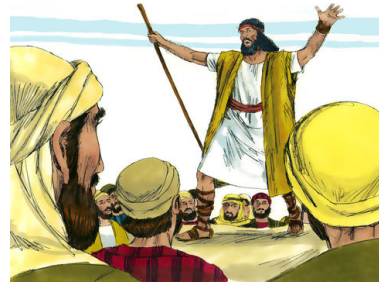


MY WORD SHALL NOT RETURN VOID

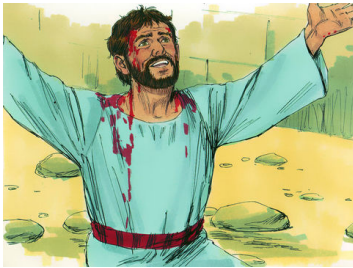
TEXT: *Isaiah 55:11: So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My Mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

Sometimes it looks as if God's servants fail. When Herod beheaded **John the Baptist**, it looked as if John's mission was a failure. But was it? The voice that rang through the valley of the Jordan rings through the world today. You can still hear the echo of his voice upon the mountains and valleys: "He must increase, but I must decrease."



John 3:30: He [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease.

He held up Jesus Christ, and introduced Him to the world. Herod had no power to behead John the Baptist until John's life work had been accomplished.



Stephen only preached one sermon that we know of which was before the Sanhedrin, but how that sermon has been preached again and again all over the world! (See Acts 7 for the entire sermon)

Acts 7:54-60:

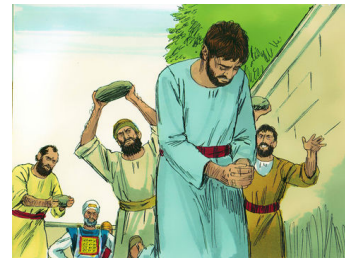
54 *When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.*

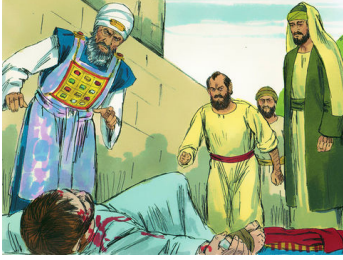
55 *But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into Heaven, and saw the Glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right Hand of God,*

56 *And said, Behold, I see the Heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right Hand of God.*

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

58 *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.

59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

60 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 [went to Heaven].

It is believed that out of his death came the **Apostle Paul** — formerly Saul of Tarsus (referred to as Saul in verse 58) — the greatest preacher the world has seen since Christ left this earth.

If a man is sent by Jehovah God, there is no such thing as failure!

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