



**THE CHURCH IS**

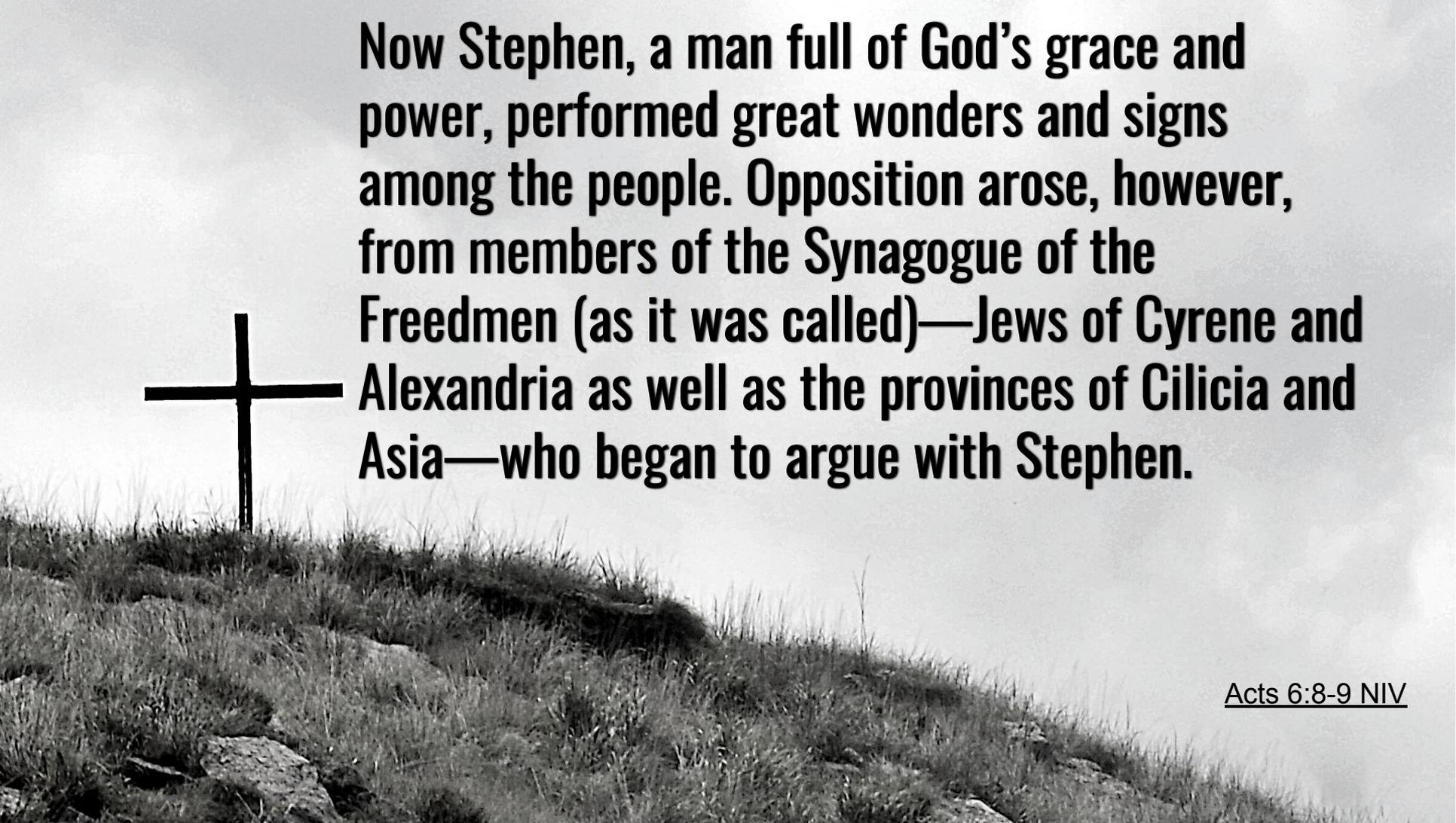
*Born*

**ACTS: 1-12**

## Main Point

**Boldness isn't just a flavor or fashion style; it's living a Godly lifestyle**



A black cross stands on a grassy hillside under a cloudy sky. The cross is simple, with a vertical post and a horizontal beam. The hillside is covered in dry, brownish grass and some rocks. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds.

