

Acts 8:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

Analysis

That 'devout men' gave Stephen burial honors shows not all Jerusalem Jews opposed Christianity. Their 'great lamentation' demonstrated genuine grief over martyrdom of a godly man. Proper burial was important in Jewish culture, and these men risked association with the persecuted church. Reformed theology sees God's preserving grace even in persecution - maintaining a witness and testimony through these courageous men. Their devotion prefigures the many who would face opposition to honor Christ and His servants.

Historical Context

Jewish law required burial before sunset (Deuteronomy 21:23), even for executed criminals. That these men openly mourned Stephen despite the hostile climate shows remarkable courage, as association with executed blasphemers could bring persecution upon themselves.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to be 'devout' in times of persecution?
2. How do we honor fellow believers who suffer or die for their faith?
3. Why is public identification with persecuted Christians spiritually significant?

Interlinear Text

συνεκόμισαν δὲ τὸν Στέφανον ἄνδρες εὐλαβεῖς

carried **And** **G3588** **Stephen** **men** **devout**
G4792 G1161 G4736 G435 G2126

καὶ ἐποίησαν τὸ κοπετὸν μέγαν ἐπ' αὐτῷ

to his burial and **made** **lamentation** **great** **over** **him**
G2532 G4160 G2870 G3173 G1909 G846

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