

Lesson 7 – April 17

Acts of the Apostles in the Early Church

Faithful



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
PreciousHeart.net/SS
... *Click Here*



Early Church to Antioch

1. Mar 6	Entrusted	1:1-26	wait for gift
2. Mar 13	Empowered	2:1-15	Pentecost
3. Mar 20	Unified	2:41-47	Fellowship, Pray, Bread, giving
4. Mar 17	Resurrected!	Luke 24:1-12	Easter Evangelistic Emphasis
5. Apr 3	Courageous	3:1 – 4:31	Peter and John Bold
6. Apr 10	Integrity	4:32 – 5:16	Ananias & Sapphira
7. Apr 17	Faithful	5:17-42	Peter arrested, Gamaliel
8. Apr 24	Selfless	6:1 – 8:3	seven chosen & Stephen
9. May 1	Obedient	8:4-40	Angel, Phillip, Candace
10. May 8	Converted	9:1-31	Paul blinded, then sees
11. May 15	Bold	10:1 – 11:30	Peter raises Tabatha
12. May 22	Accepting	10:1 – 11:30	Peter's vision— <i>EAT</i>
13. May 29	Extraordinary	12:1-25	Peter freed from prison



Giving Stewardship

Chapter 5

5:25-28 Returning to the Scene – *freed and back to temple*

5:29-32 Standing Their Ground – *we must obey God*

5:33-39 Waiting During Deliberations – *Gamaliel*

5:40-42 Rejoicing for the Opportunity – *flogged, daily preached*

flogged . . . then—we must obey God



what happened before in 5:12-16

- ü Apostles many signs, wonders
- ü All **believers** met Solomon's Colonnade
- ü No one else, not even the "highly regarded"

Hmmm ... Ananias and Sapphira factor?

- ü Sick brought into streets for ... **WHAT???**

So Peter's shadow might F A L L on them!!!

Verse 16 > **all of them were healed**



what happened before in 5:17-24

- ü **High Priests, Sadducees – arrest apostles**
- ü **Angel comes at night, frees and charges them**
- ü **“Go, stand in temple courts ... tell of new life.”**
- ü **No one in jailhouse ... Chief Priests at a LOSS**

what? ... yeah, wisest in land are at a loss



5:25-28 Returning to the Scene – *freed*

25 Then someone came and said, “Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.”

26 At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

27 The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest.



5:25-28 Returning to the Scene – *freed*

28 “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

Filled Jerusalem

“Determined to make us... us **GUILTY”**

I’d say, yeah, chief taters, you’re catching on



Key Doctrine – Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it.



XVII. Religious Liberty. God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are **contrary to His Word or not contained in it.** Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.



Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20;
Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2;
James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

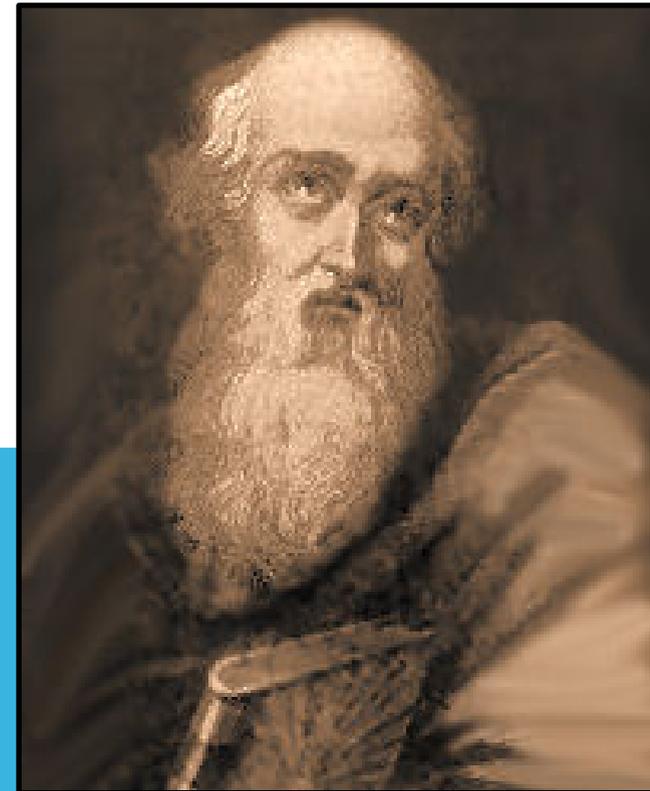
5:25-28 Returning to the Scene – *freed*