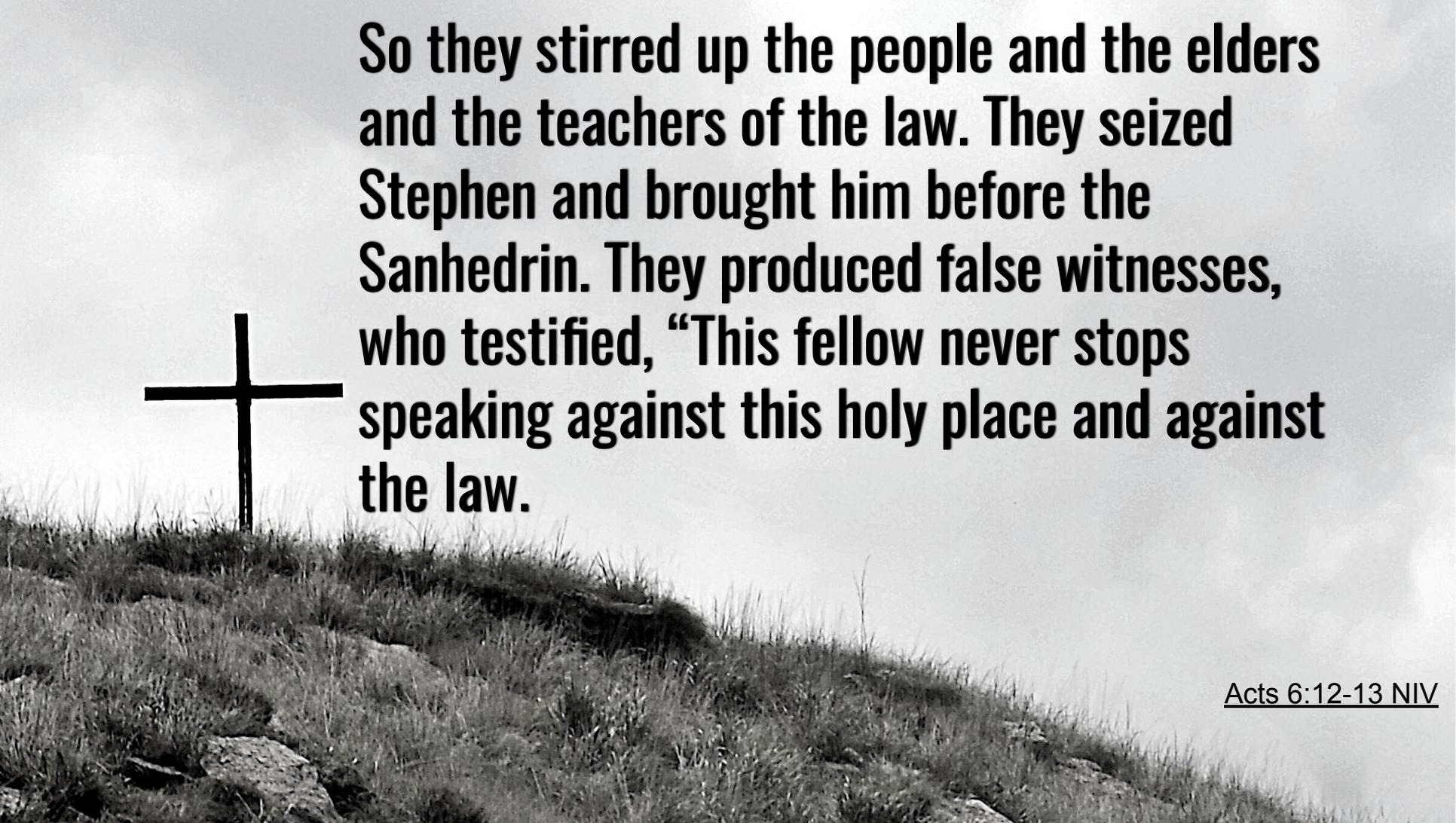
**Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen.**

Acts 6:8-9 NIV

**But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke. Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, “We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God.”**



Acts 6:10-11 NIV

A black cross stands on a grassy hillside. The background is a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. They produced false witnesses, who testified, “This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law.**

Acts 6:12-13 NIV

**For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us.”  
All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.**

