he was brought up three months in the house of his father;<sup>21</sup> and he having been exposed, the daughter of Pharaoh took him up, and did rear him to herself for a son;<sup>22</sup> and Moses was taught in all wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in words and in works.

## Moses, though a kingly Scholar and a potential Pharaoh, could not himself free his People, Israel

<sup>23</sup>'And when forty years were fulfilled to him, it came upon his heart to look after his brethren, the sons of Israel; (but even Moses suffered at first in his own ways of trying to do God a favor by using his own anger to kill)...<sup>29</sup>'And Moses fled at this word, and became a so-journer in the land of Midian, where he begat two sons, and forty years having been fulfilled, there ap-

peared to him in the wilderness of mount Sinai a messenger of the Lord, in a flame of fire of a bush,<sup>31</sup> and Moses having seen did wonder at the sight; and he drawing near to behold, there came a voice of the Lord unto him, <sup>32</sup>I am the God of thy fathers; the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and



the God of Jacob. 'And Moses having become terrified, durst not behold,<sup>33</sup> and the Lord said to him, Loose the sandal of thy feet, for the place in which thou hast stood is holy ground; <sup>34</sup>seeing I have seen the affliction of My people that is in Egypt, and their groaning I did hear, and came down to deliver them; and now come, I will send thee to Egypt.

## This same Moses, Israel first refused, God Sent back to deliver them from Slavery

<sup>35</sup>'This Moses, whom they did refuse, saying, Who did set thee a ruler and a judge? this one God a ruler and a redeemer did send, in the hand of a messenger who appeared to him in the bush;<sup>36</sup> this one did bring them forth, having done wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wil-

derness forty years; <sup>37</sup>this is the Moses who did say to the sons of Israel: A prophet to you shall the Lord your God raise up out of your brethren, like to me, him shall ye hear.



<sup>38</sup>'This is he who was in the assembly (Israel) in the wilderness, with the messenger who is speaking to him in the mount Sinai, and with our fathers who did receive the living oracles to give to us;



# Freeing 'freed Israel' from ways of sinful rebellion against the Messenger

I'm sure you've heard the old saying, "you can take the boy out of the Country, but you can't take 'the Country' out of the boy!" continue with me now in Acts 7:39 **to whom our fathers did not wish to become obedient, but did thrust away, and turned back in their hearts to Egypt,** <sup>40</sup>saying to Aaron, Make to us gods who shall go on before us, for **this Moses**, who brought us forth out of the land of Egypt, we have not known what hath happened to him. (Ex 24:<sup>16</sup>**Now the glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the**

**cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. 17The sight of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. 18So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.)**

<sup>41</sup>And they made a **calf** in those days, and brought a sacrifice to the idol, and were rejoicing in the works of their hands, <sup>42</sup>and God did turn, and did give them up to

do service to the host of the heaven, according as it hath been written in the scroll of the prophets: Slain beasts and sacrifices did ye offer to Me forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? <sup>43</sup>and ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan—the figures that ye made to bow before them, and I will remove your dwelling beyond Babylon (Judean Captives around 605 BC).

Delivering Israel from their sinful ways would be more difficult for **God** than delivering them out of the Country of Egypt, **but The Holy God had A Holy Plan.**

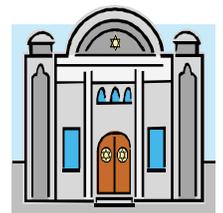
## STILL, THE HOLY GOD (camped) AMONG ISRAEL

<sup>44</sup>**The tabernacle** of the testimony was among our fathers in the wilderness, according as He did direct, who is speaking to **Moses**, to make it according to the figure that he had seen; <sup>45</sup>which also our fathers having in succession received, did

bring in with **Joshua**, into the possession of the nations whom God did drive out from the presence of our fathers, till



the days of **David**, <sup>46</sup>who found favour before God, and requested to find **a tabernacle** for **the God of Jacob**; <sup>47</sup>and **Solomon** built Him **an house**. (Solomon was a **King of Peace**, not a warrior King, like his father **David** was!)