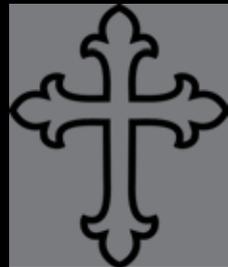
28 “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”



Polycarp, 69-155 A.D. – Bishop of Smyrna

- ü Ordained by Apostle John to Bishop of Smyrna**
- ü One of three most significant Apostolic Church Fathers whose writings survive**
- ü Clement of Rome & Ignatius of Antioch**
- ü Proconsul demanded sacrifice**
- ü Polycarp did not ... some of his family were tortured for his location**





**Greece
Hellás**

Rome

Smyrna

**Area of Study
Acts 1-12**



**THE ROMAN EMPIRE
AT ITS GREATEST EXTENT
c. 107 A. D.**

Scale of Miles
0 100 200 400 600
Capital
Maximum extent of Roman control
in the time of Trajan, 98-117 A. D.
Roman walls



Area of Study
Acts 1-12



Smyrna

Galatia

Asia Minor

Greece

Corinth

Patmos

Crete

Mediterranean Sea

Cyprus

Jerusalem

Antioch

Byblos

Sidon

Tyre

Nazareth

Bethlehem

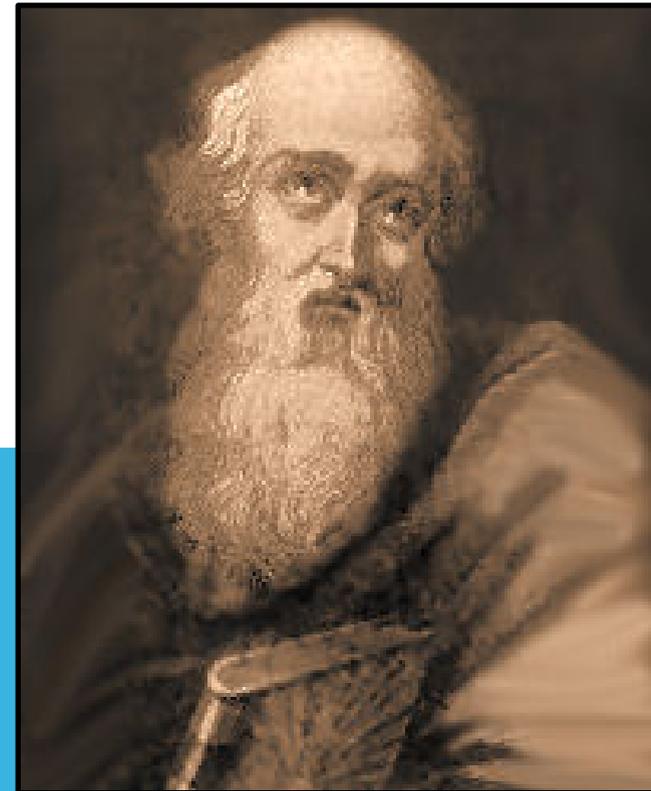
Alexandria

Polycarp, 69-155 A.D. – Bishop of Smyrna

At 86 taken to arena, **“Be Strong, Polycarp, play the man”**

Proconsul, “Have respect for your old age, swear by the fortune of Caesar. Repent, and say, ‘Down with the Atheists!’ Reproach Christ and I’ll set you free.”

Polycarp, replied, “Eighty and six years I have served Him and He has done me no wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King and Savior?”