Acts 6:14-15 NIV



# Boldness in Living His Life

- ❑ Does signs and wonders
- ❑ Goes to the synagogue and talks with people
- ❑ Upsets some people with what he believes



# Let's Do Some Math

$$\square 2 \times 3 + 4 =$$

10

$$\square 2 \times (3 + 4) =$$

14



# Boldness in Living Our Lives

- ❑ Our daily lives are impacted by our influences
- ❑ Let God be your main influence
- ❑ Start the day with God



# Acts 7:1-50 Summary

## Abraham

- Obeys God and receives promises from God

## Joseph

- Brothers are jealous and disobey God
- God protects Joseph

# Acts 7:1-50 Summary

## ☐ Moses

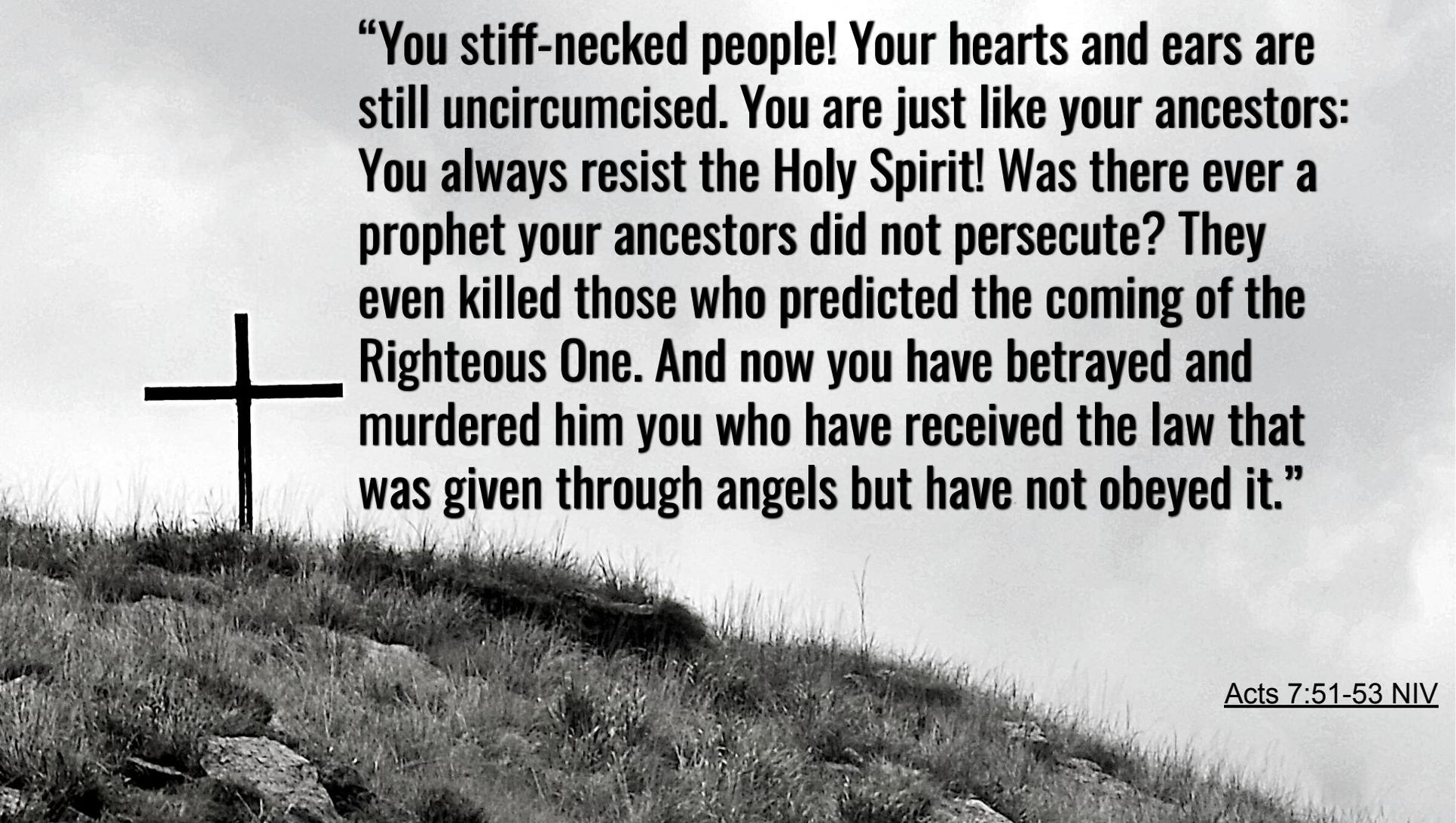
- ☐ Full of wisdom - good in speech and action
- ☐ He was initially rejected
- ☐ God calls him to lead people to freedom
- ☐ Rejected again when giving the 10 commandments - idols were built



