

# HEROES

OF THE

# NEW TESTAMENT

July 13, 2026- Acts Chapter 4

# To The End of the Earth – The Gospel Spread

## KEY PEOPLE WHO INFLUENCED THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL

GOD WORKING THROUGH FAITHFUL WITNESSES



1

PETER

Acts 1-4



2

STEPHEN

Acts 6



3



4



5



6

*"You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

ACTS 1:8

# Growing Church – Growing Problems

**Acts 6: 1** In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews<sup>[a]</sup> among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” <sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the **Holy Spirit**.....

**Let's open the Bible!**

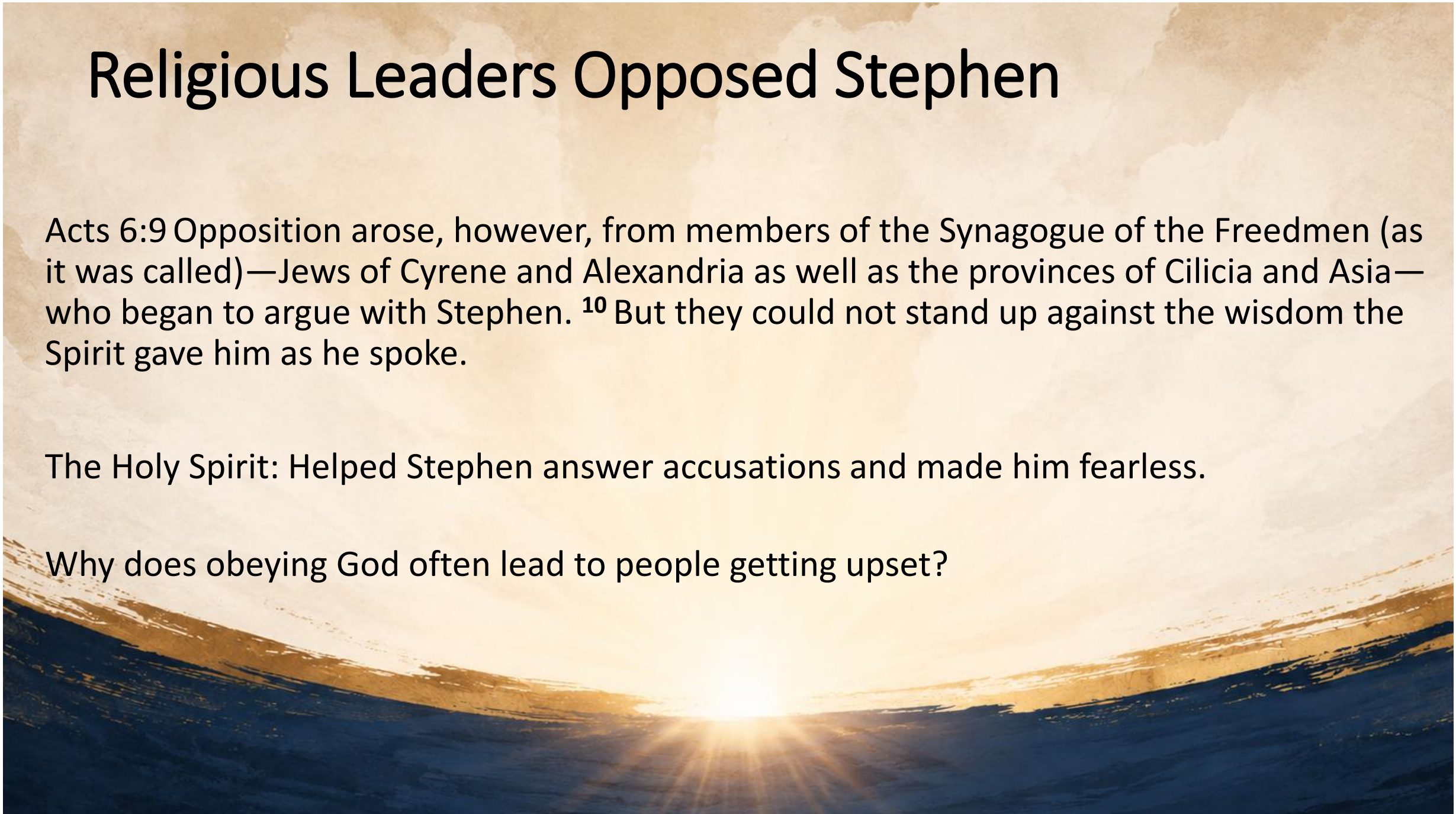


# Religious Leaders Opposed Stephen

Acts 6:9 Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. <sup>10</sup> But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.

The Holy Spirit: Helped Stephen answer accusations and made him fearless.

Why does obeying God often lead to people getting upset?



# Stephen's Story - Video

[God's Story: Stephen](#)



# Hero Number One

**How did the Holy Spirit Help Stephen?**

- **Wisdom**
- **Courage**
- **Miraculous abilities**
- **Boldness**



# God Can Turn Evil Into Good

Stephen is killed, but:

- His robes lay at the foot of Saul
- The Church scatters out of fear

How did God use the evil that occurred to Stephen for future good of the Church?



# How Then Shall We Pray

What can you ask the Holy Spirit to help you with this week?

