

Title: **"Behold, I See the Son of Man . . . Standing!": A Revelation above the Wreckage**  
Text: **Acts 7:54-60**

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## Big Idea

A great many of our problems can be traced to the fact that we don't really believe nor see that the Son of Man is truly standing at the right hand of God right now . . . for us! His redemption is full and complete and finished. But his intercession before the Father on our behalf is ongoing—indeed, he lives for such a task (cf. Heb. 7:25)!

### 1. What He Sees

All of this fury and foam from the Jewish council becomes the context for one of most splendid visions given in all of Scripture. Stephen is given a "revelation above the wreckage," we could say.

#### Part #1: "The Son of Man"

*Reason #1: Because This Title Alludes to Jesus' Vindication and Ultimate Triumph*

As one commentator puts it: "[Stephen's] declaration of this vision confirms the resurrection and glorification of Jesus to those who were responsible for his death" (cf. Dan. 7:13-14; Matt. 26:64).

*Reason #2: Because This Title Anticipates Our Vindication and Ultimate Triumph . . . in Him!*

The Son of Man does what he does, not merely for himself, but for the Saints of the Most High, as they're called—for God's people, for us. To put it simply: Jesus didn't come down to get glory. He already had that. He came down to get us (cf. Dan. 7:18, 22; Luke 12:8)!

#### Part #2: "Standing"?!

Everywhere else, Jesus is described as *sitting* at the right hand of God. It's intended to be a picture of his royal repose in view of his finished work of redemption. He offered himself up for us on that cross, he atoned for sin once and for all, and when he was raised up and ascended to his Father's right hand, he sat down. He was done. "It is finished" (John 19:30) (cf. Heb. 1:3; 10:11-12; 12:2; Eph. 1:20-21;

Col. 3:1; Matt. 26:64; Mark 14:62; Luke 22:69; Rev. 3:21). And yet here, when Stephen looks into heaven, Jesus is *standing*. And I just want to know: why?! Jesus is not here standing to redeem Stephen in some way. That work is done. But he is standing to intercede for him on the basis of that redemption. He is standing in Stephen's defense, as his advocate before God in heaven.

But what about for me? And what about when I blow it? Does Jesus only stand in our defense before the Father on our good days? Or does he stand just as firmly for us even on our worst of days? That's what I want to know. Because that's where I so often am. Is the Son of Man still standing then?! Answer: yes. Why? Because your strongest defense isn't built upon your own performance or righteousness. It's built upon his (cf. Heb. 7:23-25; 1 John 2:1-2; Rom. 8:31-34; Mic. 7:8-9). The wonder of the gospel is that the very one I've sinned against is also the very one who pleads for me!

### 2. What It Means (for us)

#### Implication #1: We're Free to Live

If you don't see Jesus standing up for you, you will always feel like you have to be standing up for yourself. If you don't believe that he is making a case for you before the bench in heaven, you'll always be trying to make a case for yourself before anyone who will listen. You'll be terribly insecure and enslaved. How will you ever know if you're worth anything? How will you ever know if it's enough? The only way I know is because Jesus is enough. I don't have to be perfect . . . he is, for me. I don't have to make a case for myself . . . he is, for me.

#### Implication #2: We're Free to Die

These guys, they didn't kill Stephen, not really. They just tucked him in (cf. Acts 7:60). And, because of Jesus, he's going to wake up in glory!



### Reflection Questions

- What wreckage have you seen around you in your own life lately? In what way does this revelation given to Stephen encourage you as well? What does it mean for you that the Son of Man is standing as your advocate in heaven? How might such a truth set you free this week?

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## Our Mission & Values

*Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.*

**FAITH:** The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

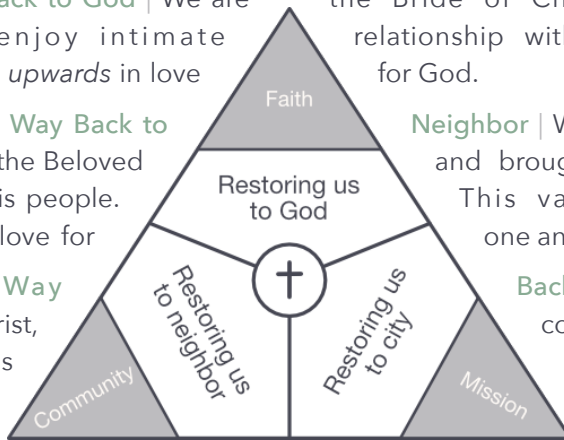
**COMMUNITY:** The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

**MISSION:** The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

**Neighbor** | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

**Back to City** | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



## Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.  
We are so glad you've joined us today!

## Announcement Spotlight

### Short-Term Missions Trip to Nicaragua - APPLY TODAY!

As a church, we are passionate about joining God in his work of restoring the world around us. That's why we've partnered with Arms of Love, a Christian ministry in Nicaragua and the Philippines, to support their mission through prayer, financial assistance, and hands-on service.

Are you ready to make a meaningful impact in the lives of orphans and vulnerable children? Arms of Love provides a loving family environment for 74 children aged 6 to 17, along with 15 young adults. During our time in Nicaragua, we will have the opportunity to support the staff and children at the Arms of Love children's home through various activities. From assisting with kids' programs and serving in the community, to providing staff training and engaging in prayer ministry, there's something for everyone to contribute!

**If you have any questions or feel led to go, please reach out to Bob and Becky Durstenfeld via email ([beckydurstenfeld@gmail.com](mailto:beckydurstenfeld@gmail.com)). They will help you along your way and can even get you an application!**

**Sunday Prayer Walk - Today!**

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