# Acts 7:1-50 Summary

- ❑ David and Solomon
  - ❑ The temple is built for God to dwell in
  - ❑ God doesn't dwell in a place built by human hands



A black cross stands on a grassy hillside under a cloudy sky. The cross is simple, with a vertical post and a horizontal beam. The hillside is covered in dry, brownish grass and some rocks. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds.

**“You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.”**

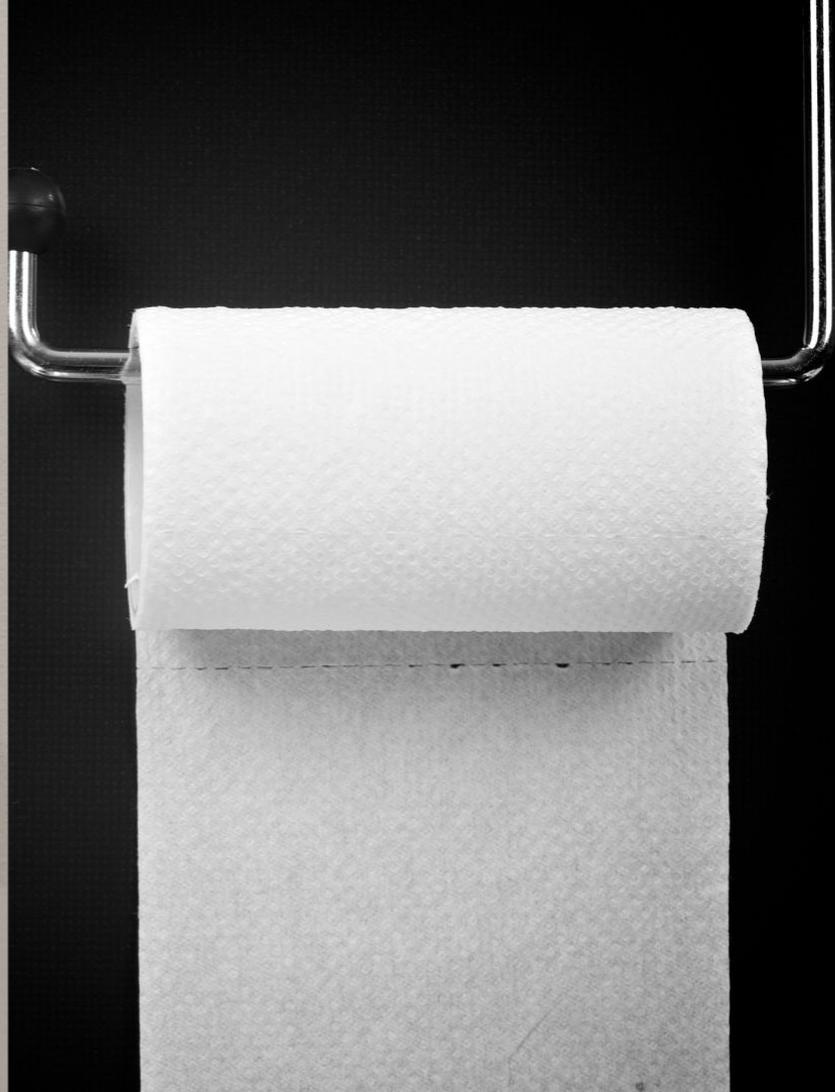
Acts 7:51-53 NIV

# **Boldness in His Beliefs**

- ❑ **Stephen separates from his accusers**
- ❑ **The stories he told point to Jesus**
- ❑ **His defense is his belief in what God has done and is doing**