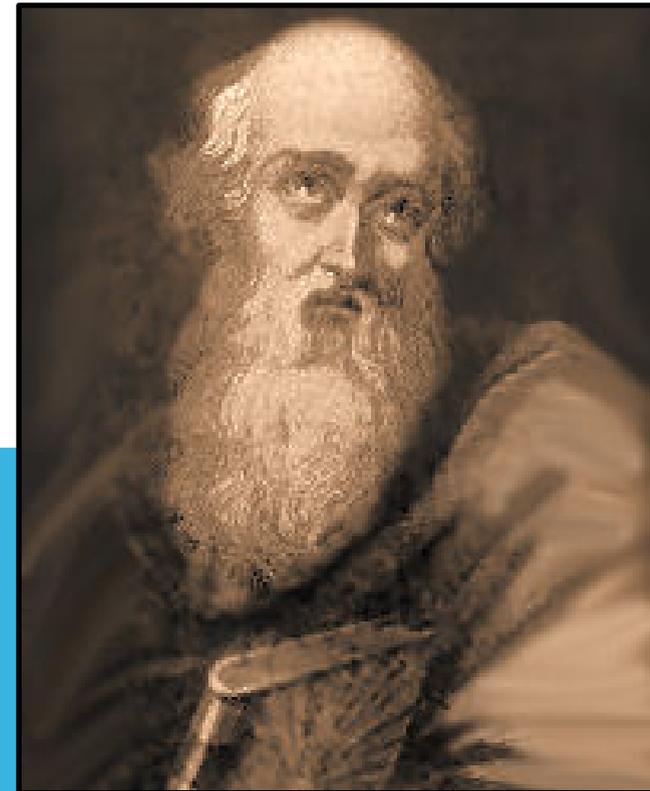
**Polycarp, 69-155 A.D.
Bishop of Smyrna**

Polycarp, 69-155 A.D. – Bishop of Smyrna

Proconsul, “I have wild animals here. I will throw you to them if you do not repent.”

Polycarp, “It is unthinkable fore to repent from what is good to turn to what is evil....”

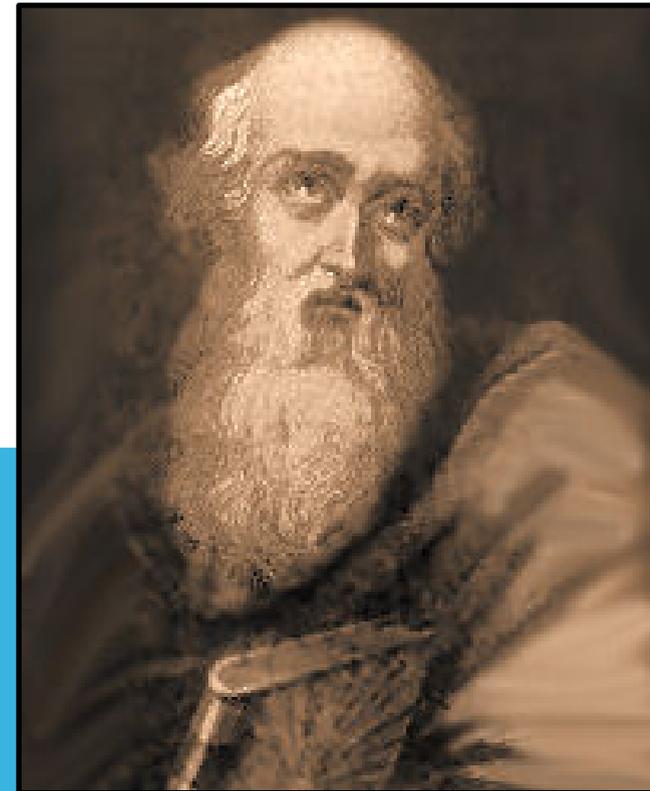
Proconsul, “If you despise the animals, I will have you burned.”



**Polycarp, 69-155 A.D.
Bishop of Smyrna**

Polycarp, 69-155 A.D. – Bishop of Smyrna

Polycarp, “You threaten me with a fire that burns for an season, and after a little while is quenched; but you are ignorant of the fire of everlasting punishment that is prepared for the wicked. Why are you waiting? Bring whatever you want.”



