Acts 6 & 7 - Stephen

CHARACTERS: High Priest, Stephen, A, B, C, crowd including Saul
COSTUMES: Biblical
SETTING: bare stage
RUN TIME: 4 minutes
SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Acts 6 & 7
FK reading level: 4.5

HIGH PRIEST: Why have you brought this man Stephen before the council?

A: We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.

B: This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law

C: We have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place.

A: And will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.

HIGH PRIEST: Are these things so?

STEPHEN: Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham and gave him the covenant of circumcision.

B: Abraham is out father.

STEPHEN: The patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him and rescued him out of all his troubles. He saved our people in the time of the famine.

C: That's true. God gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and over his entire household.

STEPHEN: There arose over Egypt another king who did not know Joseph. He dealt shrewdly with our race and forced our fathers to kill their children. But then God saved Moses.

A: He was mighty in his words and deeds.

STEPHEN: He defended his people, supposing his brothers would understand that God was giving them salvation by his hand, but they did not understand.

B: He had to flee.

C: He became an exile in the land of Midian.

STEPHEN: Yet God sent him back to save our people. Moses, the one they had rejected, saved them.

A: He gave us the law.

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STEPHEN: He did. He received living oracles to give to us, but our fathers refused to obey him.

B: They were a stiff-necked people

C: They always resisted the Holy Spirit.

STEPHEN: As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.

A: How dare you!

B: Who do you think you are?! *(adlib general outrage)*

STEPHEN: *(looking up)* Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God. *Ad lib an outcry against him "Kill him", "He deserves to die" "Stone him!" etc. They pantomime picking up stones and throwing them at him. Some throw their coats at SAUL'S feet.*

STEPHEN: Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. *(STEPHEN falls to his knees, crying out loudly)* Lord, do not hold this sin against them. *(STEPHEN collapses to the ground)*

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