

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

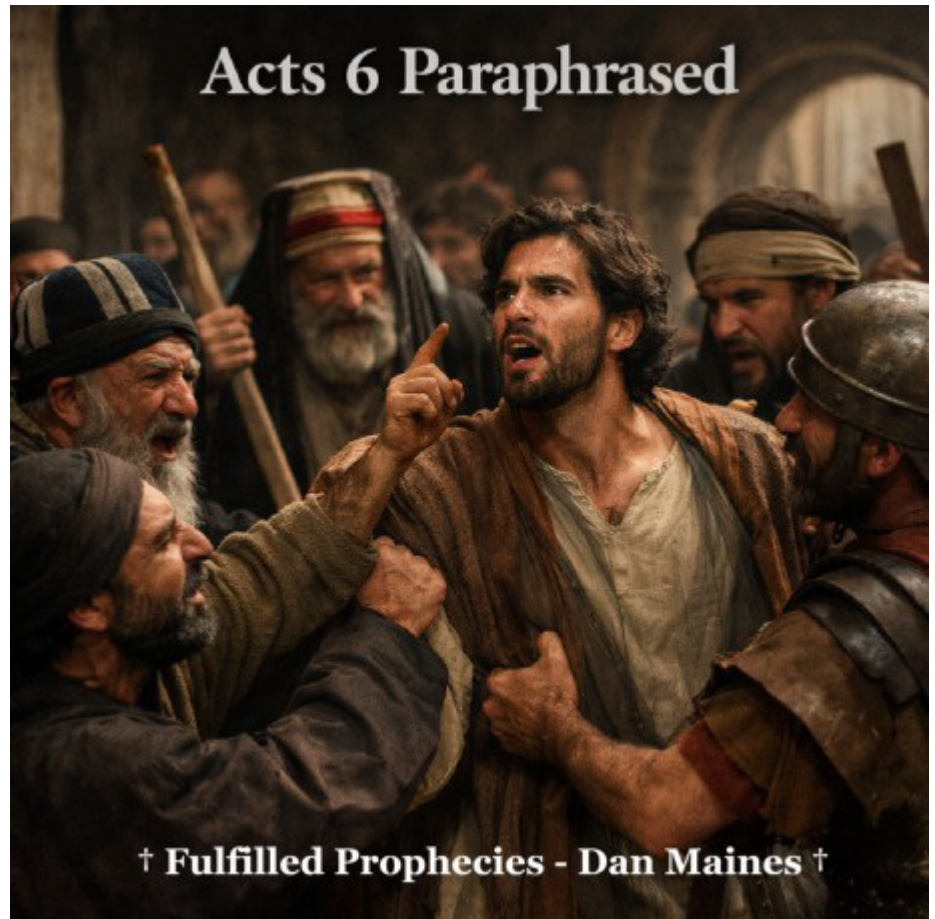
[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

Acts 6 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Acts 6 Paraphrased

Introduction

† The early church was growing fast, and pressure was building from within, not just from outside

† This chapter shows how God structured leadership to handle real issues without losing focus on the Word

† It also introduces Stephen, whose bold stand shows the kingdom was already active and confronting Israel in that generation

Acts 6:1

Now at that time, as the number of disciples kept increasing, a complaint arose from the Greek-speaking Jews against the native Hebrews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution

† Growth revealed division between Hellenistic and Hebrew Jews, showing this was still an Israel-centered community (Acts 2:5)

† The issue wasn't doctrine but fairness, showing practical needs matter in the body

† Josephus records similar cultural tension among Jews, confirming this was a real historical situation in Jerusalem

Acts 6:2

So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, it isn't right for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables

† The apostles didn't reject service, they protected their primary role of preaching the Word (Luke 10:39-42)

† This establishes order, not hierarchy, each role matters in the body

† The Word remained central because that's how the kingdom was being revealed and fulfilled

Acts 6:3

So brothers, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task

† Leadership wasn't random, it required character, Spirit, and wisdom

† This shows the Spirit was already active, not through signs alone but through transformed lives

† The number seven reflects completeness, showing God was structuring His people properly

