

Acts 6

King James Version (KJV)

6 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

(Grecians= Hellenist- a Hebrew that speaks Greek and studies from the Septuagint – a Greek translation of the Hebrew manuscripts) (The Hebrews studied from the Aramaic translation and Hebrew manuscripts) (Both groups are Israelites)

(This was the beginnings of denominations – people ruled by translations, instead of by the Word of God. The same thing has been happening ever since)

² Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. (The ministry is growing and they need workers to help, but feeding and ministering to the people should not interfere with teaching God's Word. The helpers must also understand the Word of God and do it)

³ Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. (Find well trained people in God's Word to serve)

⁴ But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. (The apostles will teach full time)

⁵ And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: (a proselyte of Antioch = a convert to Judaism – he was not of Israel, yet he learned the Word and did it. He was a sincere follower of Jesus. Jesus opened salvation to whoever would believe on Him and do His Word – the Old and New Testament, today)

⁶ Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. (They blessed them and anointed them in the name of Jesus Christ. Today, fake preachers misunderstand this. They lay hands on people to pretend to "heal" people, for a price or a tithe)

⁷ And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. (Many scholars of the Old Testament Books believed and joined the Christians. This would further upset the synagogue bunch, because they were losing paying members left and right)

⁸ And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. (Again, this was proof of the presence of the Holy Spirit of God. God did the miracles because He approved of Stephen and what he was teaching)

⁹ Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

(The denominations were already starting; people always think they can outdo each other; look at the pitiful denominations today. Most do not teach God's Word any more. They teach traditions and doctrines of men)

¹⁰ And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake. (They knew nothing of God's Word. They were teaching traditions of men and tried to argue with Stephen. God's Holy Spirit was guiding Steven)

¹¹ Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God. (False witnesses to testify against Steven)

¹² And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council, (Typical of Kenites- this is how they operate; the council = Sanhedrin)

¹³ And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law: (Just like they did to Jesus; these are politicians in the Sanhedrin – the Jewish leaders)

¹⁴ For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us. (They believed that nothing good comes from Nazareth. They are misquoting Jesus; most of the "customs" that they claim Moses

brought them are in fact traditions of men that were added over the centuries after Moses had died)

¹⁵ And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel. (This is Stephen, lit up by the Holy Spirit. The glory of God was upon him)

NOTE: The term Sanhedrin is from a Greek word that means "assembly" or "council" and dates from the Hellenistic period, but the concept is one that goes back to the Bible. In the Torah, God commands Moses to "bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people.

The Sanhedrin judged accused lawbreakers, but could not initiate arrests. It required a minimum of two witnesses to convict a suspect. There were no attorneys. Instead, the accusing witness stated the offense in the presence of the accused and the accused could call witnesses on his own behalf. The court questioned the accused, the accusers and the defense witnesses.