

STEPHEN'S

# SERMON

TO THE

# SANHEDRIN

ACTS 7



# THE SANHEDRIN (COUNCIL)

ACTS 6:8-12

STEPHEN'S  
**SERMON**  
TO THE  
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# THIRD TIME BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

“This is the third of four times in Acts when the Lord’s followers stood before this Jewish court; the others were Peter and John (4:15), Peter and the apostles (5:27), and Paul (22:30).”

-The Bible Knowledge Commentary

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# 1. PETER AND JOHN (ACTS 4)

"...Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the **name of Jesus Christ** of Nazareth, **whom you crucified**, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the '**stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.**' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

**Acts 4:10-12**

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# 1. PETER AND JOHN (ACTS 4)

Therefore, to you who believe, He is **precious**; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,"

**1 Peter 2:7**

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## 2. PETER AND THE OTHER APOSTLES

Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through **the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.**" 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit**, and they **spoke the word of God** with boldness.

**Acts 4:29-31**

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## 2. PETER AND THE OTHER APOSTLES

But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up **Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.** 31 **Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior,** to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

**Acts 5:29-32**

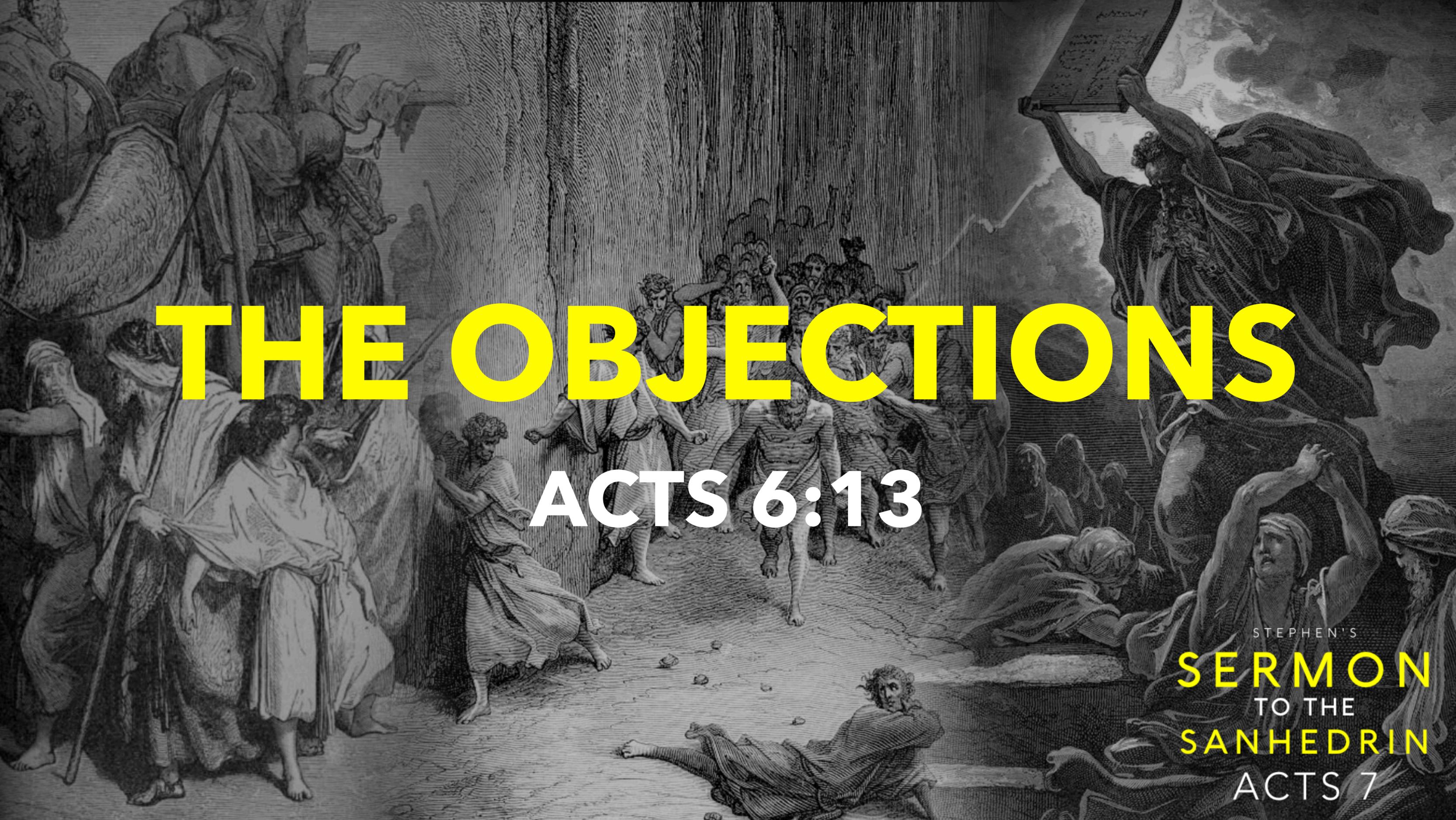
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# 3. STEPHEN AND THE COUNCIL

And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council.

**Acts 6:12**

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# THE OBJECTIONS

ACTS 6:13

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**WHAT ARE THEIR OBJECTIONS TO STEPHEN'S MESSAGE?**

**The Man:** "that Moses delivered to us"

**The Place:** "the Holy Place" (the Temple)

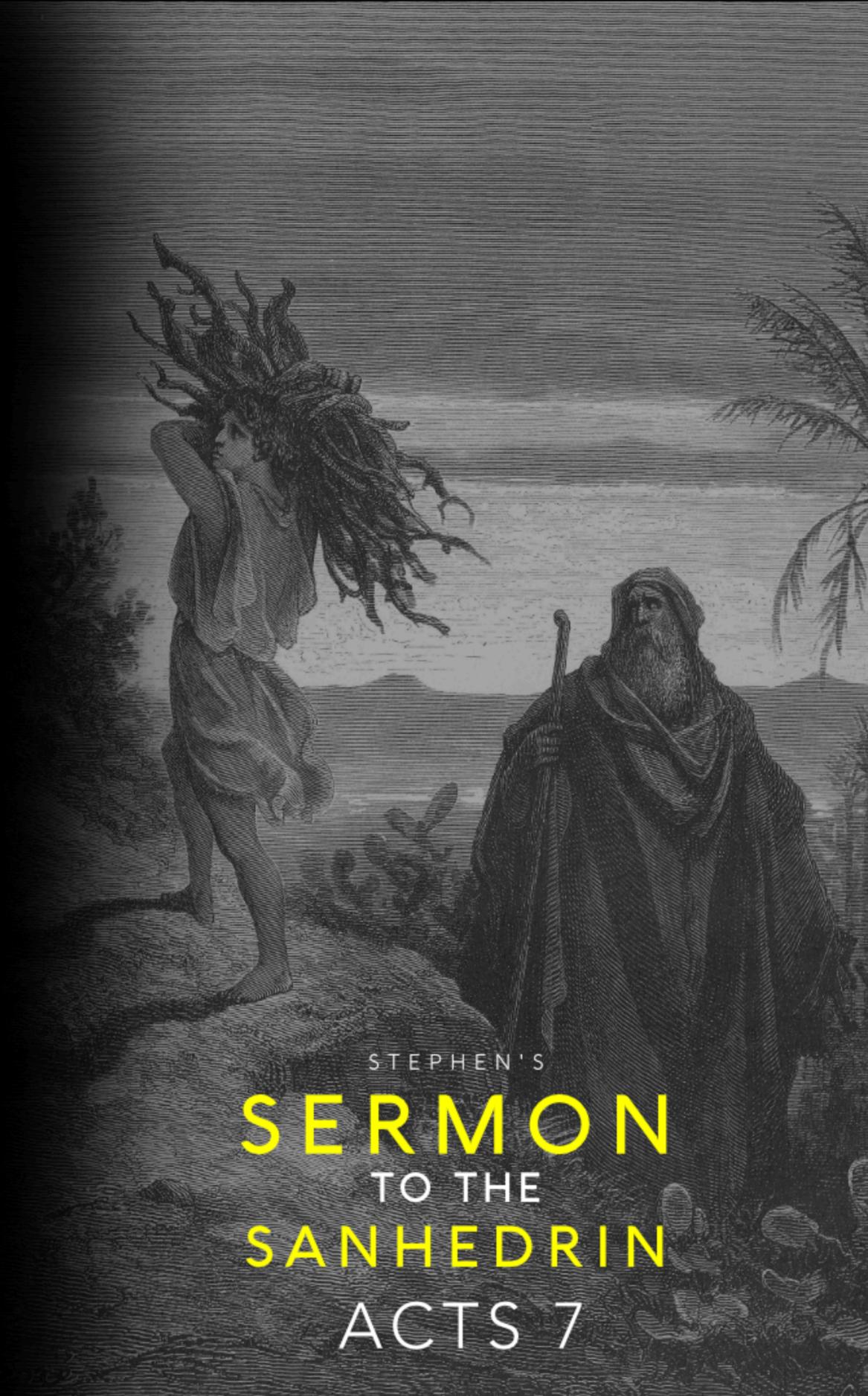
**The Practices:** "the customs"