Acts 6:4

But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the

word

- † Prayer and the Word remained the foundation of leadership
- † This shows the focus was never on programs but on truth and communication with God
- † Their commitment kept the mission aligned with what Christ already began (Acts 1:8)

Acts 6:5

The statement found approval with the whole congregation, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch

- † Unity was restored when truth and order were applied
- † Stephen is highlighted immediately, showing his importance in what follows
- † Nicolas being a proselyte shows Gentile inclusion had already begun within Israel's framework

Acts 6:6

And these they brought before the apostles, and after praying, they laid their hands on them

- † Laying on of hands confirmed appointment, not mystical transfer but recognition of responsibility
- † Prayer again shows dependence on God in all leadership decisions
- † This reflects continuity with earlier Jewish practices of commissioning leaders

Acts 6:7

The word of God kept spreading, and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith

- † The result of order was growth, not decline
- † Even priests were converting, showing the old covenant leadership was being replaced from within (Hebrews 8:13)
- † This directly connects to fulfillment, the old system was fading

as the new was fully established

Acts 6:8

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people

† Stephen stands out as a key witness against Israel

† Signs here confirm the message during that transitional period

† His role leads directly into confrontation with the synagogue leadership

Acts 6:9

But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen

† Opposition always rises where truth is boldly spoken

† These were diaspora Jews, showing the conflict extended beyond local Jerusalem leaders

† This fulfills what Jesus said about persecution coming from within Israel (Matthew 23:34)

Acts 6:10

But they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking

† Truth backed by the Spirit cannot be defeated by argument alone

† This mirrors Jesus confounding the religious leaders (Luke 20:26)

† The Spirit here is seen in wisdom and clarity, not just miracles

Acts 6:11

Then they secretly induced men to say, we have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God

† When truth can't be defeated, lies are introduced

† This is the same tactic used against Jesus (Mark 14:56-59)

† Accusing him of blasphemy shows they misunderstood fulfillment as rebellion

Acts 6:12

And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes, and they came up to him and dragged him away and brought him before the Council

† False accusations lead to mob action

† This is the Sanhedrin, the same body that condemned Jesus

† The pattern repeats because Israel hadn't repented nationally

Acts 6:13

They put forward false witnesses who said, this man never stops speaking against this holy place and the Law

† The charge was against the temple and the Law, the core of the old covenant system

† Stephen was exposing fulfillment, but they saw it as destruction

† This directly ties to what Jesus said about the temple's coming end (Matthew 24:2)

Acts 6:14

For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and alter the customs which Moses handed down to us

† They twisted truth, Jesus did speak of the temple's destruction

† The customs were already being fulfilled and replaced in Christ

† This accusation shows they were clinging to a system that was about to end in AD 70

Acts 6:15

And fixing their gaze on him, all who were sitting in the Council saw his face like the face of an angel

† This shows divine approval, not literal transformation

† His calm presence reflects confidence in truth and God

† This moment prepares for his powerful speech in the next chapter

Historical References

- † Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, records tensions among Jewish sects and cultural divisions in Jerusalem
- † Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, affirms the early spread of the church and internal organization
- † Irenaeus, Against Heresies, confirms the authority and role of early church leaders in preserving truth
- † Tacitus, Histories, acknowledges unrest and transformation within Judea during this period

How it applies to us today

- † Growth still exposes problems, and those problems must be handled with truth and order
- † Not everyone has the same role, but every role matters in the body
- † Truth will always face opposition, especially from religious systems that resist change
- † We stay focused on the Word, not distractions, just like the apostles did
- † God raises bold voices like Stephen in every generation to confront error

Q & A Appendix

Q Why was there conflict in the early church

A Because growth exposed cultural divisions, Acts 6:1

Q Why didn't the apostles handle the distribution themselves

A They prioritized the Word and prayer, Acts 6:2-4

Q Who was Stephen

A A man full of faith and the Spirit chosen to serve, Acts 6:5

Q Why was Stephen opposed

A Because he spoke truth about fulfillment and challenged the temple system, Acts 6:13-14

Q What does this chapter show about leadership

A That leadership is shared, structured, and focused on God's Word, Acts 6:3-4

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Acts 6

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Tacitus, Histories

[Share on Facebook](#)

Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.