

THE END-TIME CHURCH - VII
"Persecution"

- I. YOU GET A CHURCH THAT IS SPIRIT-FILLED, MOVING IN UNITY, GETTING EXCITED AND ENTHUSED--YOU CAN'T KEEP THEIR MOUTH CLOSED
- A. *"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."*
 - B. They spoke with boldness
 - C. Daily in the temple they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ
- II. PERSECUTION CAME FROM THE RELIGIOUS ORDER
- A. *"...and when they had called the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus and let them go."*
 - B. They rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.
- III. NOTABLE PERSECUTIONS IN BOOK OF ACTS
- A. High priest and Sadducees laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison
 - 1. Angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors. *"Go stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life."*
 - 2. They entered the temple early in the morning, and taught.
 - 3. ...were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them
 - 4. *"Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be on men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God."*
 - 5. They agreed...called the apostles, and beat them--commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.
 - B. Stoning of Stephen
 - 1. You stiffnecked and uncircumcised
 - 2. Ye do always resist the Holy Ghost
 - 3. Which of the prophets have your fathers not persecuted?
 - 4. When they heard this, they gnashed on him with their teeth...stoned him.
 - 5. And Saul was consenting unto his death
 - C. Saul made havock of the church
 - 1. When he was converted, he preached Jesus
 - 2. The Jews then tried to kill him
 - 3. The hunter became the hunted
 - D. Herod vexes the church
 - 1. Killed James the brother of John
 - 2. Took Peter into prison
 - 3. Prayer made without ceasing

4. Bound in chains
5. Arise up quickly; chains fell off
6. Gird thyself, put on sandals, put on garment, follow me.

IV. THE POSITIVE SIDE OF PERSECUTION

A. Acts 8:1 - *"And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles."*

B. *"Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word."*