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ISRAEL'S RESPONSE TO

# ABRAHAM'S COVENANT

ACTS 7:1-8

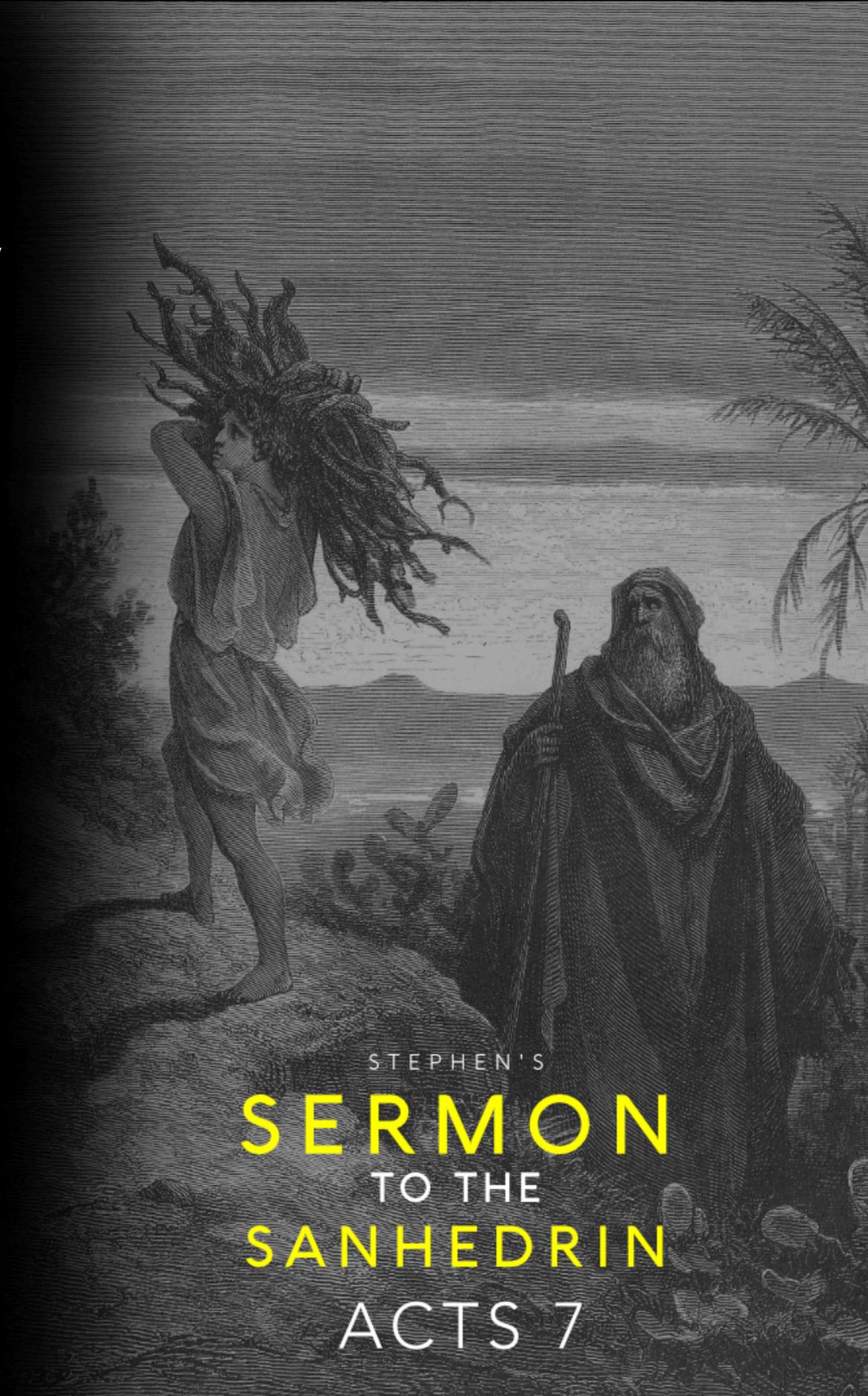


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# THE GLORY OF GOD

Stephen's address opens with "the God of glory" and closes with the glory of God (Acts 7:55); and all the time he spoke, his face radiated that same glory! Why? Because Israel was the only nation privileged to have the glory of God as a part of its inheritance. Alas, the glory of God had departed, first from the tabernacle (1 Sam. 4:19-22) and then from the temple (Ezek. 10:4, 18). God's glory had come in His Son (John 1:14), but the nation had rejected Him

