

Chapter 6:1-15

“The First Deacons”

Summary

- Jerusalem
- Church is estimated to have 25,000 members
- Around AD 30-32?

Outline

- I. The Problem - (vs. 1-4)
 - A. Some complain that “Grecians” (foreign-born Jews) were neglected - vs. 1
 - B. The Apostles see that they need to delegate the solution - vs. 2
 - C. The Church is to choose seven deacons - vs. 3
 - D. The Apostles then continue their ministry - vs. 4
- II. The Solution - (vs. 5-8)
 - A. The deacons chosen- vs. 5
 - B. The deacons ordained - vs. 6
 - C. The work of the church grows with their help - vs. 7
 - D. The growing ministry of Stephen - vs. 8
- III. The Path to Stephen’s Martyrdom - (vs. 9-15)
 - A. Stephen debates in synagogue - vs. 9
 - B. Stephen persuades many to Christianity - vs. 10
 - C. Bribed men bring false charges - vs. 11
 - D. Stephen is brought to trial - vs. 12
 - E. The charge: blasphemy - vs. 13-14
 - F. Stephen is set to give his defense - vs. 15
 - G. To be continued in Chapter 7...

Notes on Deacons

- Deacon is translated from the Greek word *diakonos* meaning “servant”
- Biblical qualifications for a deacon - I Timothy 3:8-13
- The purpose of deacons is to “serve” the church
- The purpose of deacons is not to rule the church
- We see deacons in the New Testament as:
 - Aiding in benevolence ministry - Acts 6:1-3
 - Evangelizing - Acts 8:5
 - Spiritual men - Acts 6:3,5
 - Exemplary men - I Timothy 3:8-13