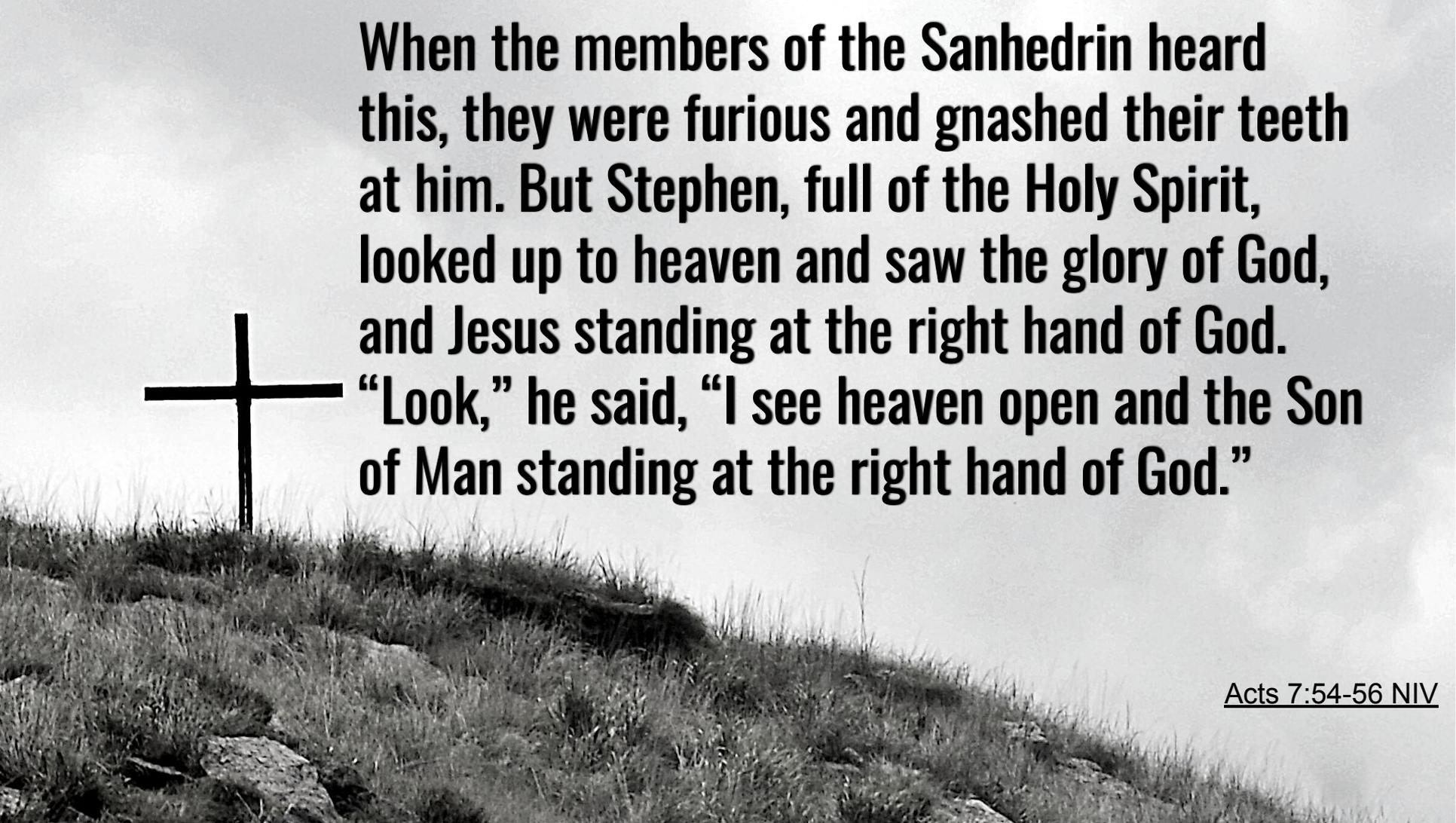




# Boldness in Our Beliefs

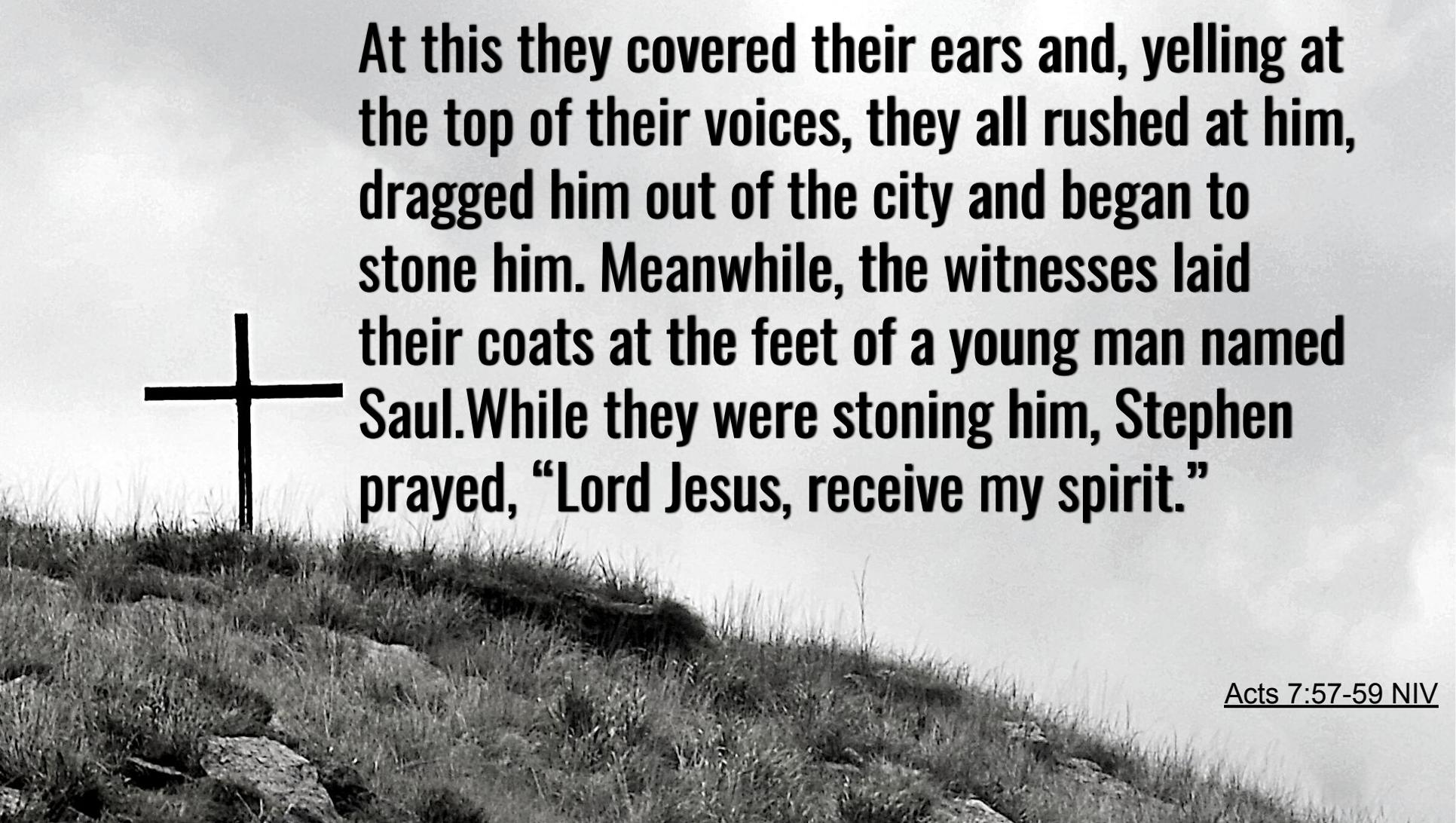
- ❑ Know what we believe
  - ❑ Know Jesus
- ❑ Explain it
  - ❑ Use knowledge plus experience





**When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”**

Acts 7:54-56 NIV



**At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”**

Acts 7:57-59 NIV

**Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.**



Acts 7:60 NIV

# Boldness in How He Treats Opposition

- ❑ Stuff hits the fan
- ❑ Prays for the people stoning him
- ❑ Represented Jesus to his opposition





# Boldness in How We Treat Opposition

- ❑ Pray for those who oppose you
- ❑ Avoid becoming the aggressor
- ❑ Show Jesus in the face of opposition



# Closing

- ❑ God wants us to be bold for Him
  - ❑ Practice boldness everyday
  - ❑ Be bold in what we believe
  - ❑ Be bold in how we treat opposition
- ❑ Boldly live a Godly lifestyle

