

6[1] And in those days of multiplying of the disciples, there was a complaint of the Hellenists¹ against the Hebrews, because their widows were being neglected in the daily service. [2] And the twelve, calling together the multitude of disciples, said, “It is not pleasing² us, leaving the word of God to serve tables. [3] Therefore,³ brethren, select seven reputable men out of you, full of holy spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this need.⁴ [4] And we will continue in the prayer and the service of the word.” [5] And the word was pleasing⁵ before all the multitude. And they chose Stephen,⁶ a man full of faith and holy spirit, and Philip and Prochorus⁷ and Nicanor⁸ and Timon⁹ and Parmenas¹⁰ and Nicolas¹¹ a proselyte, an Antiochene,¹² [6] whom they stood before the apostles. And praying, they laid on them the hands.¹³

[7] And the word of God grew, and the number of the disciples greatly multiplied in Jerusalem. And a large crowd of the priests were obedient to the faith. [8] And Stephen full of faith and power was doing great wonders and signs among the people. [9] And some arose from what was called the synagogue of the Freedmen (and Cyrenians and Alexandrians¹⁴ and those from Cilicia¹⁵ and Asia) disputing with Stephen. [10] And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he was speaking. [11] Then they secretly induced men saying that, “We have heard him speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God.” [12] And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and coming upon, they seized him and brought to the council. [13] And they also set up false witnesses saying, “This man does not cease speaking blasphemous¹⁶ words against the holy place and the law. [14] For we have heard him saying that, ‘This Jesus the Nazarene will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us.’” [15] And looking intently at him, all who were sitting in the council saw his face as the face of a messenger.

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- 1 Ἑλληνιστῶν (hellênistôn) - “Hellenists” - Greek speaking Jews – also only found in Acts 9:29; 11:20. Ἕλλην (hellên) is a Greek (man), e.g. Acts 16:3; Galatians 2:3; 3:28.
 - 2 ἀρεστόν (areston) - “pleasing” - NKJV, NAS “desirable”; KJV “reason” - also only found in John 8:29 (“please”); Acts 12:3 (“pleased”); 1 John 3:22 (“pleasing”).
 - 3 οὖν (oun) - “Therefore” - Critical text has δέ (de) “and” or “but” depending on context.
 - 4 χρείας (chreias) - “need” - NKJV, KJV “business”; NAS “task” - same word as e.g. in Acts 4:35 χρείαν (chreian) “need” NKJV; KJV; NAS.
 - 5 ἤρεσεν (êresen) - “was pleasing” - verb akin to the adjective ἀρεστόν (areston) “pleasing” above.
 - 6 Στέφανον (Stephanon) - “Stephen” - same exact term for “crown” e.g. στέφανον (stephanon) Matthew 27:29.
 - 7 Πρόχορον (Prochoron) - “Prochorus” - only here.
 - 8 Νικάνορα (Nikanora) - “Nicanor” - only here.
 - 9 Τίμων (Timôn) – “Timon” - only here.
 - 10 Παρμενᾶν (Parmenan) - “Parmenas” - only here.
 - 11 Νικόλαον (Nikolaon) - “Nicolas” - only here. There is no known connection between this man and the Nicolaitans, Νικολαϊτῶν (Nikolaitôn) in Revelation 2:6, 15.
 - 12 Ἀντιοχέα (Antiochea) - “Antiochene” = a native of Antioch – only found here. Word for the location Antioch is Ἀντιοχείας (Antiocheias) e.g. Acts 11:19.
 - 13 ἐπέθηκαν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας (epethêkan autois tas cheiras) - “they laid on them the hands” - “and laying on of hands” (Hebrews 6:2 ἐπιθέσεώς τε χειρῶν) is one in the list of “the word of the beginning of the Christ” τὸν τῆς ἀρχῆς τοῦ χριστοῦ λόγον (ton tês archês tou christou) NKJV “elementary *principles* of Christ” in Hebrews 6:1-2. Laying on of hands also found e.g. in Eoxous 29:9-10, 15-19; Leviticus 4:13-15; 8:13-22; 16:21; 24:14; Numbers 8:10-12; 27:22-23; Deuteronomy 34:9; 2 Kings 13:16-17; 2 Chronicles 29:23; Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 5:23; 6:5; 10:16; 16:18; Luke 4:40; Acts 9:17; 13:3; 19:6; 1 Timothy 4:14; 5:22; 2 Timothy 1:6.
 - 14 Ἀλεξανδρέων (Alexandreôn) - “Alexandrians” - also only found in Acts 18:24.
 - 15 Κιλικίας (Kilikias) - “Cilicia” - found also only in Acts 15:23, 41; 21:39; 22:3; 23:34; 27:5; Galatians 1:21.
 - 16 βλάσφημα (blasphêma) - “blasphemous” - Critical text does not have this word in this verse, but it does in verse 11. Also, Critical text adds in brackets [τούτου] (toutou) “this” for “this holy place.”