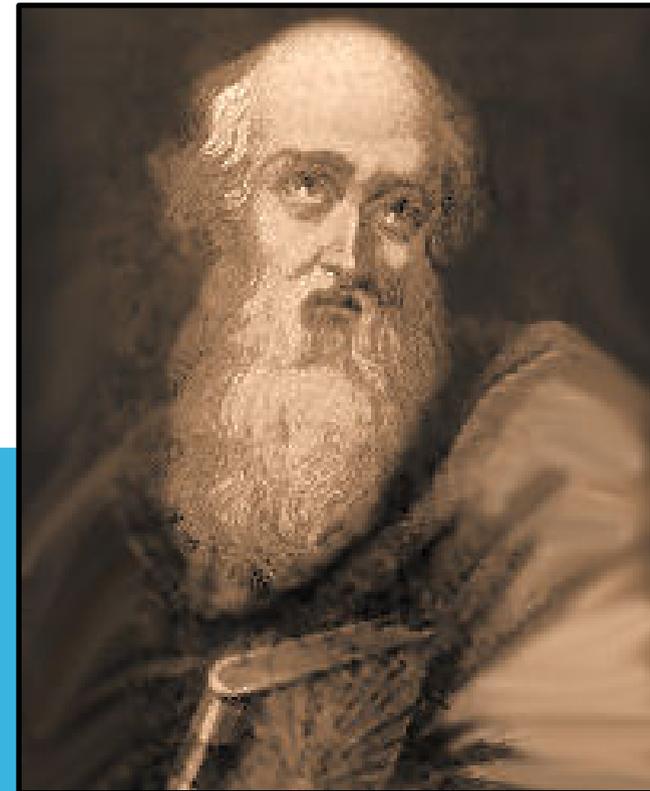
**Polycarp, 69-155 A.D.
Bishop of Smyrna**



Polycarp, 69-155 A.D. – Bishop of Smyrna

Began to nail him, when Polycarp said,

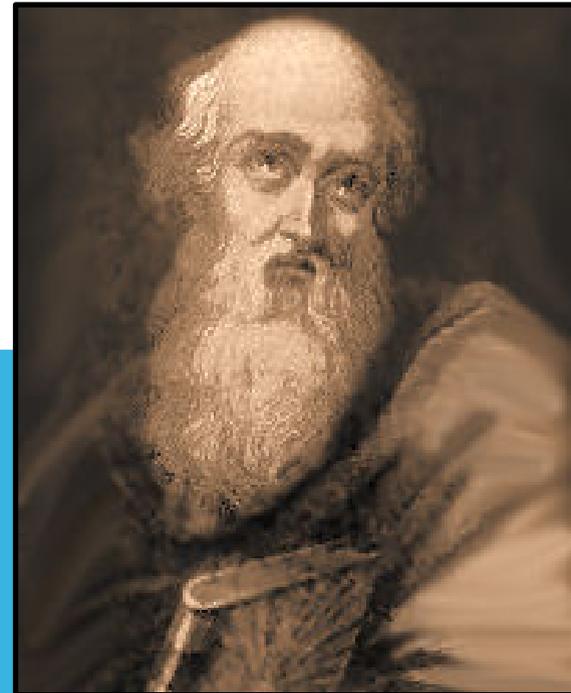
“Leave me as I am, for he that gives me strength to endure the fire, will enable me not to struggle, without the help of your nails.”



