

## BIBLE STUDY – ACTS Chapter 6

A considerable length of time may have transpired since the end of chapter 5. The church continued to grow (5:14), but this gave rise to inevitable problems, both from within (6:1–7) and from without (6:8–7:60). At this stage of its development, the church was entirely Jewish in its composition. However, there were two groups of Jews within the fellowship: 1. *Grecian Jews*. Hellenists—Those born in lands other than Palestine who spoke the Greek language and were more Grecian than Hebraic in their attitudes and outlook. 2. *Hebraic Jews*. Those who spoke the Aramaic and/or Hebrew language(s) of Palestine and preserved Jewish culture and customs. – Given the number of times such an increase in believers has been referred to since Pentecost, very likely the congregation by now numbered somewhere between 20 and 25 thousand. Twenty-five thousand members and 12 pastors! (CSB)

Read 6:1-7

The Jews of Jerusalem had developed a system for distributing food money to widows, especially those from other lands. The Christian community set a similar arrangement, funded by the gifts of people like Barnabas. There is no reason to think that there was any malice in the neglect of the Grecian widows. Language barriers and differences in social customs would contribute to their being overlooked. A new resident would not have the circle of acquaintances that the native enjoyed, either.

1. Who was all involved in solving this problem (v. 2)? How is that good example for group leadership?
2. The apostles' words in verse 2 seem to be almost self-serving. However, what were they really pointing out?
3. What were the qualifications of the men to be (v. 3)? All seven of the men chosen had Greek names. How is it significant that?
4. How does verse 7 describe the result of the actions taken in verses 1-7?

Read 6:8-15

5. How does verse 8 describe Stephen?
6. What is the irony we find in verse 9?
7. What are some similarities between what happened to Stephen in verses 11-14 and Jesus' trial before His crucifixion?
8. What do you think made Stephen's face seem like an angel?