

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?”

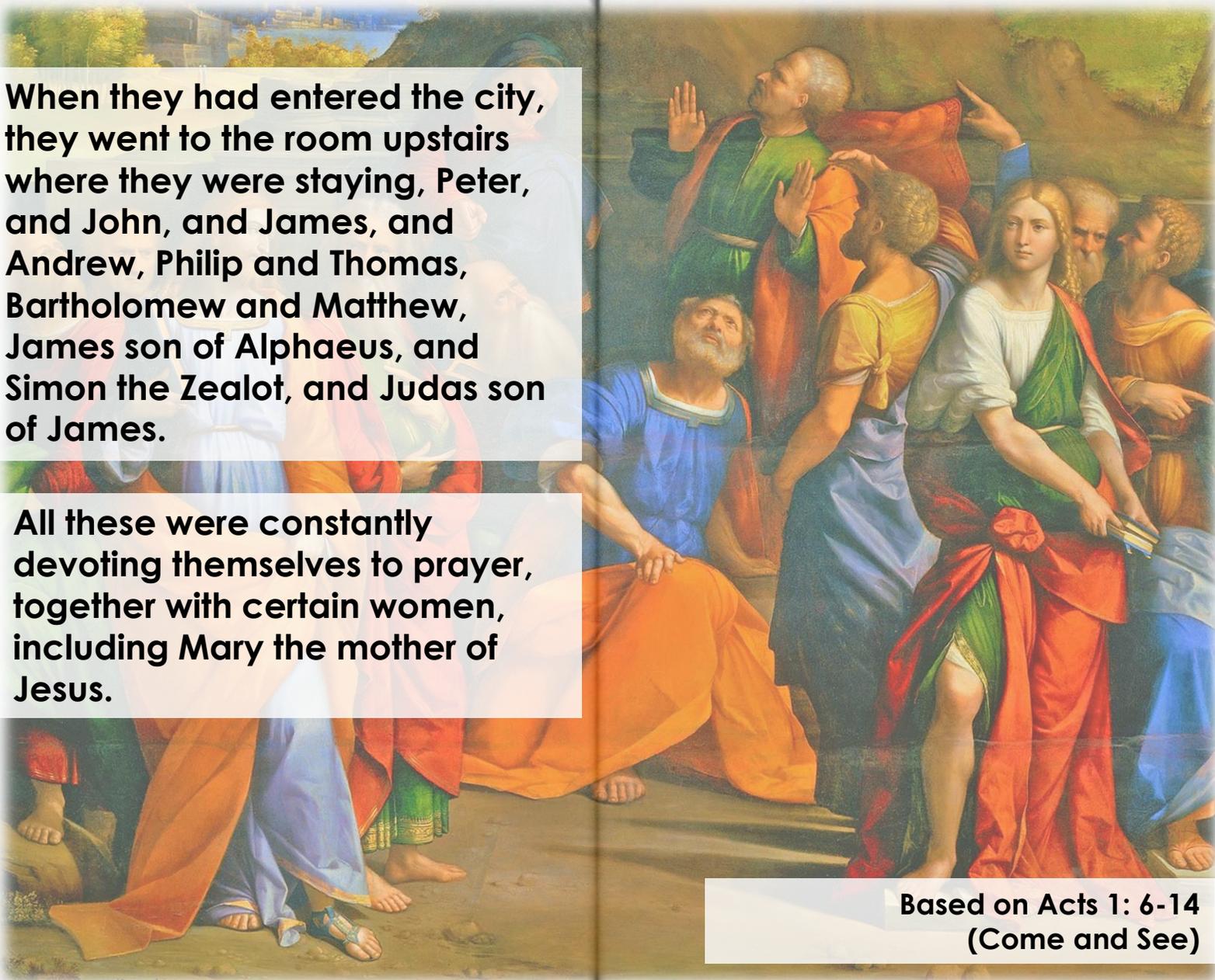
He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judaea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.