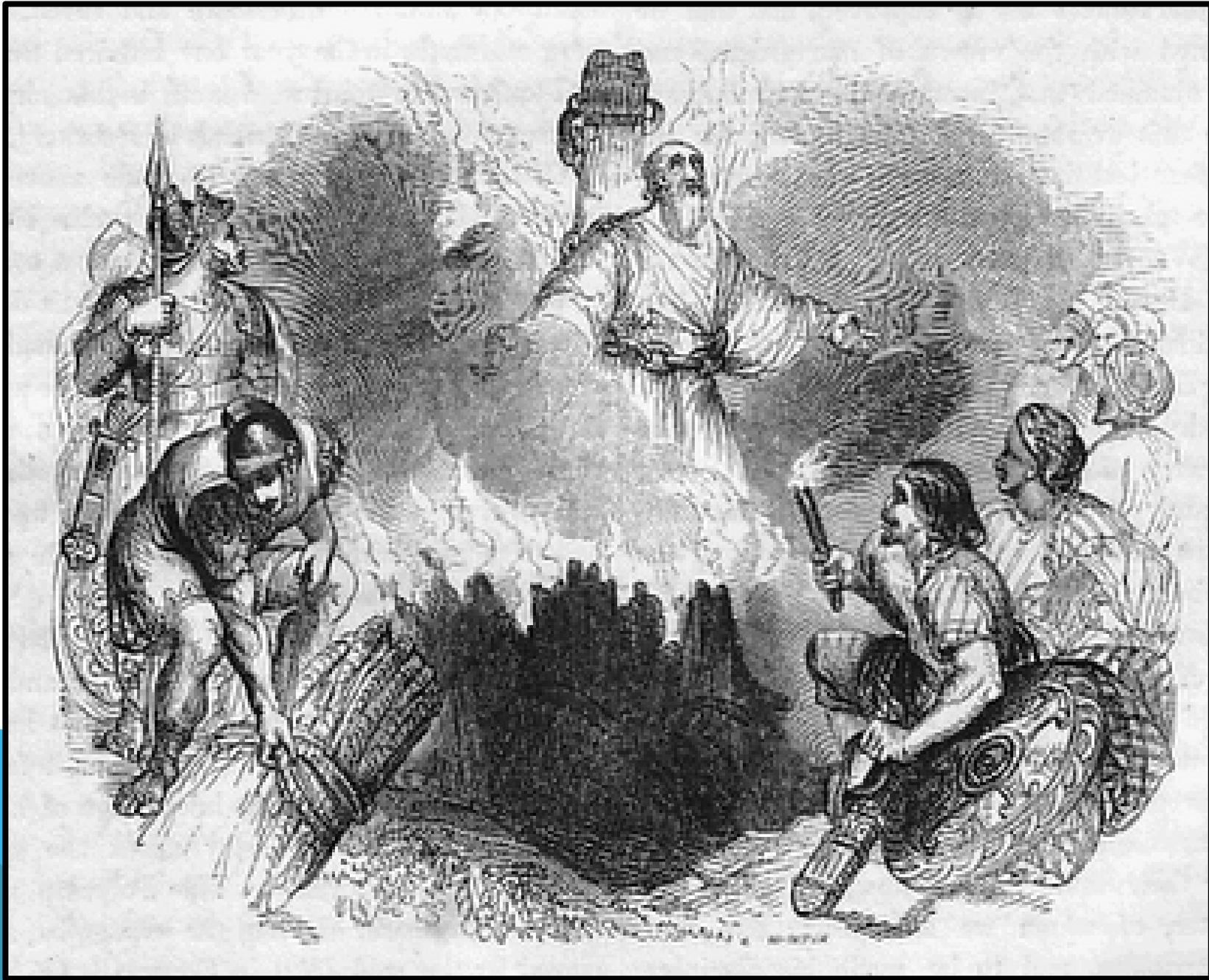
**Polycarp, 69-155 A.D.
Bishop of Smyrna**

Polycarp, 69-155 A.D. – Bishop of Smyrna

Looking up to heaven, he said, “O Lord God Almighty, the Father of your beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ... I give you thanks that you count me worthy to be numbered among your martyrs, sharing the cup of Christ.... May I be received this day as an acceptable sacrifice.... To you ... be glory both now and forever. Amen.”



**Polycarp, 69-155 A.D.
Bishop of Smyrna**







POLYCARP

HOME CAST & CREW VIDEOS CHURCHES STORE DONATE



Watch Trailer



Religious Liberty

Freedom of Conscience

Freedom of Speech



Religious Liberty a U.S. Right – NOT a Biblical Absolute

- ü **Baptists were primary in passing 1st Amendment**
- ü **No religion has supported Religious Liberty more**
- ü **Baptists wish NO coercion – *sincerity cut in coercion***
- ü **But Religious Liberty is ONLY deduced from the nature of a biblical view of **Humankind** and **Free Will****

Amendment I – Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.



Religious Liberty a U.S. Right – NOT a Biblical Absolute

- ü Freedom of Conscience is Precious but NOT Absolute
- ü Why? NEED & concept evaporates without persecution
- ü That is, when you are happy, esp. in the majority, you HAVE all liberty and don't need it
- ü Further, **ALL** are FREE, but Islam, et al, **WRONG** belief in anything but Christ will send you to HELL ...



Religious Liberty of Peter and John

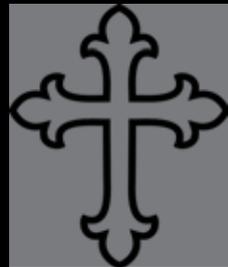
- ü **Because of oppression of Jews**
- ü **Because no one was truly FREE then in N.T. times**
- ü **We look back and find treatment by Jews bad**
- ü **What is NEW in 1776 U.S.A. and French Revolution?**
- ü **Freedom of Conscience was NEW in 1776**
- ü **All religions are equal in Religious Liberty**
- ü **Christianity is—we believe—*THE TRUTH***



5:25-28 Returning to the Scene – *freed*

28 “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”





Area of Study
Acts 1-12

Greece
Hellás

Rome



THE ROMAN EMPIRE
AT ITS GREATEST EXTENT
c. 107 A. D.



