

A Man Who Saw into Heaven

(Acts 7:1-3, 52-60) -

(Day when ROH and FJW were recog.
for eminent service -resolut-s
etc.- ann.of H's successor)

- 1) Here is a man in NT times
being gvn a grt & must unus.
priv. - a priv. accorded to
no one mmg.t.fol-s of Jesus
up to that time.

IT IS T.PRIV.OF LKG INTO HEAVEN
AND SEEING JESUS THERE * STDG
AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.

And t.man recvg this hon.,
// his distinc., is a deacon
named Stephen

- 2) But ano.mk of distinc. is al-
so his. He can claim t.
glory of being t.first mah
to die bec.of his fidelity
to Jesus -t.first to ~~ma~~ at
tain t.martyr's crown.

- 3) And another first was his -
t.first, when being slain
for his fidelity, to be
so transf. by the vision of
J.that he prayed for his
murd-s a pr.wh.sds like an
echo of X's own pr. ~~from Him~~
fr.the cross -Jesus had sd
"Fa., forg.them....." Ste.
said "Ld, lay not"

- 4) (You rem.t.grt hymn wh.tells
is of those 3 thgs in t.
same vs.-"The martyr first
whose eagle eye, cdpierce
beyond t.grave, Who saw hi
Master.....Like Him w.pard

5) To-day, when we honor our-s in
hon-g two d-s who hv rend.long
and faithf.serv., let us thk
of that deac.in the long ago
and those three thgs perrg to him.
What an array of pas-s t.exp.
of Stephen remds us of - e.g.
Paul's wds - "To you it is gvn
not only to bel.on Christ but
also to suffer for his sake."
HE SPKS AS IF THAT WERE A PRIV.*
TO SUFFER FOR JESUS - and at
our lucid mom-s we realize
that that is ~~mom~~ so. In the
early days of Xty...we read
of people going joyously to t.
pl.of execut.- Why joyously?
Why as Jas says "Count it all
joy.....teatings?" Bec.they
in mtg death wre mtg t.
tests, t.sur.test Oand whatev
satisfac-s life may brg us it
can brg none equal to that

But now ~~mom~~ in t.few mom-s...
~~anm~~ see three thgs sug.by
that mtg by a deacon of t.
supr.test-

a) It was in t.path of faith.
that t.vision of Jesus came.
"Bles are t.pure....."

Yes, and bles. are the valiant
in heart for they shl have t.
vis.of Jesus..

b) and it was a vis.of Jesus
stdg at t.ri hand of God-

HE HAD RISEN FROM HIS SEAT
AND WAS LKG LOV.TOW.HIS SERV
not to deliv.him from mtg t.
t.test -but to deliv.him fr.

failing to meet it. Was Jesus thkg of that mom. in t. garden when he was sore beset by temp. to turn fr. t. cross and when He prayed that if pos. t. cup. mi. pass, but added "Nev., not my will...." and there app. an angel unto Him, str-g Him....

He was doing what he wd do later for Paul and for a grt host down thru t. ages -and to-day- "the Ld std by me and str. me...."

c) Jesus -seen in heaven -seen
 (stdg up and fd stdg by His
sevt that he mi. meet the
grt test...and Jesus givg
of His spirit to Stephen so
that he ~~showed~~ wpe wds
that sd like they mi. have
come fr. ~~Heaven~~ t. Dav. Himself
"Ld, lay not...."

| THERE WAS T. WHOLE PURPOSE OF A
 XNS LIFE BEING SHOWN * TO
 BEC. CHRSTLIKE * Cf "We all
 beholdg t. glory of t. Lord
 ald transf...."

Cf. after Ld's prayer -"When ye
std pray-g, forgive...." If
 we can meet that test, oth-s
 wl know that X has chg of us
 and is at wk in us... If we
 can't meet it and perh. don't
 even want to,..... Jesus is
 sad. and His HS grieved,
 and our testim. falls flat

Conclusion -Faithful deac-s -that
 is what we are thkg of this mornng..

This d., Ste., was faithf. unto
death and recvd t. crown of
life, a crown of glo. that
fadeth now away - "reserved
manus in heaven says Paul
for us."

Are we going to claim it

(1) JESUS WAS THERE AT GOD'S RI.
HAND. GOD'S RIGHT HAND MAN

Oh it is a glor. tht that any
deacon who will, any Xn who
will, may by the grace of
God bec. Jesus & right hand man

Cf. the wds He speaks "As my
Father.....

"I am the light....."

SAND HE WD SAY WHEN YOU ARE MTG
LIFE'S TESTS *THAT YO ARE
HEADED TOW. HIS RIGHT HAND*
"WHERE I AM, THERE SHALL ALSO
MY SERV. BE."