

A Study in Acts

Lesson 7: Acts 6:1 – 7:60

Descention In the Church

Act 6:1 KJV

The term “_____” refers to the Jews that dwelt in Judea, who spoke the Hebrew, or rather the Syriac language. By “_____”, or Hellenists, are meant, not the Greeks that were proselyted to the Jewish religion, though there might be some few among them; but Jews who were born, and had dwelt, in some parts of Greece, and spoke the Greek language, and used the Septuagint version of the Bible.

It was a custom among the Jewish people to take up a collection for the poor everyday and distribute it. It is no surprise that the Apostles continued this custom. The complaint was that the Grecian widows were not receiving as much (or none) of this daily distribution as the Jewish widows.

Helpers are Chosen

Act 6:2-6 KJV

This conflict came to the Apostles attention and they called the church together. The Apostles felt that their time would be better spent _____ and _____ rather than serving the poor. So they empowered the church members to put forward _____ men a decision that pleased the entire church and ended the dispute.

The Church Grows More

Act 6:7 KJV

The resolution of the dispute had the desired effect. The Apostles went on preaching and conversions continued, even among the priests of the temple. That these men were converted speaks volumes since they were some of the most inveterate enemies of the Gospel.

Stephen’s Story

Act 6:8 KJV

Stephen was obviously considered a leader among the seven chosen to serve the Apostles. Many call these seven the first _____, as their purpose was similar to a deacon’s relationship to an elder. Stephen clearly had an abundance of faith and power.

Stephen Stirs Up the Jews

Act 6:9-15 KJV

Several sects of the Jews were opposed to Stephen’s teaching.

This large group of Jews began to scheme against Stephen much in the same way the schemed against Jesus. They _____, _____, and _____ . Ultimately, Stephen is brought before the council.

Stephen’s Sermon

Act 6:15-Acts 7:1KJV

Again, the entire Sanhedrin is together. Stephen is brought before them, and they looked closely at him.. It is clear from the story of Lot in Sodom that angels could be recognized on site:

[Gen 19:1 KJV](#)

Like Peter before, Stephen saw an opportunity to preach and seized it. He began with a somewhat detailed account of Jewish history:

[Act 7:2-8 KJV](#)

[Act 7:9-17 KJV](#)

[Act 7:18-29 KJV](#)

[Act 7:30-34 KJV](#)

[Act 7:35-43 KJV](#)

[Act 7:44-50 KJV](#)

To this point, Stephen has hit on just about every major story in the Old Testament _____ . Now, he draws his conclusion.

[Act 7:51-53 KJV](#)

As we can see, this sermon follows a now familiar pattern. Use the Old Testament teaching to establish that it is these men that continue in the ways of the fathers. That is, persecuting those that God sends to them. He then finishes by accusing THEM of breaking the law.

Reaction to Stephen's Sermon

[Act 7:54-56 KJV](#)

Once again it's "cut to the heart", not "pricked in their hearts". They were _____, not _____.

Stephen probably had a good idea he was about to be killed. He looked up into heaven, and was granted a vision of heaven, including God and Jesus.

Stephen is Martyred

[Act 7:57-60 KJV](#)

That was it for the Sanhedrin council, and, no doubt all those that had falsely accused Stephen.

I'm sure most of us realize that this Saul is the same Saul of Tarsus who would later be Paul, the Apostle, and the most prolific writer of the New Testament.

Notice Stephen's reaction: Not _____ towards those that were killing him, but _____, and a wish that God forgive them for what they were doing.