

So What?

A Template

Acts 6:8-8:4

Post-Resurrection: *So What?*

Points of Emphasis

- ✦ Rejoicing (5:41)
- ✦ Suffering (5:41)
- ✦ Proclaiming (5:42)
- ✦ Growth (6:7)

The Life & Character of Stephen: *So What?*

Profile

✦ **Full of faith & Holy Spirit (6:5; cf Rom 8:9-11; Eph 5:18; Gal 5:16-25)**

✦ **Full of grace & power (6:8)**

✦ **Wisdom (6:10)**

✦ **Glory of God/Messenger of God (6:15; cf Ex 34:29-35)**

The Message of Stephen: *So What?*

Pattern

- ✦ **Answered charges**
- ✦ **Points to Jesus Christ & New Covenant**
 - ✦ Progression in God's plan
 - ✦ Blessings not limited to land of Israel and/or temple
 - ✦ Israel's history of opposition to God's plan
- ✦ **Same approach as Jesus (cf Luke 24:27)**

The Death of Stephen: *So What?*

Perspectives

✦ **Contrast between opponents & Stephen (cf 1 Pet 4:14)**

✦ **Kept eyes fixed on Jesus/Things Above (cf Gal 3:1)**

✦ **Results**

✦ **Immediate escalation of persecution (8:1,3)**

✦ **Scattering of Christians & spread of gospel into Judea & Samaria (8:1; cf 1:8)**

2010: *So What?*

Pursuits

- ✦ “Therefore” (8:4) = Natural response to persecution is proclamation
- ✦ Continuing expansion; environment of opposition
- ✦ The template still applies
 - ✦ *SO WHAT* about our new life in Jesus Christ?
 - ✦ *SO WHAT* about our proclamation/message?
 - ✦ *SO WHAT* about preparing to die? (cf 2 Cor 4:7-14)

So What?