

Acts 6

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Acts 6:1-7 – Seven Are Chosen

- The Hellenistic Jew didn't speak Hebrew and instead spoke **Greek** and Aramaic
- They were Jews that were **exiled** for centuries and then returned back to Jerusalem
- The Jews (Hebrew speaking) were showing favoritism to likeminded Jews
- The Hellenistic Jews didn't like this and it caused **divisions**
- The disciples heard of this and didn't like it, so they called a meeting
- The Apostles gathered and didn't want to give up preaching the gospel
- They came up with a plan so that they could keep preaching the word of God
- They picked out **7** good believers to be able to handle the civil matters
- 7 is the number of completion and perfection
- Steven could relate to the Hellenistic Jews
- These men are full of the Spirit, they have **wisdom** and are of good report
- These roles are very similar to deacons and Elders – 1 Timothy 3
- **None** of these men are Deacons or Elders
- The disciples picked out 7 men and put hands on them and prayed for them
- The number of **believers** continued to grow – Acts 6:7
- The Gospel is still moving in Jerusalem

Who is Steven?

- Steven means “a crown’ or “a garland”
- Out of thousands of people he was known first as someone of good report
- Stephen was **known** as someone who was filled with the Spirit and had wisdom – Acts 6:10
- He was also the first of the 7 that is mentioned
- Being a **Jew** he was very familiar with Torah
- Steven was most likely a Hellenistic Jew, thus he could relate to the widows
- Steven was a good **debater** – Acts 6:10

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Acts 6:8-15 – Steven Apprehended

- This is the same man that just was chosen to serve
- Stephen was someone known for his **faith** – Acts 6:5
- There is something about death that brings out someone's true heart
- On a death bed you can see where a person's **heart** is at
- Steven was a man that had power and grace
- Steven was an example Martyrdom
- This Sanhedrin that Stephen went before is also one that Jesus went before
- Stephen went to **court** for something he didn't do, Blasphemy
- There were false witnesses against that testified against him – Acts 6:13
- These false witnesses shared that Steven wanted to get rid of what Moses taught – Acts 6:14
- Steven in chapter 7 shares with them that he wants to uphold what **Moses** has to say
- Yet all that the judge saw was the face of an angel – Acts 6:15

We're going to be faithful to the Lord and we're going to leave the results to Him. Whatever happens is going to be what He allows to happen. But He will be on our side because we will be obedient and faithful to His word - **John MacArthur**