## THE HOLY GOD DESIRES TO DWELL IN MAN

<sup>48</sup>**But the Most High** in sanctuaries made with hands **doth not dwell**, according as the prophet saith: **The heaven is My throne, and the earth My footstool; what house will ye build to Me?** saith **the Lord**, or what is **the place of My rest?** <sup>50</sup>**hath not My hand made all these things?** All the Temple Sacrifices could never remove a single sin from

mankind, all it could do is to offer a temporary Covering, just like the lamb "skins" Creator covered Adam and Eve with after their fall into disobedience in Eden.

Now, the Holy God, would dwell in **A Man**. Not just a man, but **a Son of God / Son of Man, Savior**. Read Psalm 40:6-10: "Sacrifice and offering **thou** didst not desire; **mine** ears hast **thou** opened: burnt

offering and sin offering hast **thou** not required.

<sup>7</sup>Then said **I**, Lo, **I** come: **in the volume (Megillah) of the book (God's Book) it is written of me,** <sup>8</sup>**I** delight to do **thy will**, O my God: yea, **thy law is within my heart.** <sup>9</sup>**I** have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, **I** have not refrained **my lips**, O LORD, thou knowest. <sup>10</sup>**I** have not hid **thy righteousness within my heart; I** have declared **thy faithfulness** and **thy salvation: I** have not concealed **thy lovingkindness and thy truth** from the great congregation. (KJV).

This Son of God/Son of Man would Come Full of Grace and Truth! (read John 1:14)

**Do you see what this means—  
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blazed the way, all these  
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Heb 12:1 TMSG.**

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I use The Bible in it's many Translations,  
because they all carry the Same Truth about  
the Promised Messenger, Jesus, The Christ,  
The Righteous One!

## THE MARTYRDOM OF THE MESSENGER

**Psalm 40 Verses 6-10 were Written of God's  
Ultimate Messenger, Jesus Christ, Himself:**



## Now back to **Stephen, a messenger of Christ's,** (and Acts 6:8-15)

8And **Stephen, full of faith and power,** was doing great wonders and signs among the people,<sup>9</sup> and there arose certain of those of the synagogue, called of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia, and Asia, disputing with **Stephen,**<sup>10</sup> and they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit with which **he** was speaking; 11 then they suborned men, saying—'We have heard him speaking evil sayings in regard to Moses and God.' (the accusing Lie)

12 They did stir up also the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and having come upon *him*, they caught him, and brought *him* to the sanhedrim; 13 they set up also false witnesses, saying, 'This one doth not cease to speak evil sayings against this holy place and the law, 14 for we have heard him saying, That this Jesus the Nazarean shall overthrow this place, and shall change the customs that Moses delivered to us,'<sup>15</sup> and gazing at him, all those sitting in the sanhedrim saw **his face** as it were the face of a messenger.

Young's Acts 7:51 'Ye stiff-necked and **uncircumcised in heart and in ears!** ye do always the **Holy Spirit resist;** as your fathers—also ye;<sup>52</sup> **which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute?** and they killed those who declared before about the coming of the Righteous One, of whom now ye betrayers and murderers have become,<sup>53</sup> who received the law by arrangement of **messen-**gers, and did not keep *it.*'

<sup>54</sup> And hearing these things, they

were cut to the hearts, and did gnash the teeth **at him;**<sup>55</sup> **and being full of the Holy Spirit, having looked stedfastly to the heaven, he saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,**<sup>56</sup> and he said, 'Lo, I see the heavens having been opened, and the **Son of Man standing on the right hand of God.**'

<sup>57</sup> And they, having cried out with a loud voice, **stopped their ears,** and did rush with

one accord upon him,<sup>58</sup> and having cast him forth outside of the city, they were **stoning him**—and the witnesses did put down their garments at the feet of a young man called Saul—(who **Christ Himself** would Convert to Paul the Apostle to Rome)<sup>59</sup> and they were **stoning Stephen, calling and saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit;'**<sup>60</sup> and having bowed the knees, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lord, mayest thou not lay to them **this sin;**' and this having said, he fell asleep. (**till Christ returns**).