# 3 TRANSFORMING WORSHIP LESSONS

WE LEARN FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

## A STUDY IN ACTS 7

3 TRANSFORMING
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# THE STORY OF STEPHEN (ACTS 6:8-7:60)

6:8 "Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people."

6:15 "All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel."

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# THE STORY OF STEPHEN (ACTS 7:48-60)

7:1-2a "Then the high priest asked Stephen, 'Are these charges true?' 2 To this he replied...."

7:48 "...The Most High does not live in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says:

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# THE STORY OF STEPHEN (ACTS 7:48-60)

49 “‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me?’ says the Lord. ‘Or where will my resting place be? 50 Has not my hand made all these things? 51 You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised.’”

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# THE STORY OF STEPHEN (ACTS 7:48-60)

"“You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! 52 Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One.”"

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# THE STORY OF STEPHEN (ACTS 7:48-60)

"'And now you have betrayed and murdered him – 53 you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.'" 54 "When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him."

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# THE STORY OF STEPHEN (ACTS 7:48-60)

55 “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. 56 ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.’”

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# THE STORY OF STEPHEN (ACTS 7:48-60)

57 “At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58 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.
59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’”

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# THE STORY OF STEPHEN (ACTS 7:48-60)

60 “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.”

8:1 “And Saul was there, giving approval to his death.”

# 3 TRANSFORMING WORSHIP LESSONS

WE LEARN FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

## 1. WORSHIP IS A LIFE SONG WE ALL SING.

(OUR LIVES ARE THE INSTRUMENT)

## 2. WORSHIP IS A LIFE SONG WE SING TOGETHER.

(WORSHIP IS EMPOWERED IN COMMUNITY)

## 3. WORSHIP IS A LIFE SONG WITH ONE SUBJECT.

(THE TRIUNE GOD IS THE ONE WE WORSHIP)

3 TRANSFORMING
WORSHIP LESSONS
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# 1. WORSHIP IS A LIFE SONG WE ALL SING.

The moment that Stephen gives up his life, we engage with the early church's vision of worship, its essence, and the metaphor that will form the foundation of Christian worship for thousands of years all the way to today.

(OUR LIVES ARE THE INSTRUMENT)

3 TRANSFORMING
WORSHIP LESSONS
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# 2. WORSHIP IS A LIFE SONG WE SING TOGETHER.

Stephen is compelled by love into the arena of conflict, the marketplace where Jesus' values conflict with those of both Jerusalem and Rome. He can do so because has found his security in the love of God – and in the fellowship of the believers.

(WORSHIP IS EMPOWERED IN COMMUNITY)

3 TRANSFORMING
WORSHIP LESSONS
WE LEARN FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

# 3. WORSHIP IS A LIFE SONG WITH ONE SUBJECT.

At the moment the heavens are opened to Stephen, as he is about to be exchanged from this world to the next, he sees a Person. It is no generic vision of God; he sees the person of Jesus Christ – the sole Subject of his worship.

(THE TRIUNE GOD IS THE GOD WE WORSHIP)

# 3 TRANSFORMING WORSHIP LESSONS

WE LEARN FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

## A STUDY IN ACTS 7-9