- **Warren Wiersbe**

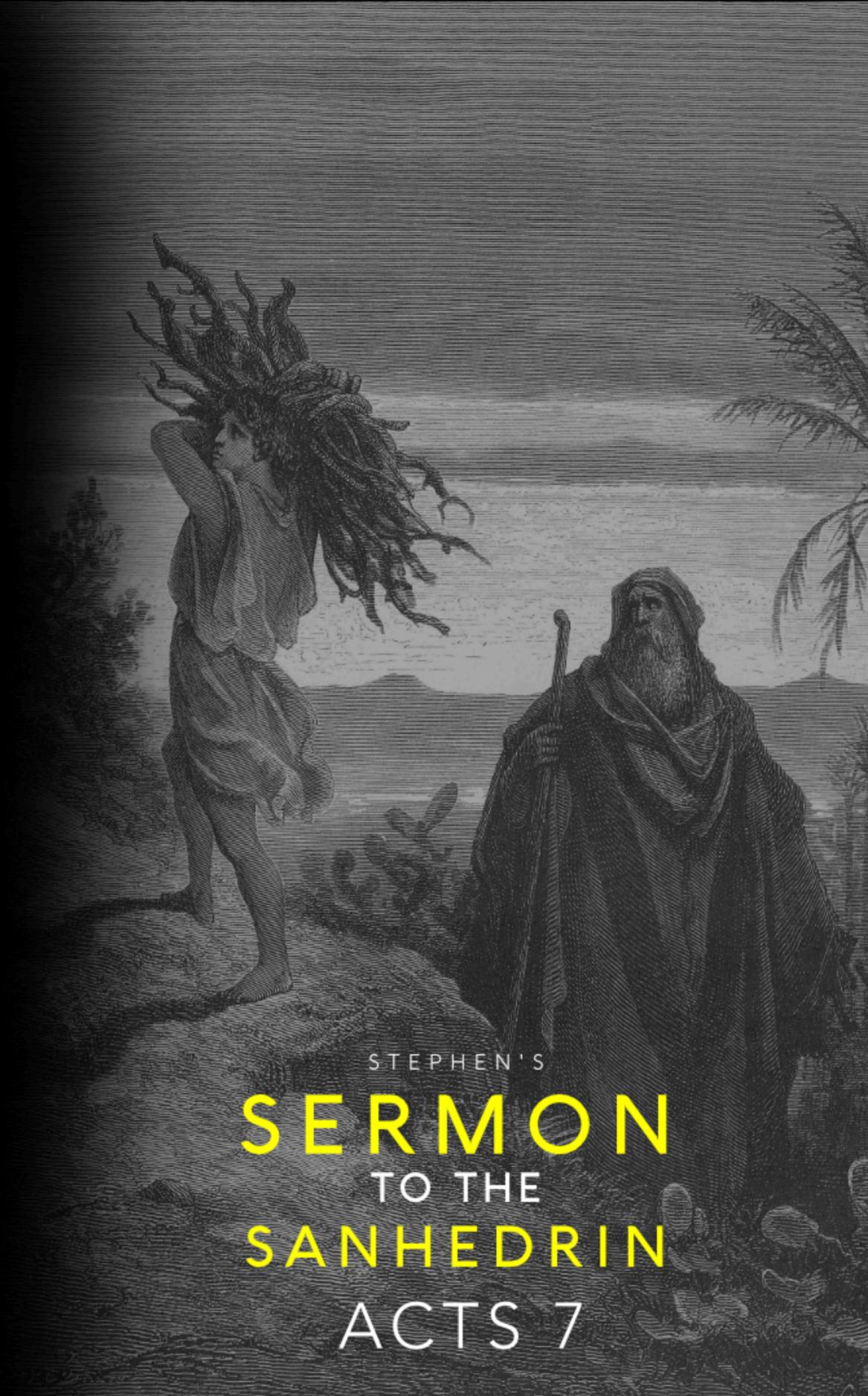


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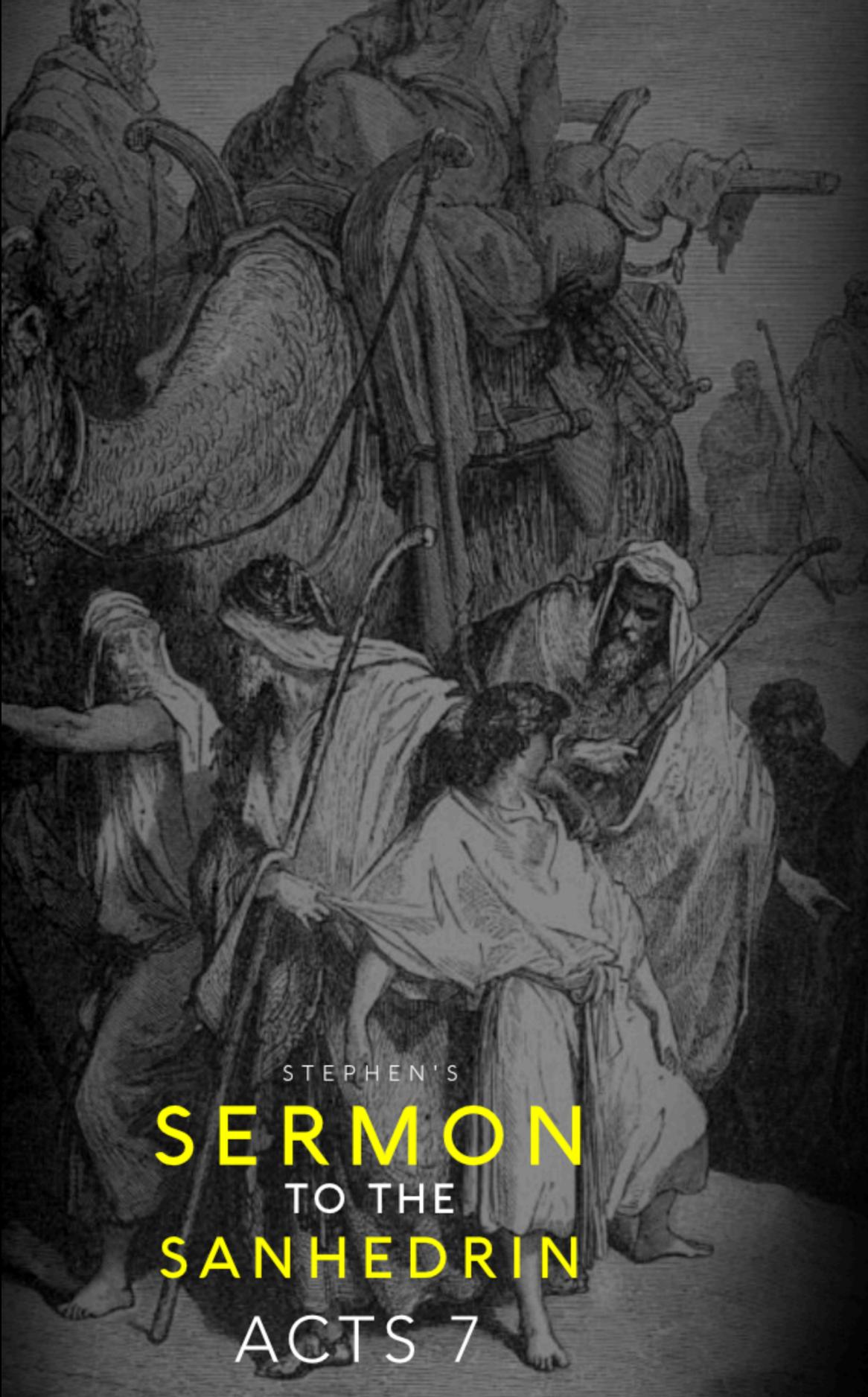
# THE GLORY OF GOD

The Jews prided themselves in their circumcision, failing to understand that the rite was symbolic of an inner spiritual relationship with God.

- Warren Wiersbe



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ISRAEL'S RESPONSE TO  
**JOSEPH'S**  
**SALVATION**

**ACTS 7:9-16**

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# GOOD FROM EVIL

But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for **good**, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

**Genesis 50:20**

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# GOOD FROM EVIL

"...Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the **name of Jesus Christ** of Nazareth, **whom you crucified**, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the '**stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.**'

**Acts 4:10-11**

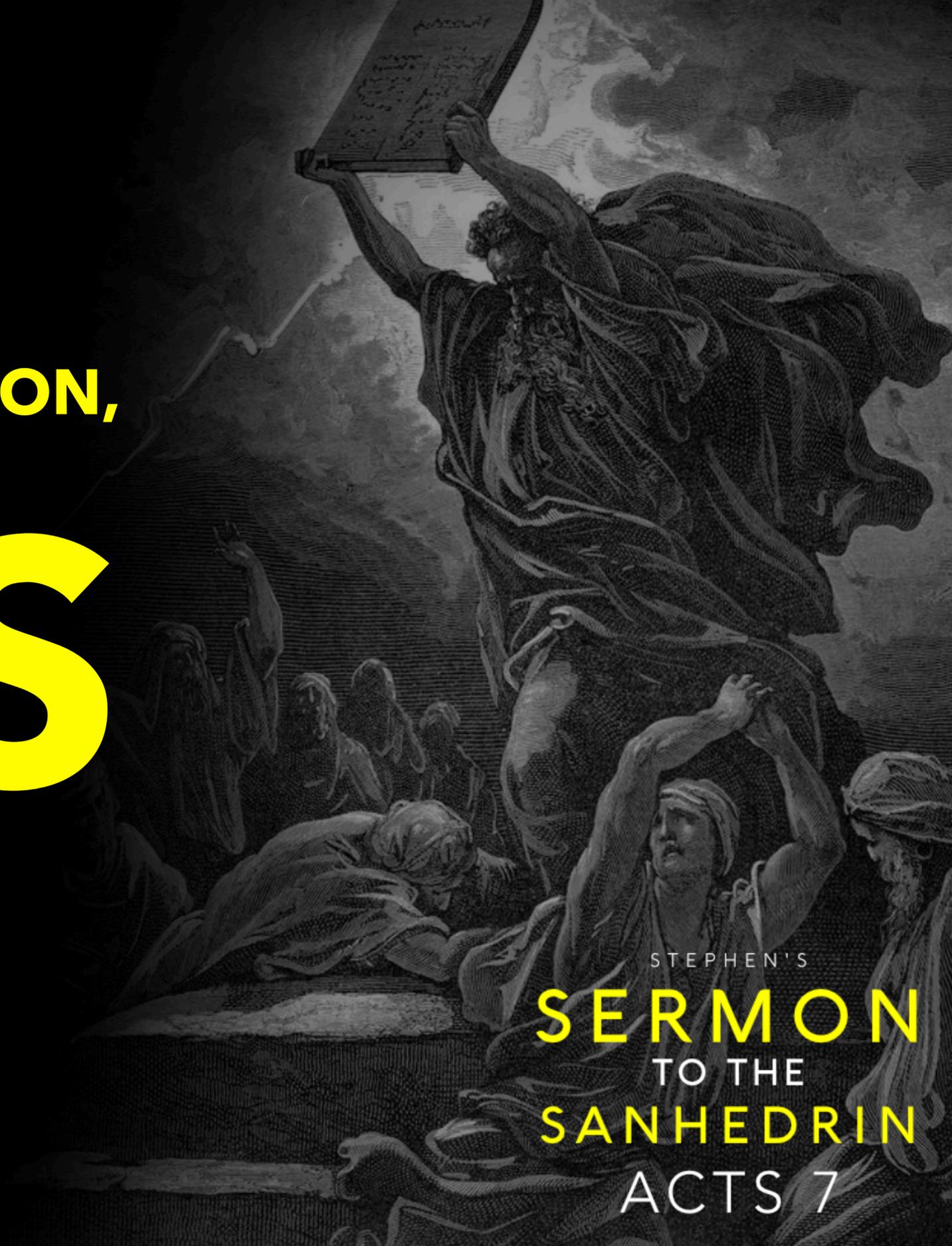
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**STEPHEN'S RESPONSE TO THE PERSON,**

