

"THE IRRESISTIBLE MINISTRY OF STEPHEN" ACTS 6:8-15

I. STEPHEN'S IRRESISTIBLE MINISTRY IS DESCRIBED IN A WAY THAT SHOULD BE CHARACTERISTIC OF EVERY MINISTRY (6:3,5,8)

- A. His Testimony Was Certifiable With Regard To His Unquestionable Integrity & Spiritual & Practical Qualifications (6:3)
- B. His Life Was Characterized By His Firm Conviction Regarding That Which Is Unseen (6:5)
- C. His Ministry Was Not Limited To The Distribution Of Benevolence (6:8)

II. STEPHEN'S IRRESISTIBLE MINISTRY RESULTED IN AN INEVITABLE OPPOSITION (6:9-15)

- A. The Opposition Initially Took The Form Of Argument (6:9-10)
 - 1. The Origin Of The *Synagogue* Is Murky, Though It Is Generally Accepted As Having Arisen During The Babylonian Exile, Circa 586 BC.
 - 2. Stephen Debated Representatives From Synagogues All Over The Known World Of That Day (6:9)
 - 3. These Representatives Were Powerless To Gain The Verbal Upper hand Against Stephen (6:10)
- B. The Opposition Next Tried To Arouse The People On Some Very Sensitive Points (6:11-12)
 - 1. They Accused Stephen Of Speaking Against Moses & Against God (6:11)
 - 2. They Succeeded Only In Stirring Up So Much Agitation, That It Led To The Arrest Of Stephen (6:12)
- C. The Opposition Finally Conducts A Trial Complete With False Witnesses (6:13-15)
 - 1. They Accused Stephen Of Speaking Against The Temple [The Pride Of The Nation] (6:13a)

2. They Accused Stephen Of Speaking Against The Law (6:13b-14)

III. STEPHEN'S IRRESISTIBLE MINISTRY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY GOD'S UNMISTAKABLE APPROVAL ON THE LIFE & WORK OF THIS MAN (6:15)

- A. The Lord Had So Fired This Man From Within, That Like Moses Before Him, The Evidence Of His Commitment & Holiness Shone Through His Facial Features
- B. The Lord Was Making Yet Another Appeal To These People Who Had Squandered So Much Privilege