Rome

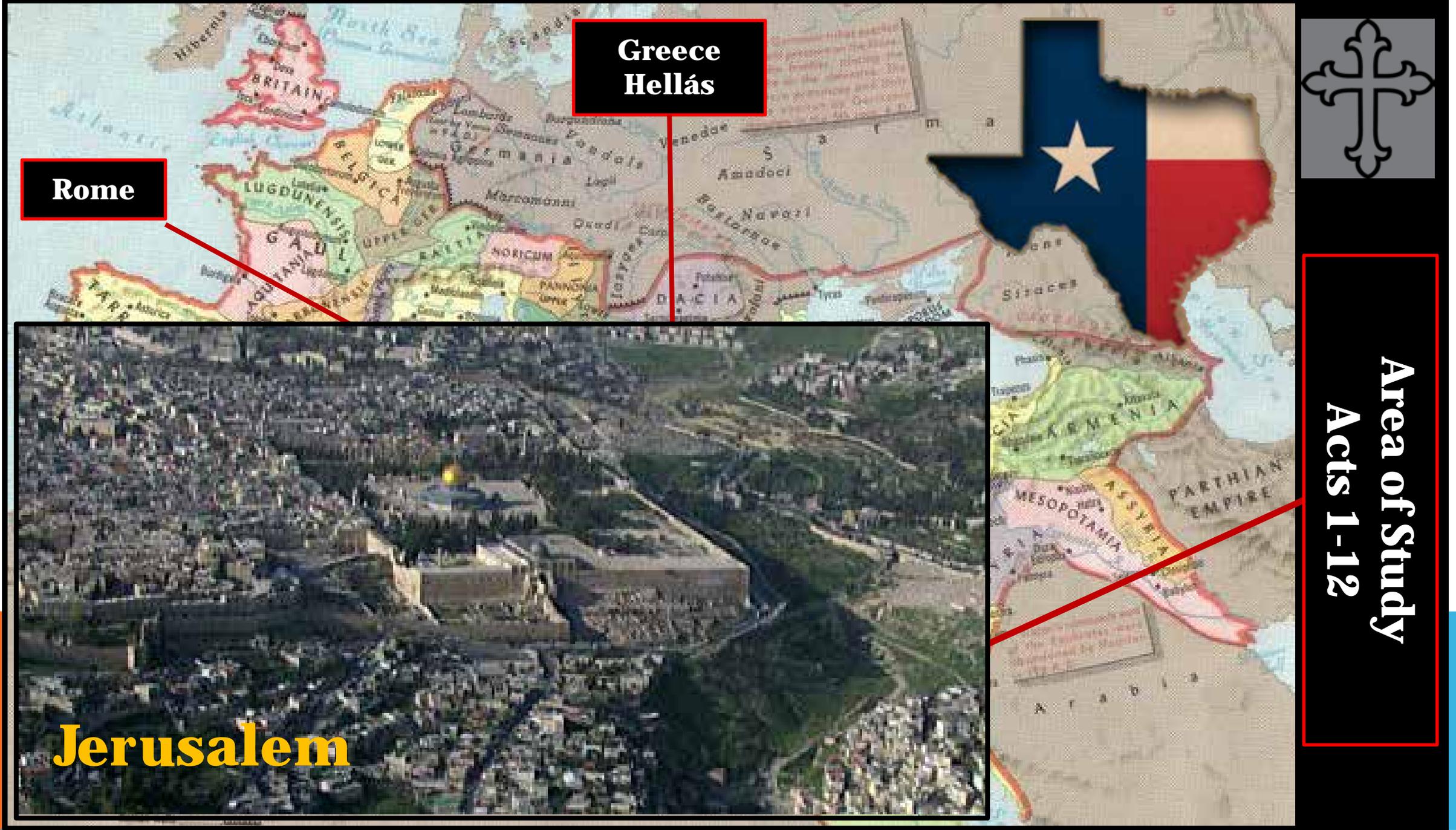
**Greece
Hellás**



**Area of Study
Acts 1-12**



Jerusalem



5:29-32 Standing Their Ground – *we must obey God*

Peter's 4th or 5th Witness? ... I'm losing count

This time BOLD does NOT fit ... seems short of fortitude

29-30 - Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross.

