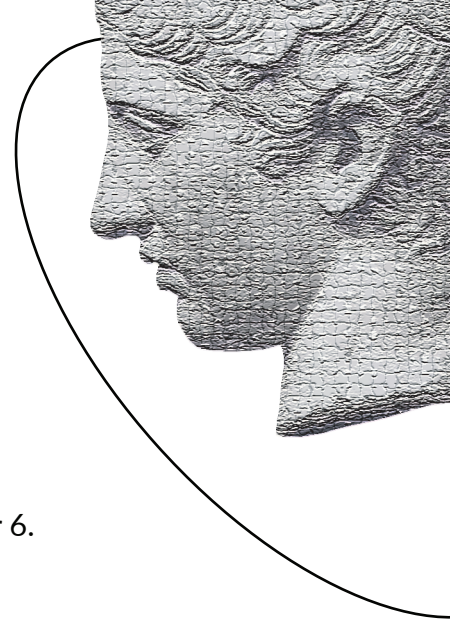




acts.

6



when.

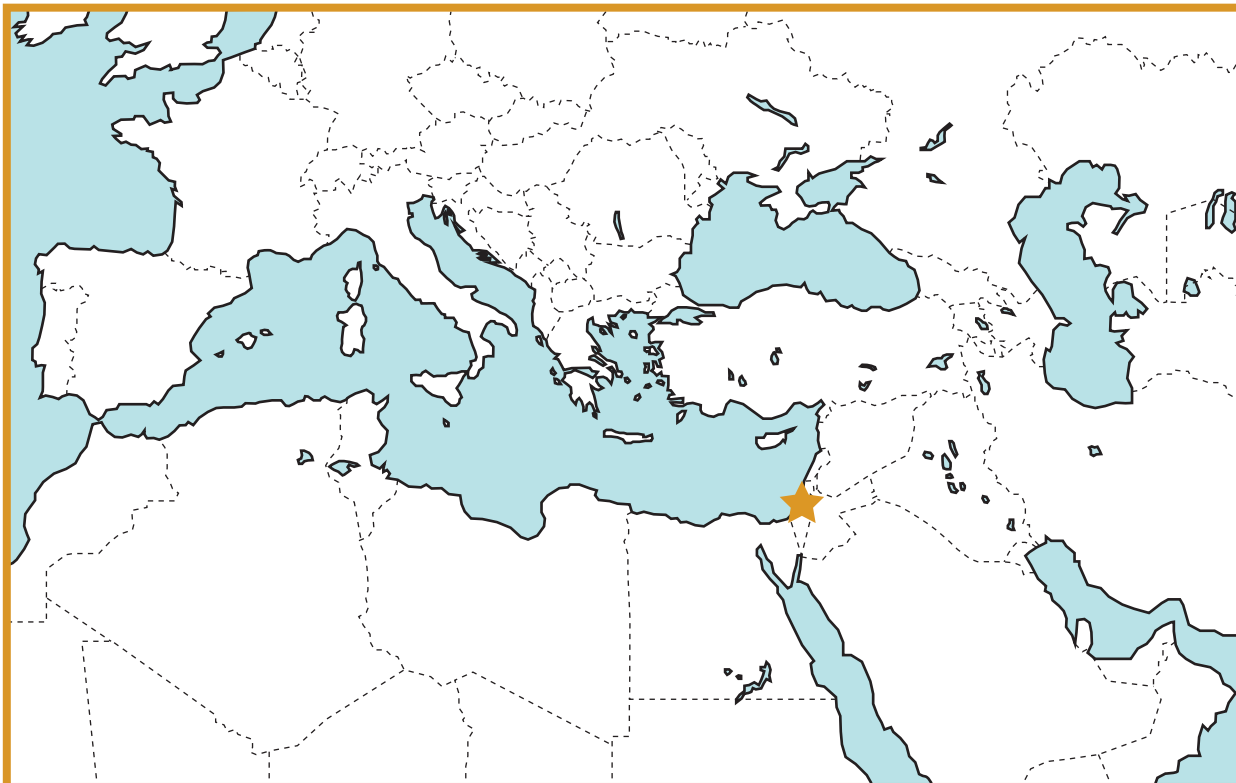
- We don't have details to provide us with exact dates for the events of chapter 6.
- Historians estimate the events of chapter 6 occurred between 31-35 AD.

characters.

- **12 Apostles** – The men hand selected by Jesus to help lead the early Church.
- **7 Disciples** – 7 men chosen to help with a problem amongst the Christian widows.
- **Stephen** – One of the 7 selected disciples, a man “full of faith” and the Holy Spirit.

where.

- The events of chapter 6 occurred in and around the city of Jerusalem.



acts.

outline.

- 7 SERVANTS ARE CHOSEN TO HELP THE NEGLECTED WIDOWS (6:1-7):
 - + The Hellenists complained their widows were being neglected by the Church.
 - + The 12 Apostles thought it unwise to devote themselves to the problem because it would distract them from preaching.
 - + They gathered the disciples and asked them to select 7 men from among themselves to commit to resolving the issue with the widows.
 - + When the 7 men were selected, the Apostles laid their hands on them and prayed.
- STEPHEN IS ARRESTED AND BROUGHT TO THE COUNCIL (6:8-15):
 - + Stephen, one of the 7 men selected to care for the Hellenist widows, was doing many signs and wonders among the people.
 - + Those of the synagogue of the Freedmen, some Cyrenians, some Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia started disputing with Stephen.
 - + They were unsuccessful in challenging Stephen, so they got false witnesses to accuse him of speaking "blasphemous words against Moses and God."
 - + They stirred up the people, elders, and scribes who seized Stephen and brought him before the Jewish council.
 - + Additional false witnesses accused Stephen of speaking against the Law of Moses and the Temple.
 - + They told the council Stephen was going around telling people Jesus was going to destroy the Temple and change the customs of Moses.
 - + Those who sat in the council saw Stephen's face as "the face of an angel."

application.

- The Church can and should be involved in various charitable programs, but it should never allow those things to replace the priority of preaching Jesus.
- Charity opens doors for the gospel but acts of charity have no eternal value if they are devoid of Jesus.
- The Apostles' resolve to continue preaching the gospel should reinforce it's importance to the modern Church.

- It is not right or healthy to try to bear all the responsibility in a Church.
- Trying to fill too many roles can distract us from completing our individual responsibilities.
- Trying to fill too many roles deprives others of the chance to serve.