# **MOSES**

**ACTS 7:17-43**

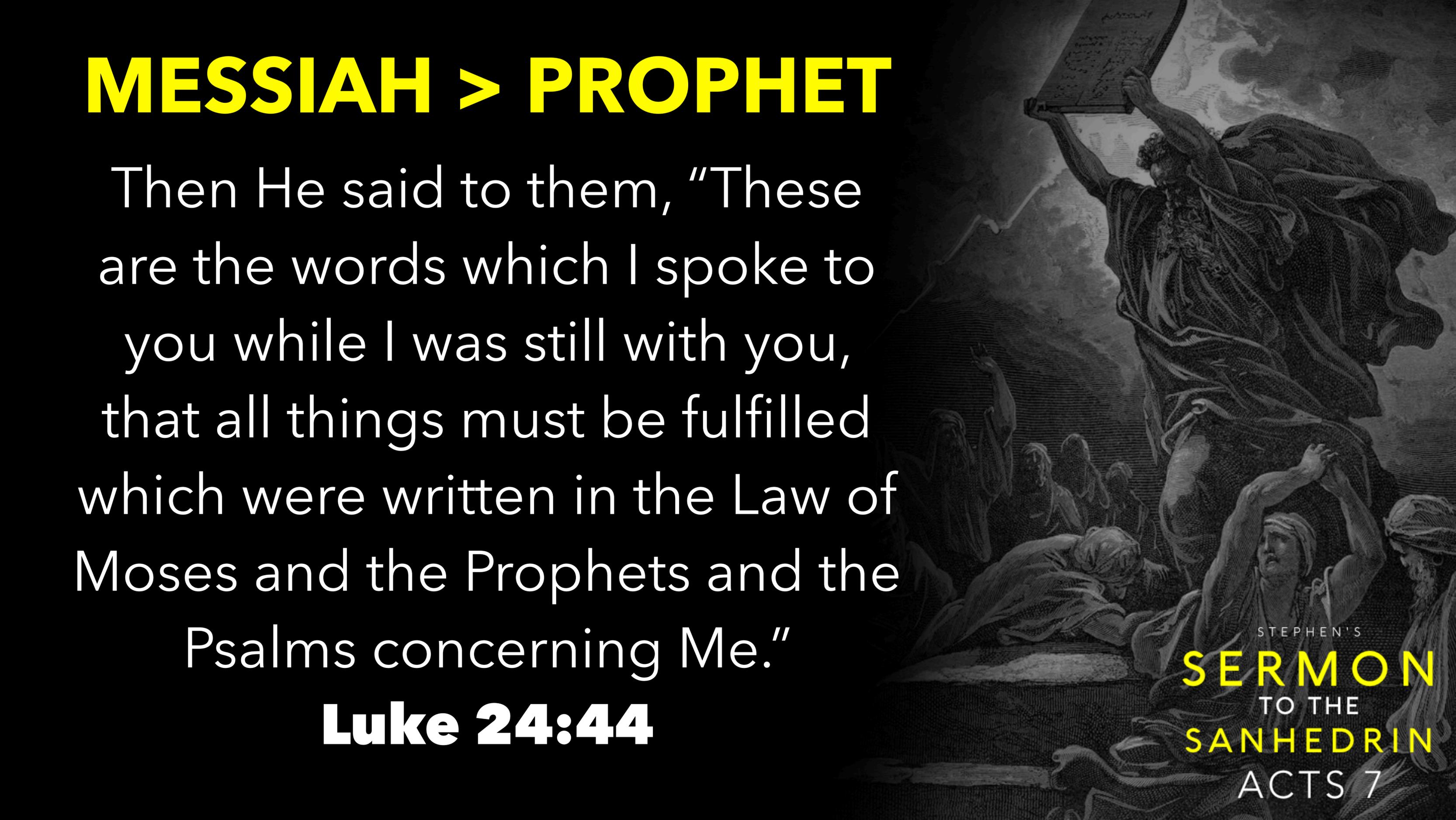
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# MESSIAH > PROPHET

Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

**Luke 24:44**

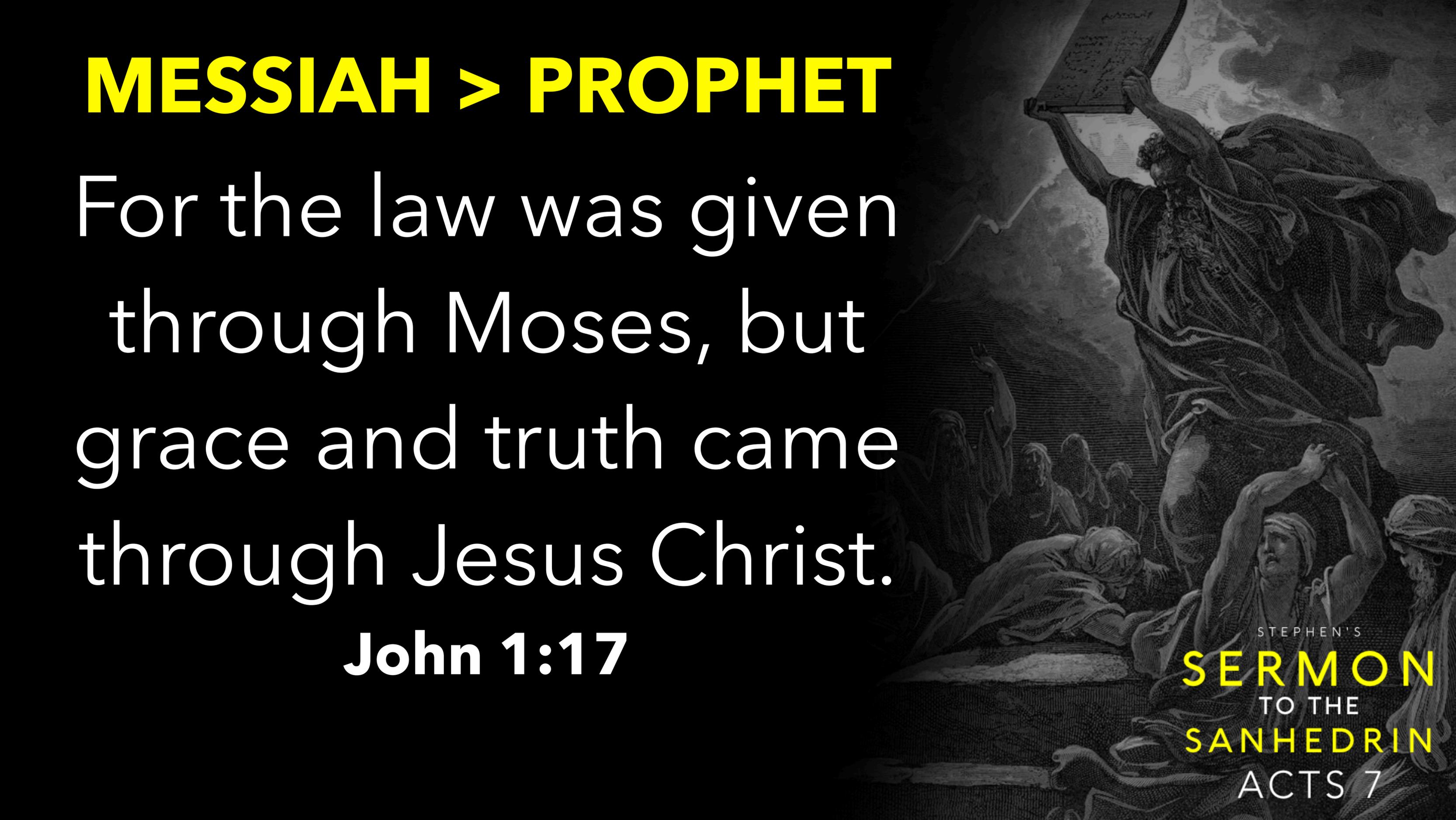


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# MESSIAH > PROPHET

For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**John 1:17**

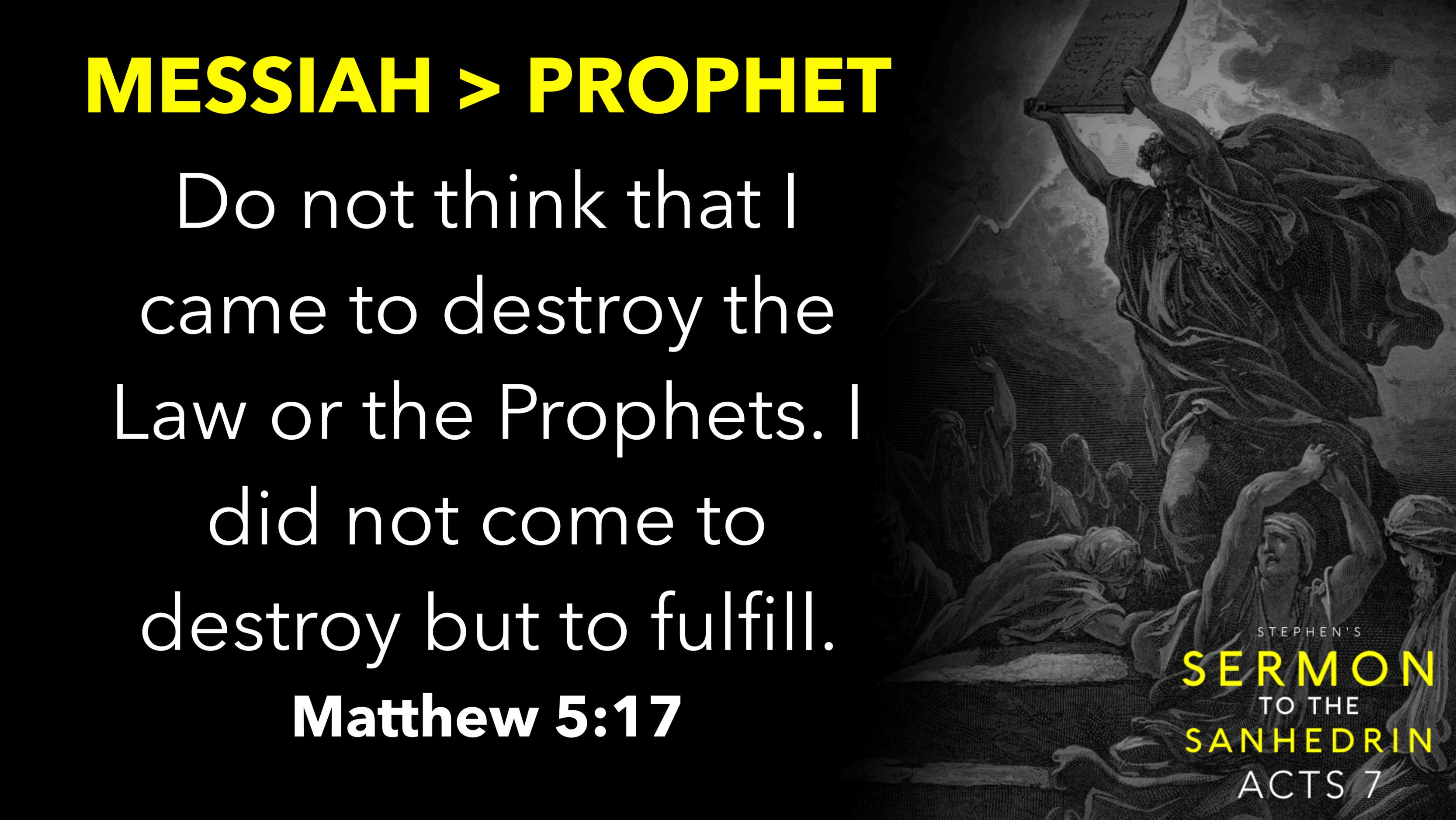


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# MESSIAH > PROPHET

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

**Matthew 5:17**



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# TRUST GOD

It is better to trust in  
the Lord than to put  
confidence in man.

**Psalms 118:8**

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# ALL THE PEOPLE

Now **all the people** witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off.

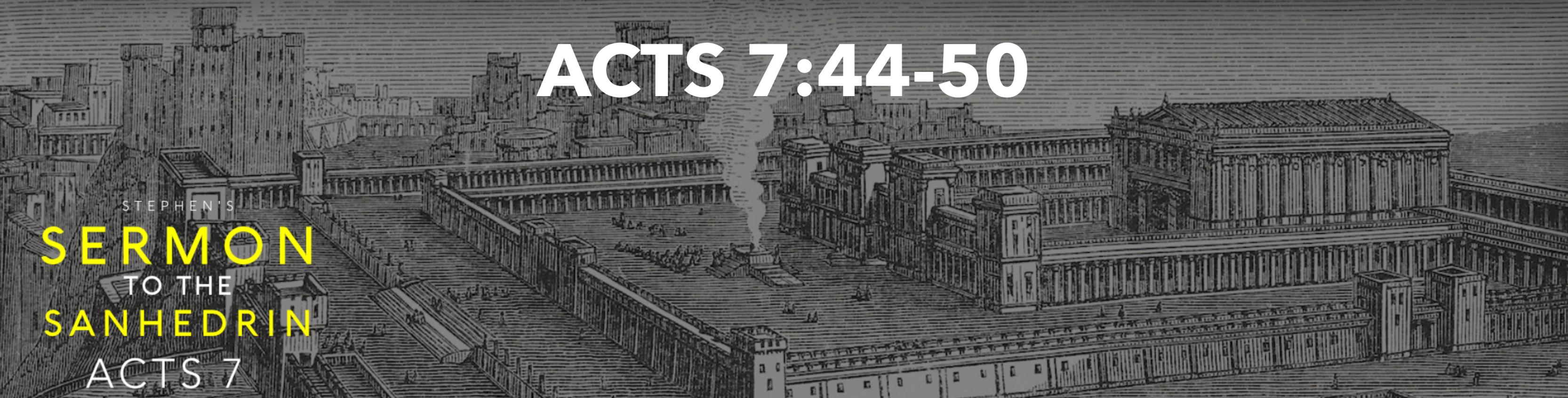
**Exodus 20:18**

**STEPHEN'S RESPONSE TO THE PLACE,**

# **THE TEMPLE**

**ACTS 7:44-50**

STEPHEN'S  
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# **VIEL WAS TORN**

And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

**Mark 15:37-38**

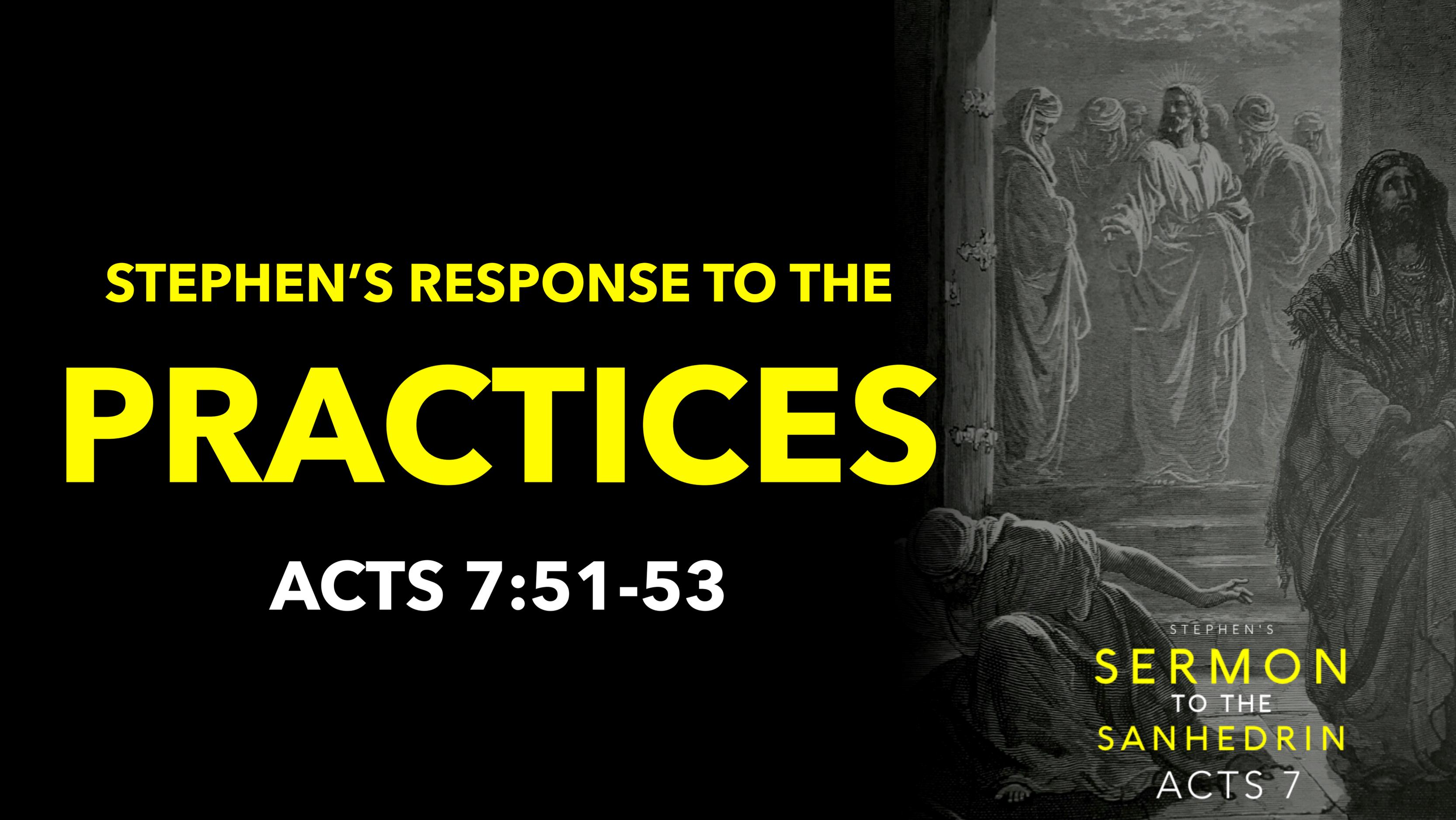
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# **DID NOT KNOW**

And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he **did not know that the Lord had departed from him.**

**Judges 16:20**

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**STEPHEN'S RESPONSE TO THE**  
**PRACTICES**