NOTE: Deut. 21:23 – “a hanged man is accursed by God.”



5:29-32 Standing Their Ground

“We must obey God rather than human beings!”

ü **Profound declaration to those who WANT to kill them**

ü **WHILE displacing/realigning human authority**

it directs their duty to God

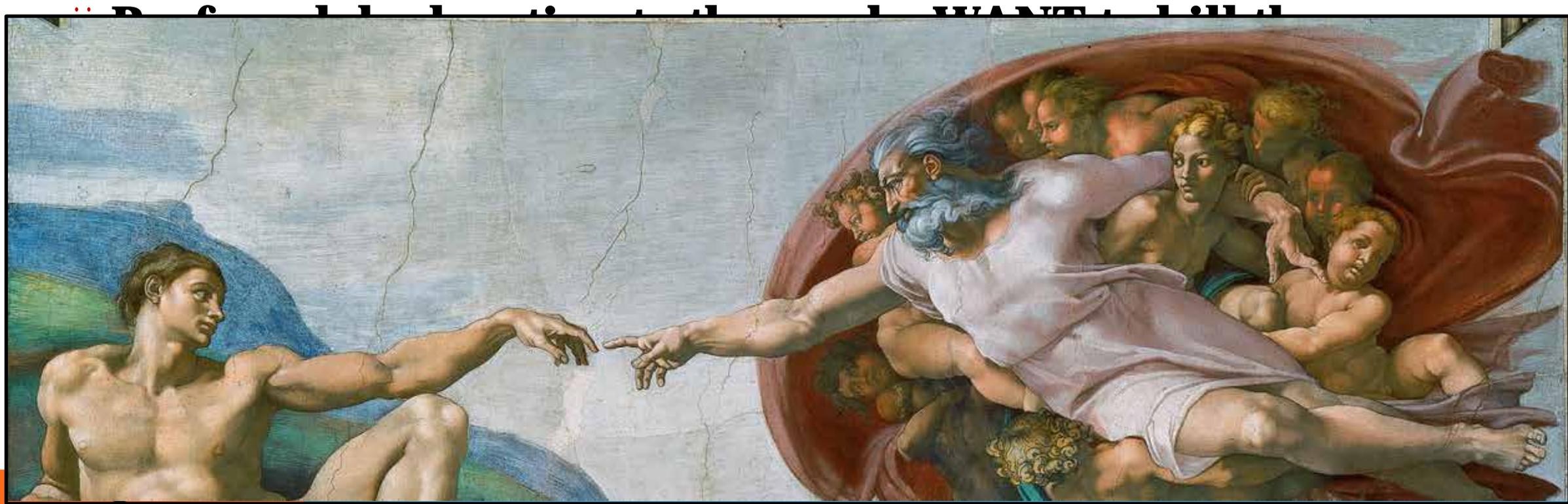
ü **Who was the Apostles' AUTHORITY?**

God!



5:29-32 Standing Their Ground

“We must obey God rather than human beings!”



5:29-32 Standing Their Ground – *we must obey God*

31-32 - God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

**Peter never wavers ... and theologizes
God exalted Christ to His right hand as
Prince and Savior**



5:33-35 Waiting During Deliberations – Gamaliel, pt. 1

When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. **Death! ... for what? for TRUTH!**

But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while.

Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men.



