

Logos Class – Acts of the Apostles

On Campus class for July 11, 2021

Acts Ch 6 – Jerusalem...Selecting the 7, and Stephen

Calendar moving forward

- *July 11, 2021, Acts Ch 6– The calling of the 7, plus the introduction to Stephen*
- *July 18, 2021, Acts Ch 7 – Stephens strong defense*
- *Each week following... we will average a chapter a week until we finish the book*
- *I will be recording and placing slides on the website for those who can't make it each week I teach*

Acts Basic Outline

Six sections, each ending with a summary

- ✓ **Chapters 1-6:7** – Church in Jerusalem and Peter's preaching. Church growing and large number of Priests were coming to the Lord
- ✓ **Chapters 6:8-9:31** – Church spreading and growing in all Roman Palestine, and the martyrdom of Stephen. Churches multiplying in Galilee
- **Ch 9:32-12:24** – Conversion of Saul to Paul, the extension of the church into Antioch and Peter's reception of Cornelius the Gentile into the church
- **Ch 12:25-16:5** – The church is spreading in Asia Minor (Turkey) and the spreading of the Gospel in Galatia
- **Ch 16:6-19:20** – The church crossed the Med and spreads to Europe. Paul is starting churches in Ephesus, Philippi, and Corinth
- **Ch 19:21-28:31** – Arrival of Paul in Rome and his imprisonment. Paul boldly proclaims Jesus Christ, and tells of the Kingdom

Acts Ch 6:1 – Dissention in the church

6 In those days when **the number of disciples was increasing**, the **Hellenistic Jews** among them complained against the **Hebraic Jews** because their widows were being **overlooked in the daily distribution of food**.

Nations of Hellenistic Jews



Acts Ch 6:2-4

*² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for **us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.***

*³ **Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are (of good reputation and) known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them***

⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

Acts Ch 6:5-6 Servant Leadership established

*⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose **Stephen**, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also **Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas** from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.*

*⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who **prayed and laid their hands on them**.*

Acts Ch 6:7-10 *What is the result?*

⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Then there is Stephen...

*⁸ Now Stephen, a man **full of God's grace and power**, performed **great wonders and signs** among the people.*

*⁹ Opposition arose, however, from members of the **Synagogue of the Freedmen** (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—**who began to argue with Stephen.***

*¹⁰ But they could not stand up against the **wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.***

Acts Ch 6:11-14 *the Jews exact punishment*

11 Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, “We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God.”

12 So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin.

13 They produced false witnesses, who testified, “This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law.

14 For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us.”

They knew this was a trumped up charge, but they didn't care...

Acts Ch 6:15 ...A pivot point in the mission

15 All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Something happened to Stephen...

just like Moses after Sinai, and Jesus at the transfiguration.

Acts Ch 7:1

*7 Then the high priest asked Stephen, **“Are these charges true?”***

Thus begins a new chapter in church history, and we will look in detail at Stephens response next week.

Two things I promised I would comment on this week

1. *One key insight for me from **Dr. Kelvin Cochran's** talk last week*
2. *Discussion of Role of Deacon in the church*

Point 1- *God is in Control*

God is Sovereign and all things are under His Control

- *SLAVERY IN AMERICA*
- ***Dr Thomas Sowell said this similarly:*** *The people made worse off by slavery were those who were enslaved. Their descendants would have been worse off today if born in Africa instead of America. Put differently, the terrible fate of their ancestors benefitted them.*
- *Relating to Acts and Today*
 - *Stephen*
 - *Death of the Apostles*
 - *AD 70 and the diaspora*
 - *Persecution in our time*

See link for 70 quotes from Dr Sowell: <https://wealthycelebrity.com/incredible-thomas-sowell-quote/>

Point 2 – About the Role and purpose of Deacons

- I have to confess, I did not have time this week to do this, but I will do it next week and send it out to you
- Too many distractions
- I will answer any burning Questions if you have them.

Next week

- Remember: Class Leadership Meeting this coming Wednesday night – Dr Aultman
- Pray for our country and its leaders
- Our state and its leaders
- Our Church and its leaders and Pastors
- Israel in this ever more hostile world, ICYMI - Jordan
- Finally, pray for those in our church family who are sick, and contemplating surgery, or just recovering from grief