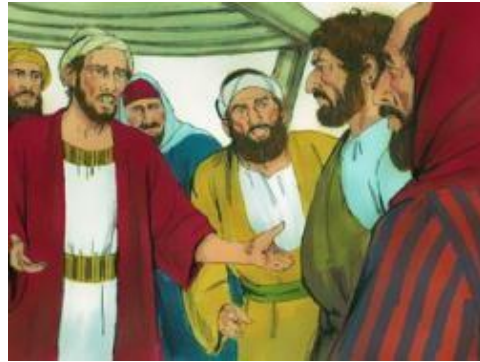




Introduction

The Hellenist (Greek) believers complain about the treatment of Hellenist widows (v 1).

Seven believers are chosen to address the problem, one of them, Stephen, comes into conflict with the Jews.



Questions

1. What was the complaint about and what did the twelve do about it?
2. What effect did the spread of the word of God have in Jerusalem?
3. What did the members of the synagogues do when they could not answer Stephen?



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 7** A complaint arises about the treatment of Hellenist (Greek) widows. Seven men are appointed to ensure the Hellenist needy widows receive as much care and help as their Jewish counterparts (see theme)
- **v 8 to 15** Stephen, although one of those responsible for welfare, also preaches very effectively. He infuriates the Jews who have no answer to his arguments. They arrest him, set up false witnesses and bring him to the council. He is accused of speaking against God, the temple and the law of Moses

Timeline AD 60 (see below)



Theme

Helping the needy

A selection of verses showing that we should help those who have problems when we are in a position to do so.

The first-century believers send aid to their fellow believers who are suffering:

Acts 11 verses 28 to 30

Romans 15 verses 25 to 27

The apostles encourage believers to show concern for those in need:

James 2 verses 15 and 16

1 Timothy 6 verses 17 and 18

1 John 3 verse 17



Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 1 to 3, Q 2: v 7, Q 3: v 11 and 12



Bible timeline

