

Some issues in interpreting Acts 6-7

1. How do these stories **flow from the narrative context** of Acts 5?
2. Who are “the **Hellenists**” and “the **Hebrews**”?
3. What are the meanings of **diakonia**, both in 6.1 and elsewhere in Acts?
4. How has the **history of biblical scholarship** impeded our ability to hear Luke’s message in these chapters? (= German anti-Jewish presuppositions)
5. What exactly are Stephen and the others **appointed to do**?
6. What is “the **synagogue of the Freedmen**” (6.9)? Why might they be opposing Stephen?
7. What “**kind**” of **speech does Stephen give in Acts 7**? That is, is he defending himself against the charges, prosecuting his opponents, or both?
8. What is the **theme of Stephen’s speech** that holds it together?
9. What do we make of the many **parallels between Stephen after his speech and the Passion of Jesus**?
10. What is the role of “**a young man named Saul**” in all this (7.58)?