



“Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

- Luke 2:34-35



The Great Divide

- The Person of Jesus Christ will bring about division
- “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man's enemies will be those of his own household.’ (Matt. 10:34-36)

Encountering God

The Calling or Invitation

Abraham

- “Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you.”
(Gen. 12:1)



Moments of Fear or Despair

Jacob wrestles with God

- And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”
(Gen. 32:28)



In Harships

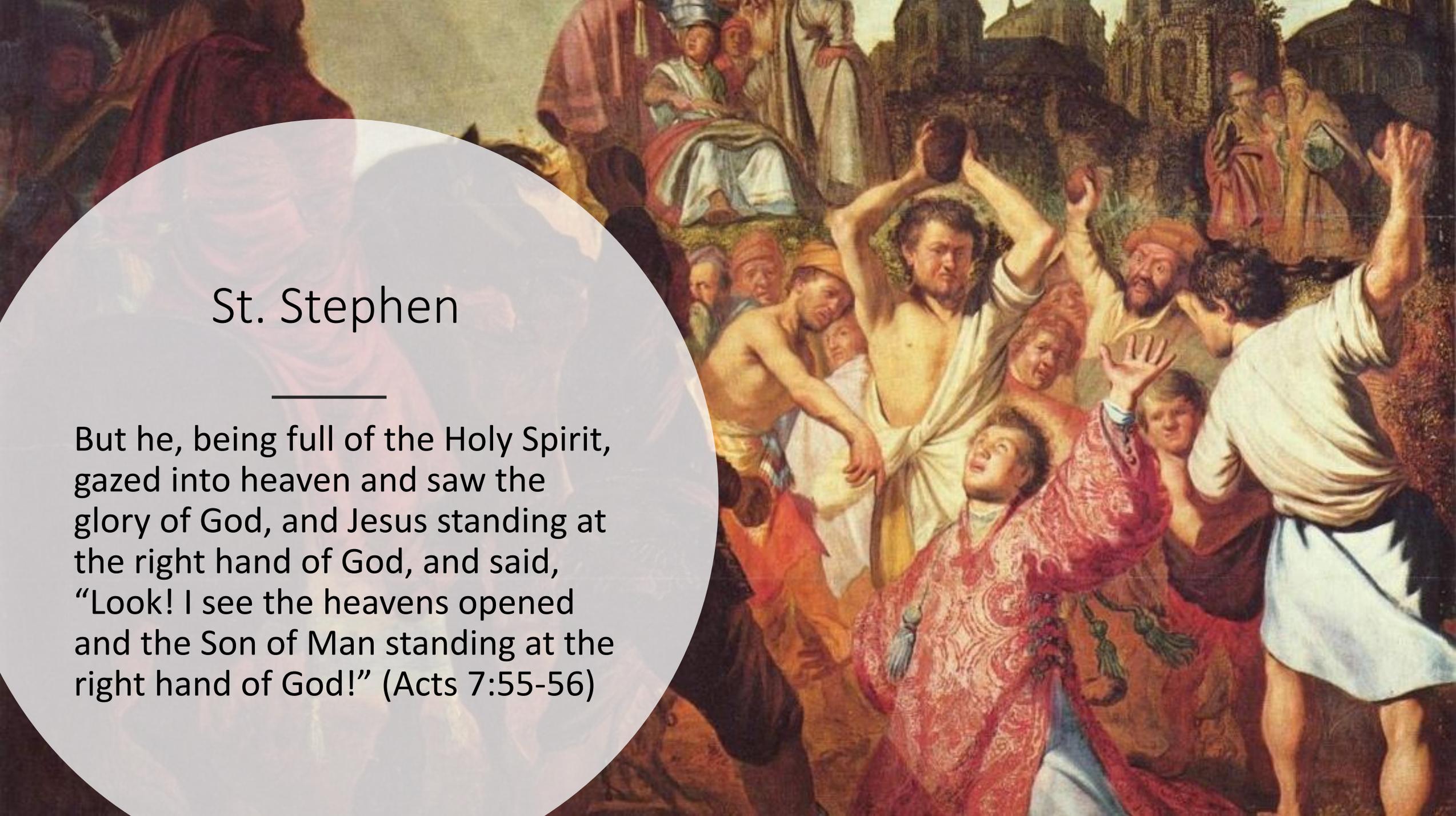
Three Holy Youth

- “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.” (Dan. 3:25)
- Then the three, as if with one mouth, sang, glorified, and blessed God in the furnace, saying:
“Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, For You are praiseworthy
And exalted beyond measure unto the ages.” (Dan. 3:51-52)



St. Stephen

But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" (Acts 7:55-56)

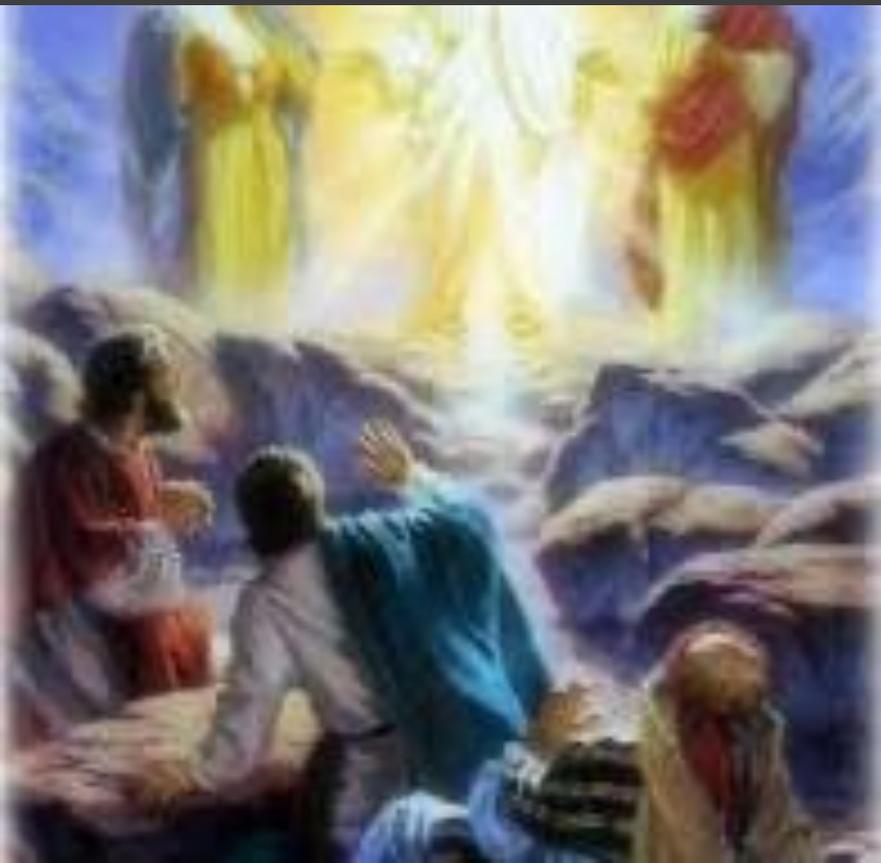




The End

Encountering the Lord Christ can be fearsome

- “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matt. 10:28)
- “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.” (Rev. 1:17-18)





The End

- Joy and Salvation
- “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” 33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem...”
(Lk. 24:32-33)
- “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”
(Rev. 21:12)