

Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

The Old Testament is written in the 24th chapter of Second Chronicles at the 17th verse.

This passage may be found in the pew Bible on page 517.

(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)

Now after the death of Jehoiada the leaders of Judah came and bowed down to the king. And the king listened to them. Therefore they left the house of the Lord God of their fathers, and served wooden images and idols; and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem because of their trespass. Yet He sent prophets to them, to bring them back to the Lord; and they testified against them, but they would not listen.

Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said to

them, “Thus says God: ‘Why do you transgress the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, He also has forsaken you.’” So they conspired against him, and at the command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the Lord. Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but killed his son; and as he died, he said, “The Lord look on it, and repay!”

(Pause for a count of 5)

This is the word of the Lord.

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Psalm 118

1 O GIVE thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious; * because his mercy endureth for ever.

2 Let Israel now confess that he is gracious, * and that his mercy endureth for ever.

3 Let the house of Aaron now confess, * that his mercy endureth for ever.

4 Yea, let them now that fear the Lord confess, * that his mercy endureth for ever.

5 I called upon the Lord in trouble; * and the Lord heard me at large.

6 The Lord is on my side; * I will not fear what man doeth unto me.

7 The Lord taketh my part with them that help me; * therefore shall I see my desire upon mine enemies.

8 It is better to trust in the Lord, * than to put any confidence in man.

9 It is better to trust in the Lord, * than to put any confidence in princes.

10 All nations compassed me round about; * but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them.

11 They kept me in on every side, they kept me in, I say, on every side; * but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them.

12 They came about me like bees, and are extinct even as the fire among the thorns; * for in the Name of the Lord I will destroy them.

13 Thou hast thrust sore at me, that I might fall; * but the Lord was my help.

14 The Lord is my strength, and my song; * and is become my salvation.

15 The voice of joy and health is in the dwellings of the righteous; * the right hand of the Lord bringeth mighty things to pass.

16 The right hand of the Lord hath the pre-eminence; * the right hand of the Lord bringeth mighty things to pass.

17 I shall not die, but live, * and declare the works of the Lord.

18 The Lord hath chastened and corrected me; * but he hath not given me over unto death.

19 Open me the gates of righteousness, * that I may go into them, and give thanks unto the Lord.

20 This is the gate of the Lord, * the righteous shall enter into it.

21 I will thank thee; for thou hast heard me, * and art become my salvation.

22 The same stone which the builders refused, * is become the head-stone in the corner.

23 This is the Lord's doing, * and it is marvellous in our eyes.

24 This is the day which the Lord hath made; * we will rejoice and be glad in it.

25 Help me now, O Lord: * O Lord, send us now prosperity.

26 Blessed be he that cometh in the Name of the Lord: * we have wished you good luck, we that are of the house of the Lord.

27 God is the Lord, who hath showed us light: * bind the sacrifice with cords, yea, even unto the horns of the altar.

28 Thou art my God, and I will thank thee; * thou art my God, and I will praise thee.

29 O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is gracious, * and his mercy endureth for ever.

Glory be...

Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

The New Testament is written in the seventh chapter of the Acts of the Apostles beginning at the 55th verse.

This passage may be found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 100.

(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)

STEPHEN, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out

of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

(Pause for a count of 5)

This is the word of the Lord.