When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

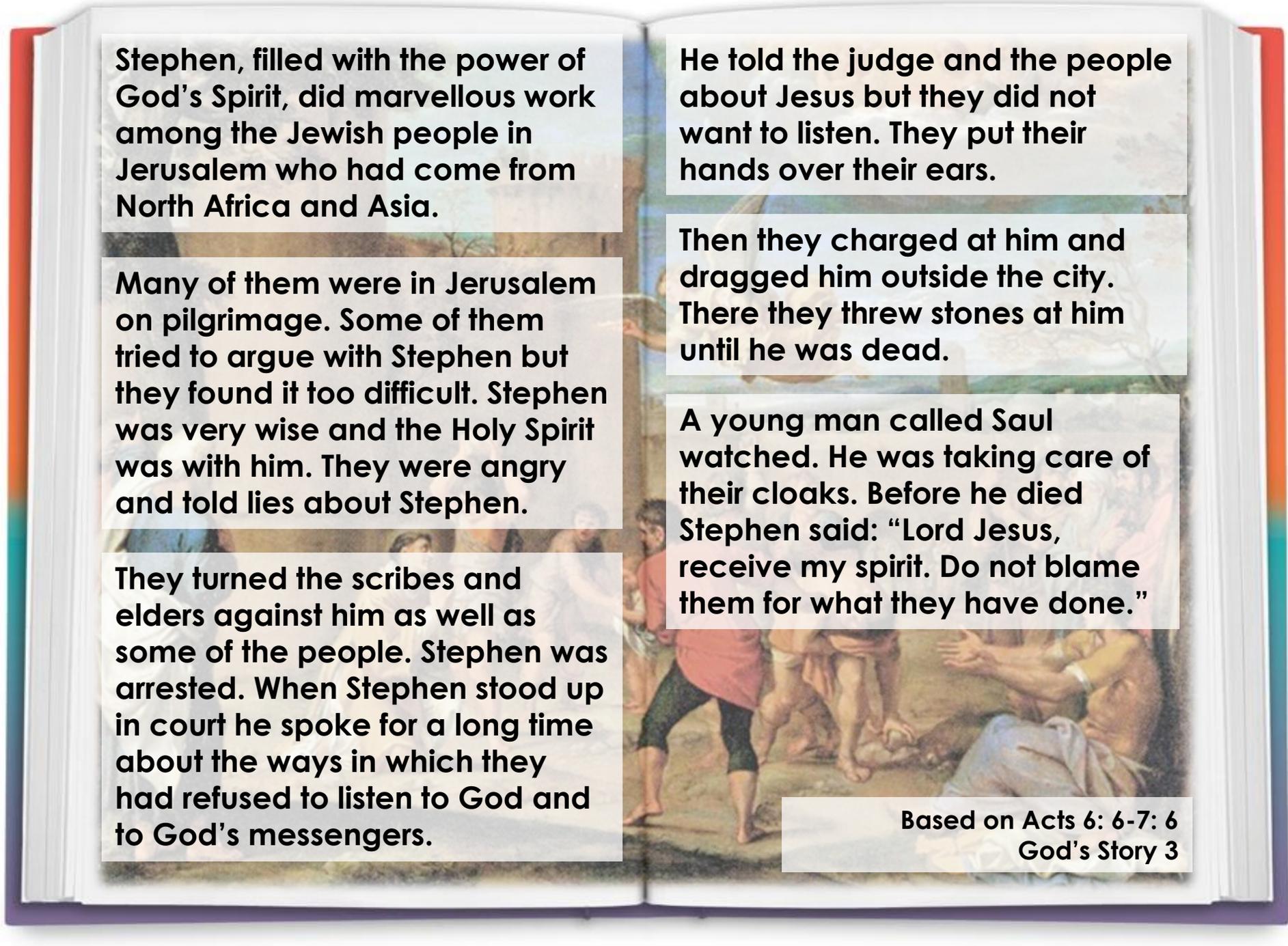
All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus.

**Based on Acts 1: 6-14
(Come and See)**

•**Things to think about:**

- Why do you think the disciples asked Jesus about restoring the kingdom? (Hint; it seems as if the disciples still had not understood that Jesus' kingdom was not an earthly one, but the kingdom of the heart.)
- What do you think they meant and what does it show about their understanding? What do you think the power of the Holy Spirit would enable them to do?
- How do you think the disciples spent their time between the Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit who would give them the power to be witnesses to the ends of the earth?

Task: Find out about the meaning of the word 'Ascension' and illustrate it.

The image shows an open book with a red cover. The pages are white with black text. The background of the pages is a faint illustration of a man being stoned. The text is arranged in several blocks on both pages.

Stephen, filled with the power of God's Spirit, did marvellous work among the Jewish people in Jerusalem who had come from North Africa and Asia.

Many of them were in Jerusalem on pilgrimage. Some of them tried to argue with Stephen but they found it too difficult. Stephen was very wise and the Holy Spirit was with him. They were angry and told lies about Stephen.

They turned the scribes and elders against him as well as some of the people. Stephen was arrested. When Stephen stood up in court he spoke for a long time about the ways in which they had refused to listen to God and to God's messengers.

He told the judge and the people about Jesus but they did not want to listen. They put their hands over their ears.

Then they charged at him and dragged him outside the city. There they threw stones at him until he was dead.

A young man called Saul watched. He was taking care of their cloaks. Before he died Stephen said: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Do not blame them for what they have done."

**Based on Acts 6: 6-7: 6
God's Story 3**

•**Things to think about:**

- Why were people finding it too difficult to argue with Stephen?
- Why and how did Stephen remain strong?
- Stephen said “Do not blame them for what they have done.” What example is Stephen setting by saying this?
- In the Scripture reading it says ‘they put their hands over their ears’. Why do you think they did this and what did it show?
- What do you think about Saul’s action?
- What do Stephen’s last words remind you of? (Hint: Jesus words of forgiveness as he was being crucified.)

Task: Imagine you were a reporter witnessing what happened to Stephen, produce a newspaper report to explain what you witnessed.