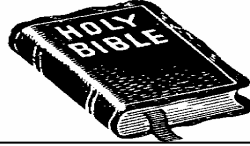


CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

350 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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STEPHEN – ACTS 6 & 7

- Who Was He?** The name Stephen is found 7X-7V KJV NT. It is found only in the book of _____. There is only one man by this name in the Bible. His defense of NT Christianity is the longest speech contained in the book of Acts. Stephen apparently means “crown.” He is best known for being the first man of record to be martyred for upholding the cause of Christ.
- A Changing Of The Tide** Certain internal problems (Acts 6:1) existed in the “brand new” NT Church, the greatest of which was the Jew-Gentile relations. The Apostles were Christ’s first generation appointees to execute his will in getting the church “set up” and “off to a good start.” Men like Stephen now come to our attention as the second generation (under the Apostles) to (V2) “serve _____” and contend for the faith as evangelists.
- He Is One Of Seven Specially Chosen** They were chosen by the (V3) local _____ who knew them well. Their names (V5): _____; _____; _____; _____; _____; _____; _____. All seven have Greek names but we do not know their “ethnicity” with certainty, nor is it important. It was the (V1) _____ who _____ against the _____ because their _____ were neglected.
- They Were Appointed By The Apostles** It is inconsequential as to what significance this may have, other than what the record states, since we do not have Holy Spirit empowered apostles today. These _____ as Luke called them (Acts 21:8) were designated as “servants” as seen by the text and indicated by the GK word *diakonia* which means minister, servant or deacon. We see no harm in thinking of them as deacons but they are not literally so named by Luke. You may wish to study TPBS Lesson [#212](#), Deacons, for more detailed information.
- Apostolic Laying On Of Hands** In (6:6) we find these seven men “set before the _____: and when they had _____, they _____ their _____ on them.” For more information see TPBS Lesson [#40](#), The Laying on of Hands. This was more than a ceremonial occasion. These men already possessed the *ordinary* measure of the Holy Spirit, common to all born again believers. Here the Apostles imparted to them the *extraordinary* (ie: miraculous) gift of the Spirit as evidenced (V8) by Stephen’s “great _____ and _____ among the people.”
- The Situation** There was a surge in evangelism: (V7) “And the _____ of God _____.” In another place Luke says (12:24) that it “_____ and multiplied.” The visible effects were that (6:7) “the _____ of the _____ multiplied in Jerusalem _____.” They obeyed (2:38) the command “repent and be _____” and (V47) “the _____ to the _____” a commendable number. (V7) “A great company of the _____ were _____ to the _____.” These were converts from the Jewish leadership. No doubt this incursion into the Pharisee ranks angered them into intensifying their persecution of the saints.