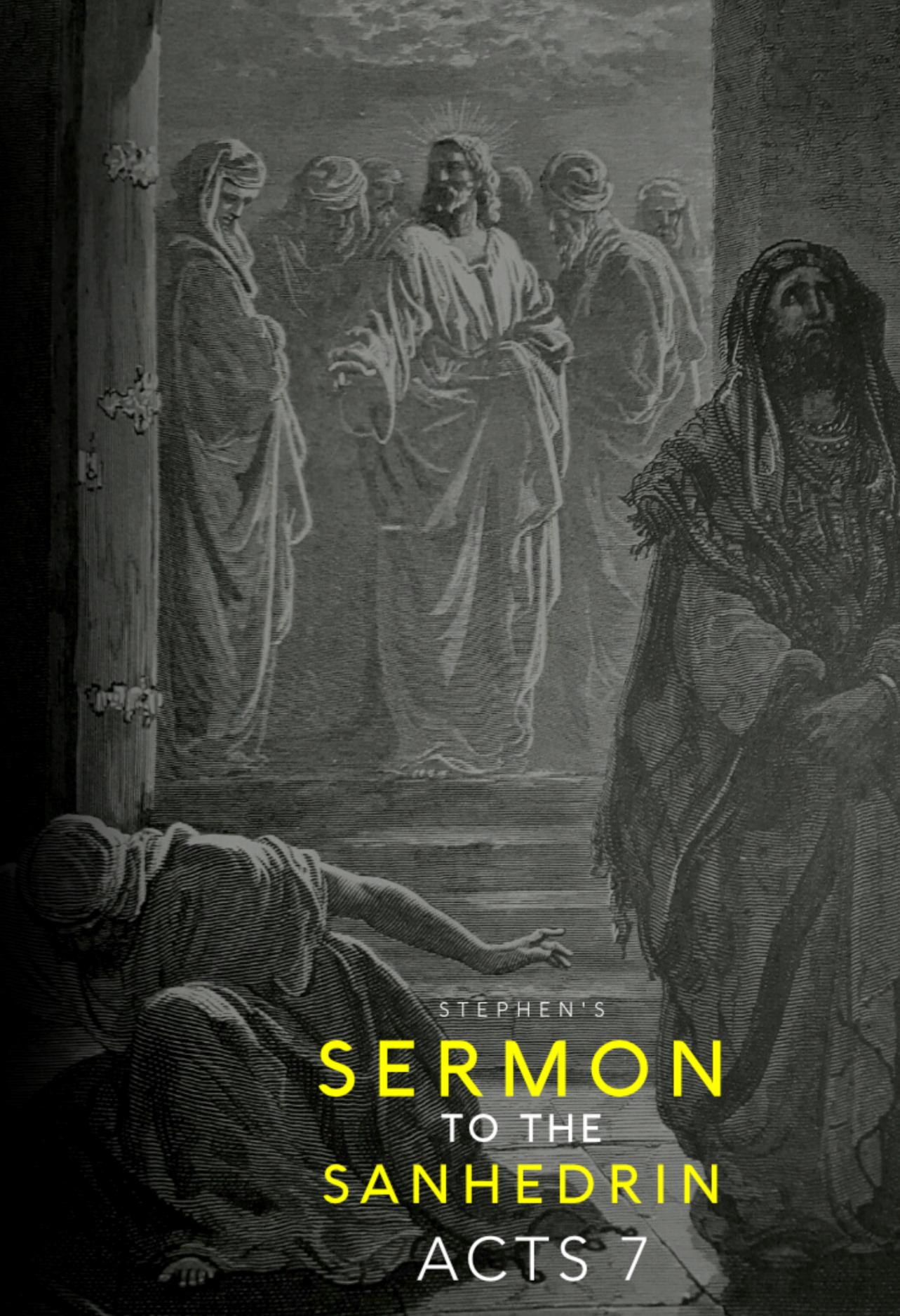
**ACTS 7:51-53**

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# MAN MADE IDEAS

You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their **hearts are far from me.** Their worship is a farce, for they teach **man-made ideas as commands from God.**'"

Matthew 15:7-9 (NLT)



