ACTS
The Grace of God and the Rebellion of Man
Acts 6:8-8:3

Context – Spiritual Warfare Against a Spirit-Filled Man – 6:8-15

Stephen, the first martyr, was said to have the "face of an angel" ...

He SHOWED Christ and His ...

- Grace
- Power
- Wisdom

He SHARED in Christ's ...

- Accusations
- Rejections
- Death

The Martyr's Message – 7:1-53

Our story is a story of God's GLORY and GRACE repeatedly revealed to us.

He sovereignly chose ABRAHAM (and through him, us) to be His people.

He honored and protected his COVENANT through multiple generations.

He delivered us from captivity in Egypt through MOSES.

He showed his glory in the giving of the LAW to guide us.

But despite God's goodness and grace, you have repeatedly REBELLED against Him and REJECTED His messengers.

You are like Joseph's brothers ...

You are like the Hebrew captives who rejected Moses ...

You are like the idolatrous worshippers who enticed Aaron to make a golden calf...

You have settled for an empty, godless FORM OF RELIGION that has left you in darkness and sin.

Your necks are "STIFF" ...

Your hearts are "UNCIRCUMCISED" ...

You ALWAYS resist God ...

And the apex of your rebellion is the BETRAYAL and MURDER of Jesus.

The Response of the Rebellious – 7:54-8:3

In a word, RAGE

... which led to Stephen's MURDER and intense PERSECUTION and SCATTERING of the Church.

Four **Takeaways**:

Know that God is PROFOUNDLY but not PERMANENTLY patient with the rebellious.

Romans 2:4-8

Don't presume upon God's GRACE.

1 Corinthians 10:6-11

Don't mistake empty religion for AUTHENTIC DEVOTION.

Mark 7:6-9

Whatever it costs now, know that JESUS IS WORTH IT.

Matthew 5:10-12; 2 Timothy 2:12; 2 Cor. 4:17-18

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