

“STANDING ALONE”

Acts 7:51-60

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

It is difficult to stand alone; see Eccl. 4:9-12

Many examples of the encouragement of others

But, often there is no one to stand with us if we stand boldly for the Lord.

Peer pressure can be very strong.

You must take your stand for Jesus Christ—even if standing alone!

I. EXAMPLES OF SOME WHO STOOD ALONE

- A. Moses
- B. Joshua
- C. David
- D. Daniel
- E. Ezekiel (3:7-10)
- F. Jesus
- G. Paul
- H. Stephen

- 1. His bold stand (51-53)

The defense becomes the prosecution! (Cf. II Chr. 36:16)

- 2. Their Violent Anger (54, 57-58, 59a)

Note Saul's presence (58)—cf. 22:20

But, were these people really standing alone?

II. WHY THEY WERE NOT ALONE

- A. Moses: The _____ of the Lord (7:38)
- B. Joshua: The _____ of the Lord's host (Josh 5)
- C. David: I Sam. 17:45
- D. Ezekiel: Vision of Chapters 1, 3, 10—God's glory
- E. Daniel: The _____ in the lion's den
- F. Jesus: The angels strengthened Him; the Father _____ and Exalted Him
- G. Paul: II Tim. 4:17—The Lord stood with Him.
- H. Stephen: (7:55-56, 59b-60)
 - 1. Under control--Filled with the _____—when they were not.

2. Saw the glory of the _____ as he gazed intently into heaven (not in the temple on earth); more real than their angry words and stares and violent behavior.
3. Saw _____ (Son of Man—only use outside of the gospels) standing at the right hand of God. *He is the witness, intercessor, and receiver.*
 - Stephen was condemned on Earth, vindicated in Heaven.
 - Stephen bore witness on earth; he was witnessed to in Heaven.
 - Jesus had the same testimony before the Sanhedrin (Mk. 14:62): You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power.
 - Jesus also had the same accusation against Him and the same condemnation.
 - **Jesus is now vindicated; so is Stephen.**
4. Calls upon the Lord (59, 60a)
 - a. For _____ (59b)
 - b. For _____ for his accusers (60)
5. Stephen Sleeping (60b)

CONCLUSION

When we stand alone, we're really not alone.

SO STAND!