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**RELIGIOUS LEADERS**

**CHURCH LEADERS**

**The Place**

**The Empty Temple**

**People of God by the  
filling of the Holy Spirit**

**The Person**

**Moses, The Prophet**

**Jesus, The Messiah**

**The Practice**

**Commandments of Men**

**The Word of God**

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**SANHEDRIN'S RESPONSE TO**

# **THE MESSAGE**

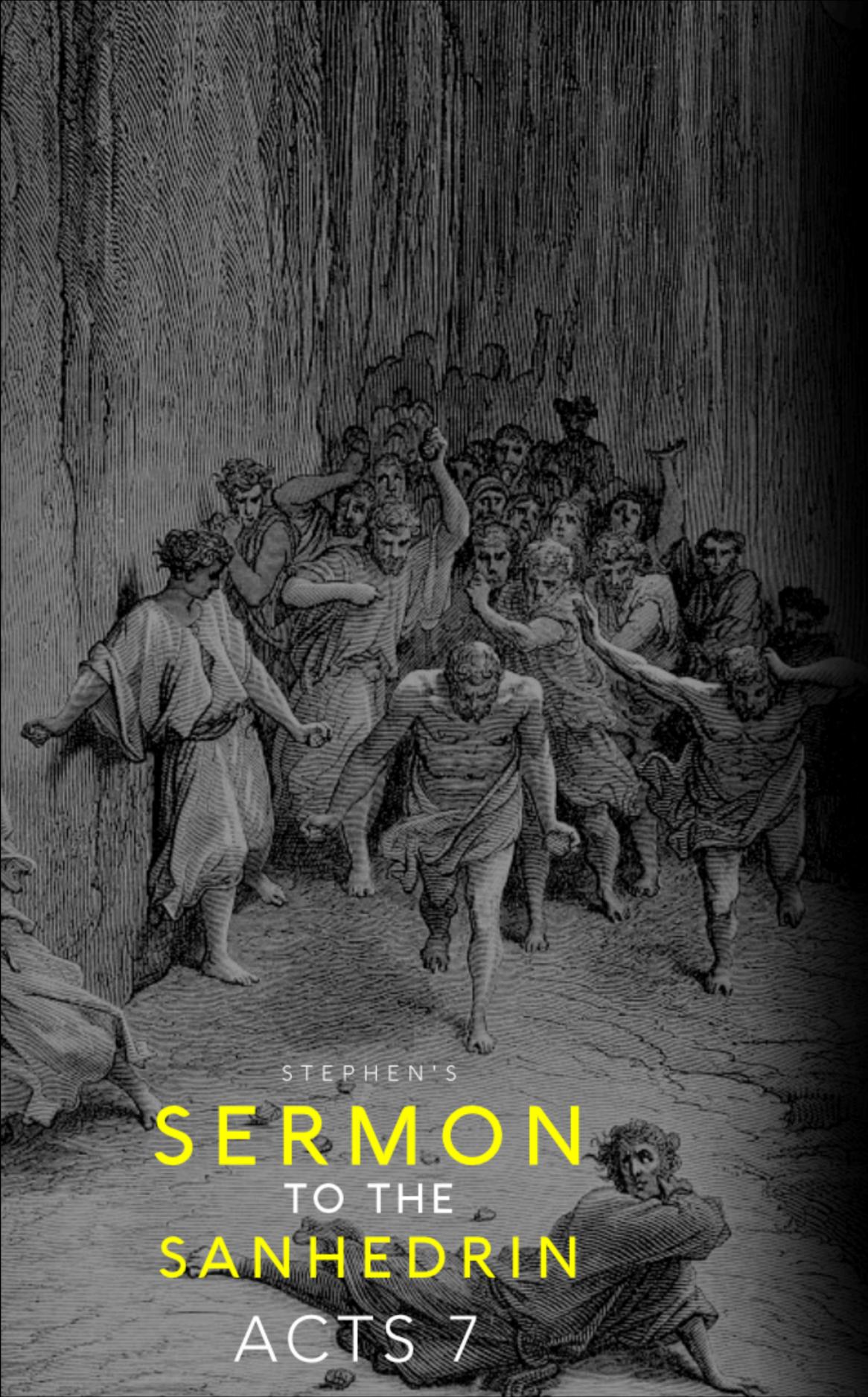
**ACTS 7:54-59**

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# CUT TO THE HEART

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**Hebrews 4:12**



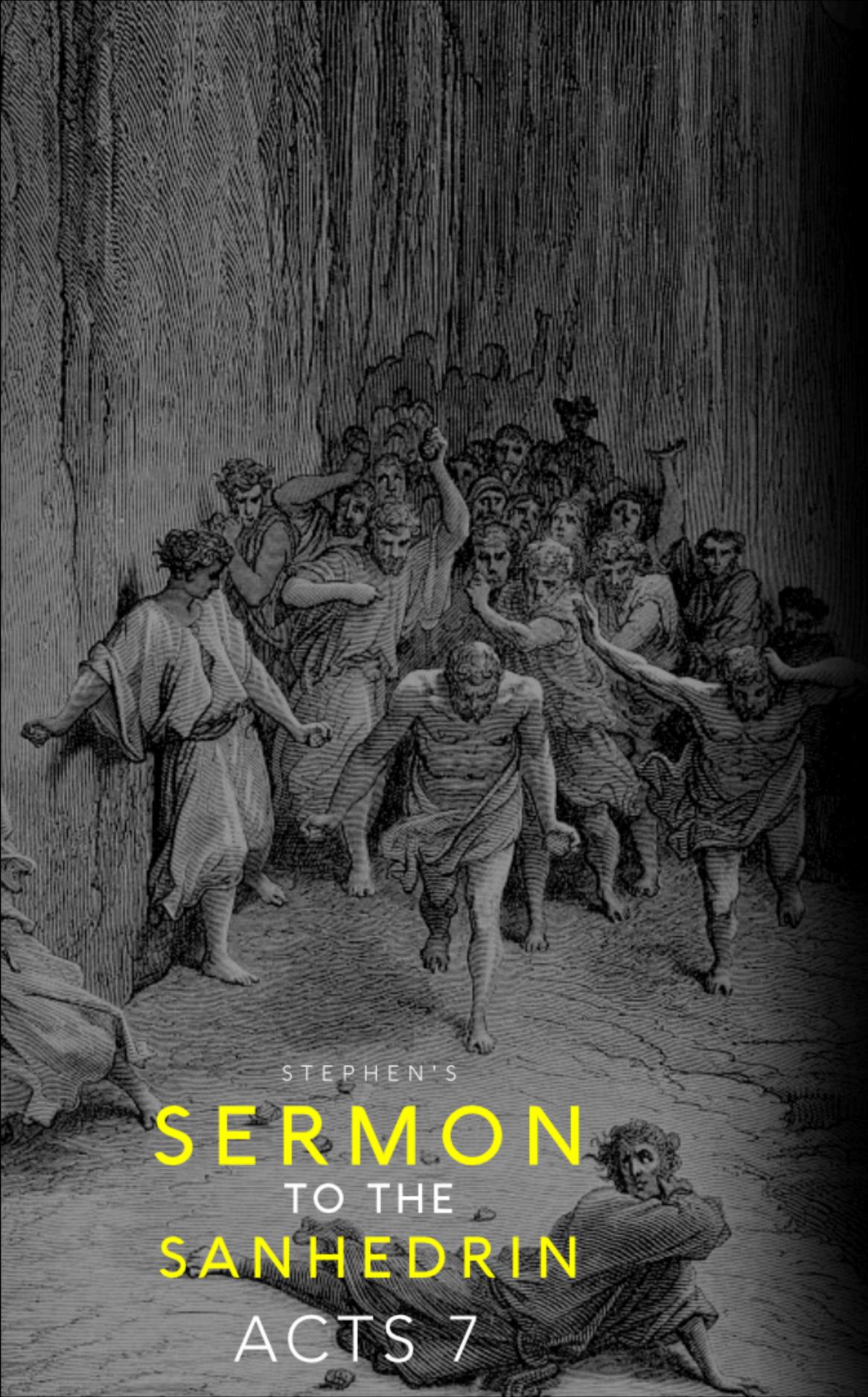
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# CROWN OF LIFE

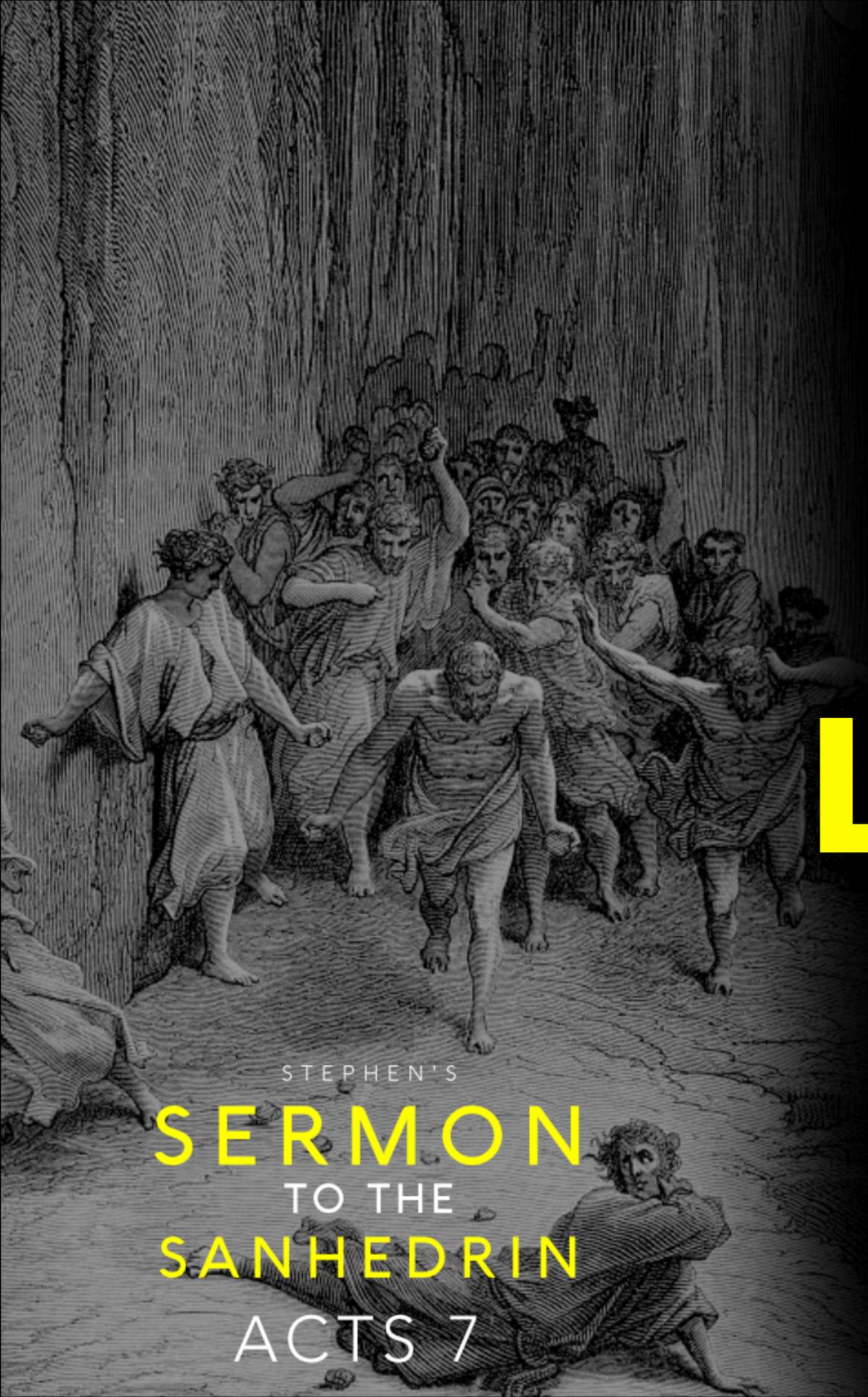
Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer.

Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

**Revelation 2:10**



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THE RESPONSE TO  
**STEPHEN'S**  
**LIFE AND DEATH**

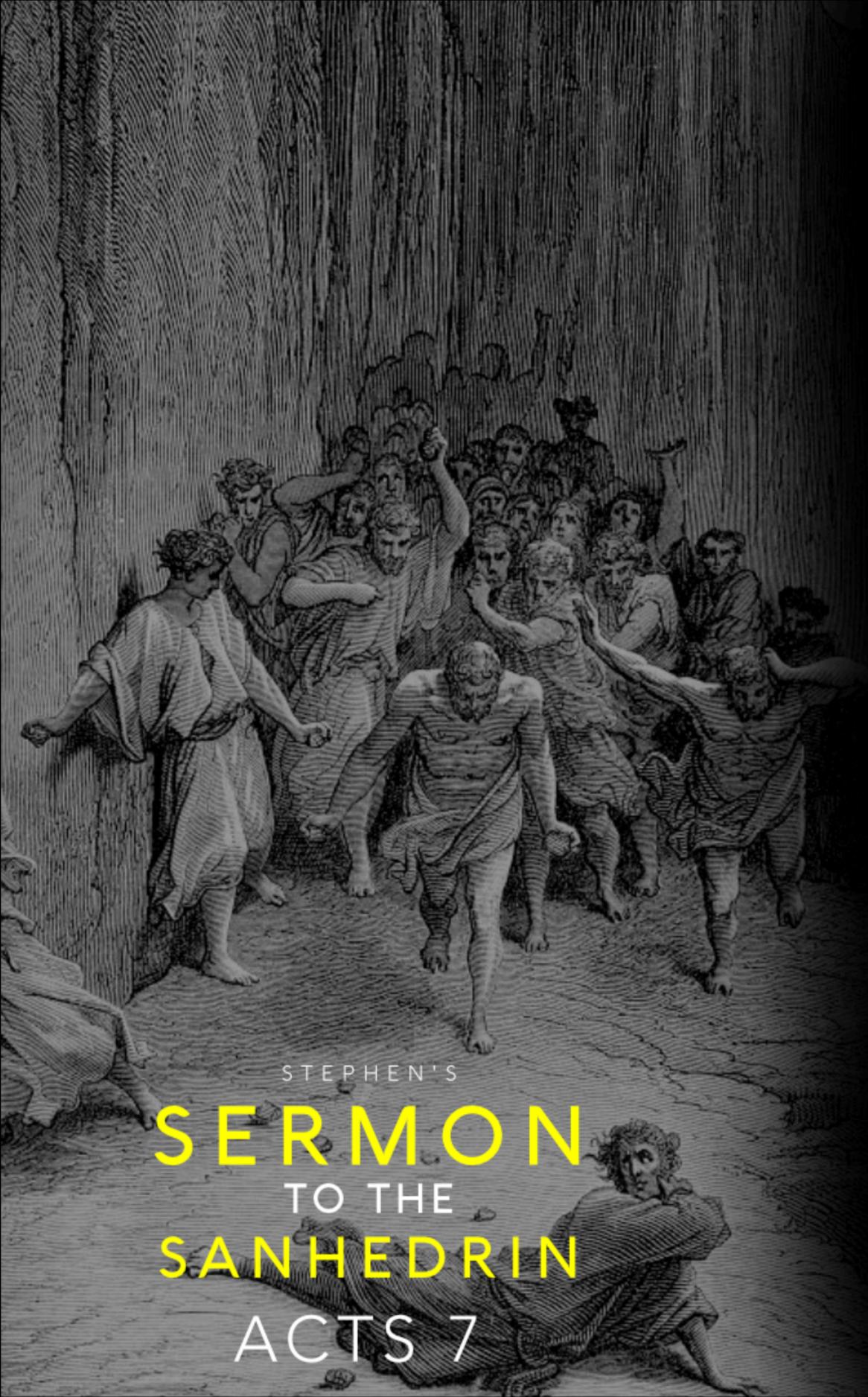
**ACTS 8:1-3**

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# 1. THE SPREAD OF THE CHURCH

