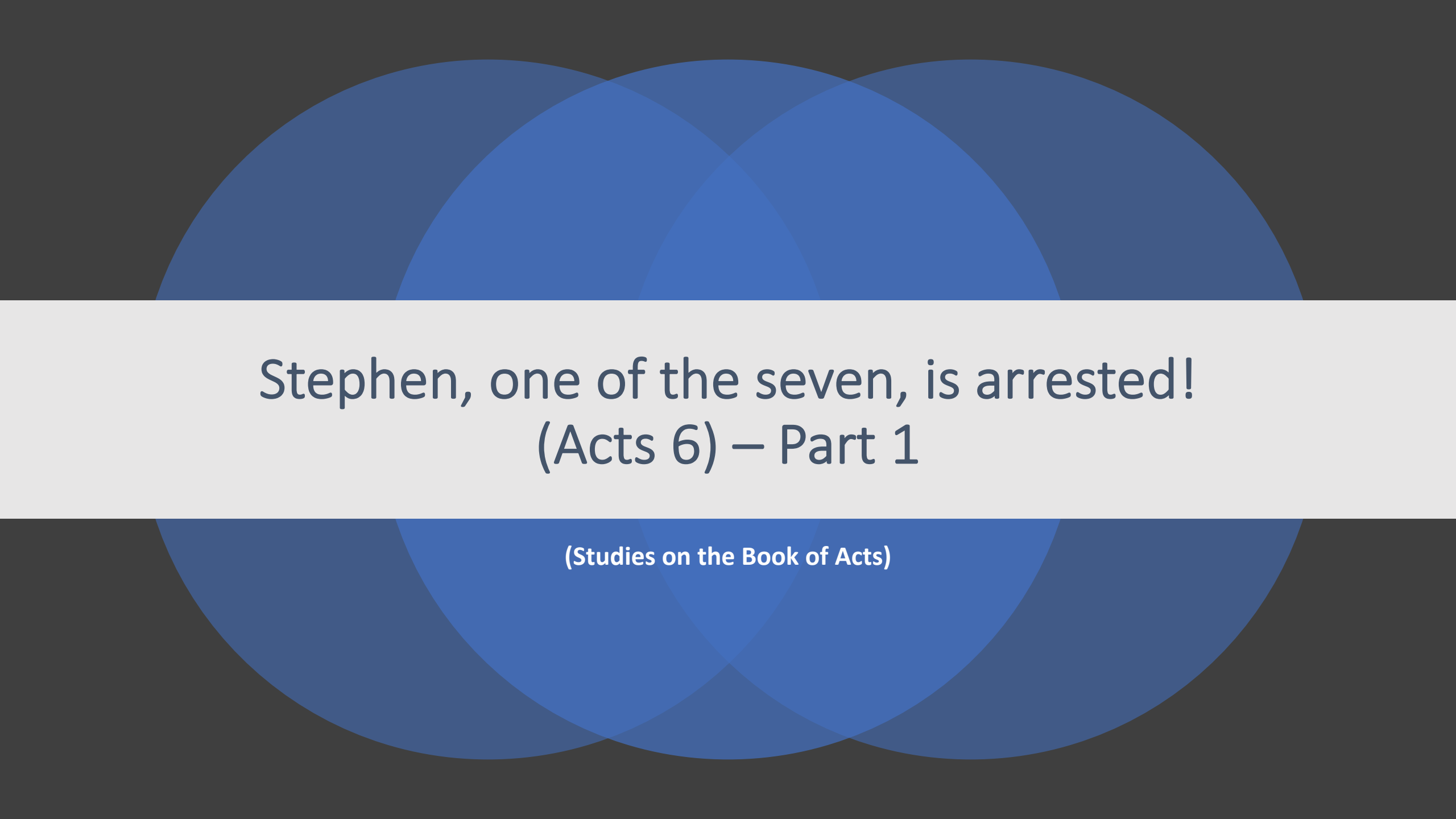



Welcome  
Family  
&  
Friends




# Stephen, one of the seven, is arrested! (Acts 6) – Part 1

**(Studies on the Book of Acts)**




## Review of previous lesson:

- We discussed how the Sanhedrin again attempts to halt the spread of the Gospel.
  - We examined the advice of Gamaliel.
  - Finally, we saw the bravery and zeal of the early church in its work to spread the Gospel.
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In this  
lesson:

- We will see how a dispute arose in the church that put at risk the unity of the church.
  - We will see how the Apostles decided to handle the dispute.
  - We will discuss the qualities of the seven men chosen to deal with the dispute.
  - We will see how the church continued to grow.
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# The Choosing of Seven

(Acts 6:1 – 7)

*1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.*

Acts 6:1 (ESV)



Growth sometimes brings growing pains.

- Hellenists (Grecians) referred to Jews living outside of Palestine who speak Greek, instead Aramaic.
  - Acts 4:34 – 35
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*2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."*

Acts 6:2 – 4 (ESV)




# The Qualifications of the Seven:

- “good repute”
- “full of the Spirit”
- “full of wisdom”

*5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.*

Acts 6:5 – 6 (ESV)



The  
Seven  
chosen:

- Stephen
- Philip
- Prochorus
- Nicanor
- Timon
- Parmenas
- Nicolaus

All of these are Greek names,  
which probably means that  
they were Hellenists  
themselves.

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Two possible meanings to the laying on of hands:

- It could be just ceremonial.
  - 1 Timothy 4:14
  - 2 Timothy 1:6 – 7
- It could have been done to impart the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
  - Acts 8:14 – 18



*7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.*

Acts 6:7 (ESV)

*42 Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.*

John 12:42 – 43 (ESV)

In our next study, we will go on to discuss the rest of the events of chapter 6.