

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Lesson 5

Acts Chapter 6-7

When we left our study last week, we saw that God was adding mightily to the body of the church in Jerusalem. This week we will see that growth continue, and we will learn a great deal about the ministry of that church, its congregation and its leadership. From this, I believe that God will give us greater insight into our own responsibilities as members of our local body of believers and the work that He has set for us - wherever and whoever we are.



In this lesson, we will study Chapters 6 and 7 of the book of Acts and see firsthand the work of the church in Jerusalem and the continuing spread of the gospel message. Unfortunately, we will also witness violence in a dramatic way, with the stoning of Stephen and the death of one of the newly elected deacons, or servants, of the local church.

We will examine congregational responsibilities, ministry responsibilities and leadership responsibilities, as God begins building the Church, starting with the church in Jerusalem.

For our study this week, read Acts Chapters 6 and 7 and answer the following:

1. See what you can find out about the Apostle Paul. Many books have been written on Paul. See if you can determine what he was like, what he looked like, how he thought, etc. In addition to non-biblical books and references, we can also learn much about Paul from the New Testament itself. For starters, look up the following and jot down some of the facts about Paul that we learn from these verses.
 - a. Acts 13:9
 - b. Acts 17:28
 - c. Acts 21:39
 - d. Acts 22:3
 - e. Acts 22:24-29
 - f. Acts 23:6
 - g. Philippians 3:5
2. We can tell from prior chapters that the number of Christians being added to the church is growing daily and is now very large, certainly in excess of 5,000 and perhaps many more times that. (See Acts 5:12-16) Given that the church was now this size, where did the Apostles build the first Church buildings? (Acts 5:12, and 5:42)

12. Continuing from above, why would he have been there, and what business did he have in all this?

13. Did he actually approve of the stoning of Stephen? (Acts 8:1)

14. What impact did Stephen's stoning have on the growth of the church?

Again, we see the great testimony of the Apostles who boldly faced persecution, and in this example, even death.

Yours in Christ,

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