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

**Acts 1:8**

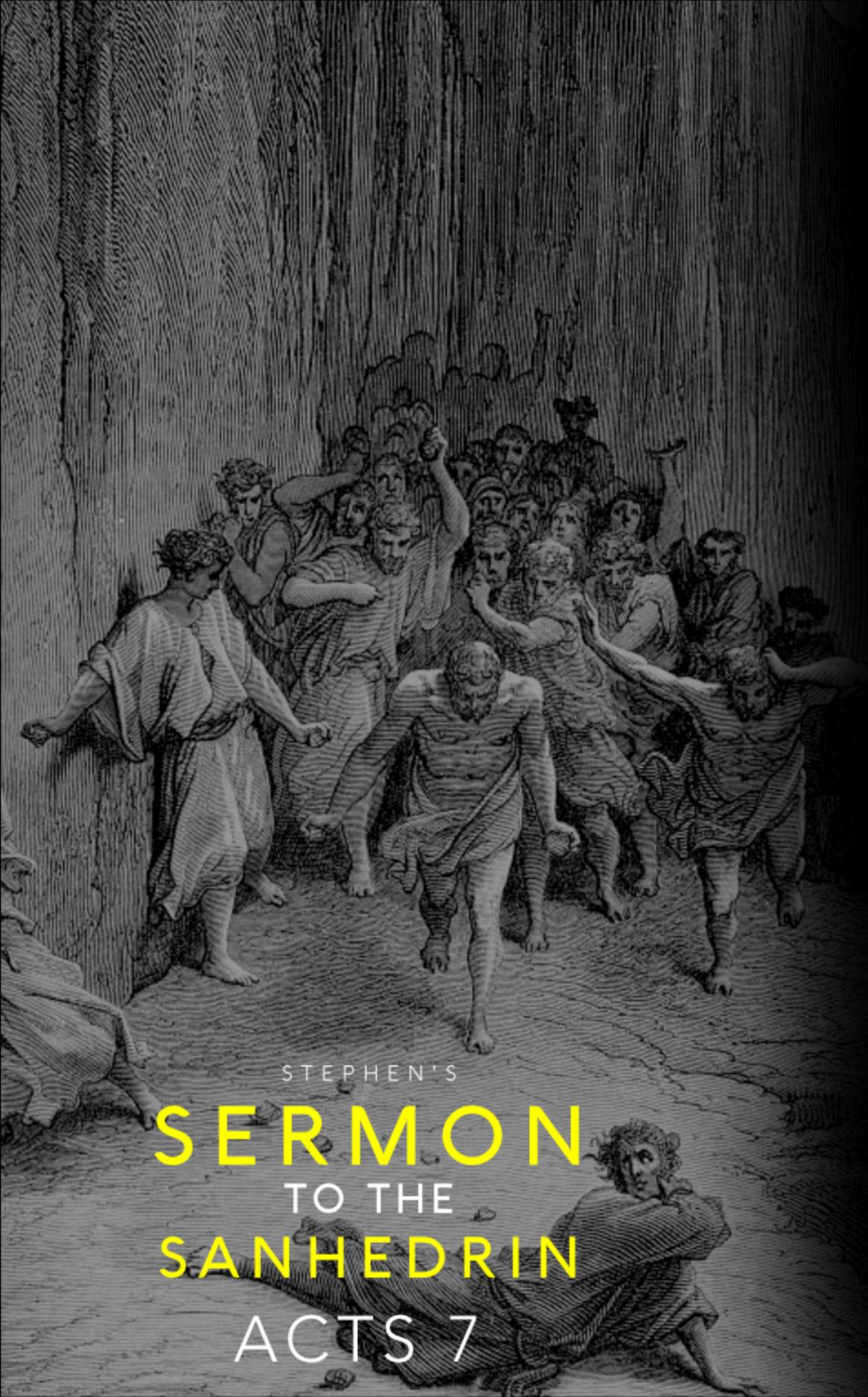


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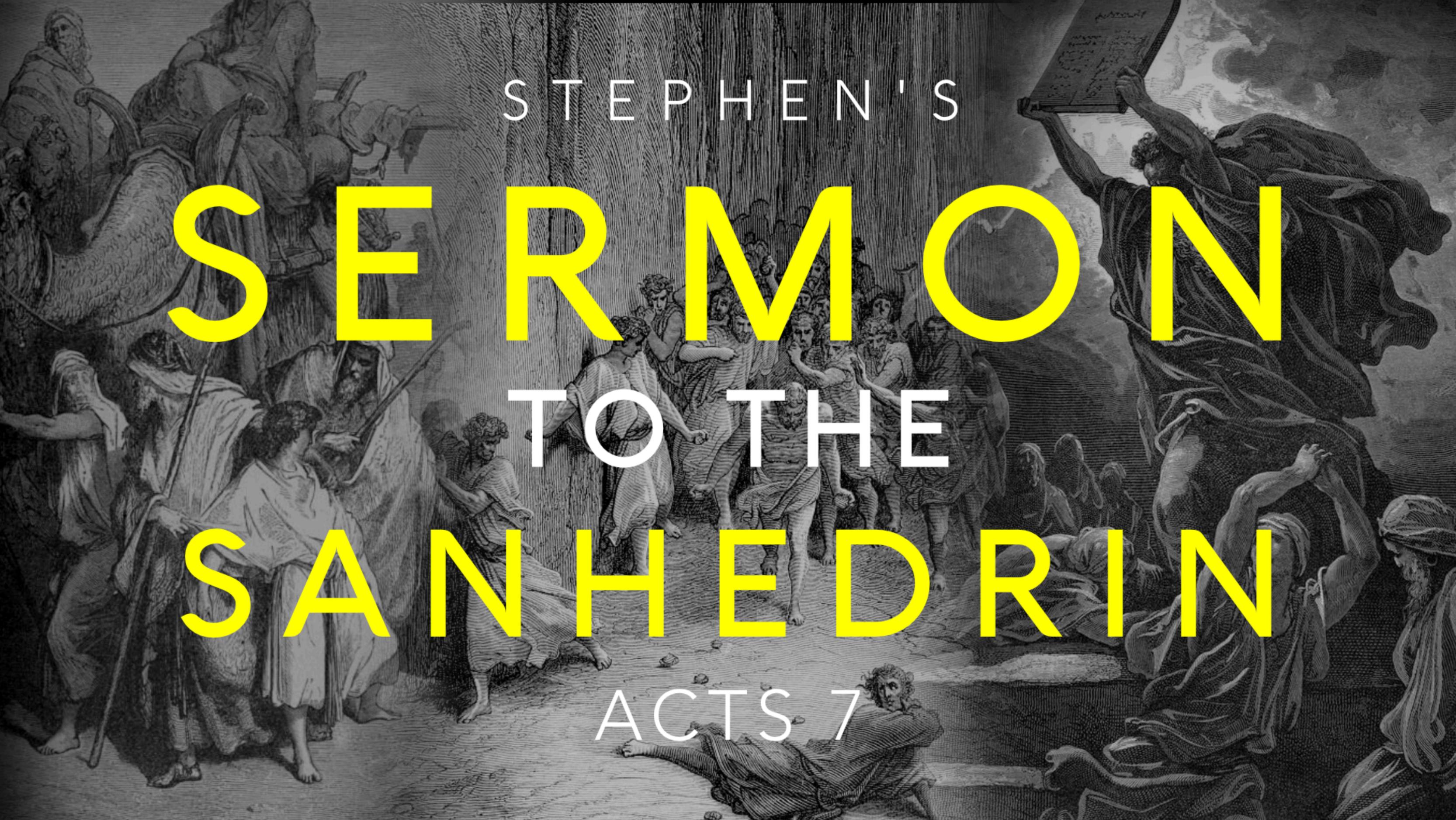
## 2. THE SEED IN SAUL'S HEART

And when the blood of  
Your martyr Stephen was  
shed, I also was standing by  
consenting to his death,  
and guarding the clothes of  
those who were killing him.'

**Acts 22:20**



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