what terrible times are these

5:33-35 Waiting During Deliberations – Gamaliel, pt. 1

Gamaliel – Honored by All

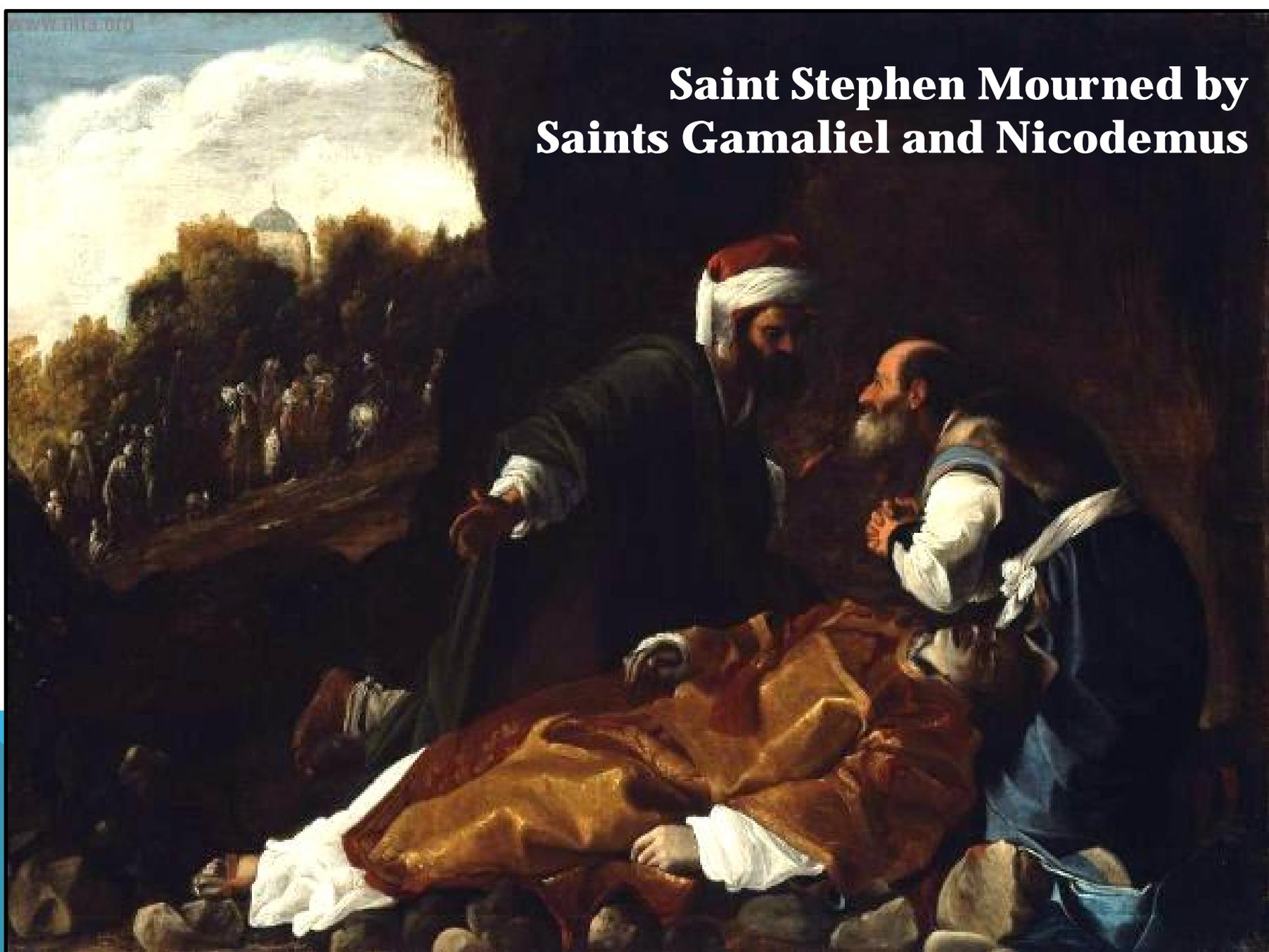
I suppose he stood, “Men of Israel, consider carefully”

- ü Grandson of Hillel the Babylonian, 1st Century B.C.**
- ü Greatest sage of 2nd Temple period and Nasi, leader**
- ü Gamaliel was the teacher of the Apostle Paul**
- ü Influential President of the Sanhedrin**
- ü Several rulings benefiting women, including allowing
to remarry w/ one witness on death of husband**



**art student of
Carlo Saraceni
c. 1615**

**Saint Stephen Mourned by
Saints Gamaliel and Nicodemus**



5:36-37 Waiting During Deliberations – Gamaliel, pt. 2

Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing.

ü Theudas, d. 46 A.D., Greek could be “Gift of God”

ü or could be Semitic for “flowing with water”

ü Josephus: he claimed to be prophet & led folks to Jordan River

ü Roman procurator chased him down, took his head



5:36-37 Waiting During Deliberations – Gamaliel, pt. 2

After him, Judas the Galilean (born in Gamala) appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered.

- ü Josephus said he founded a fourth Jewish sect
among Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes ...**
- ü Nationalist movement of Zealots against Roman tax census**
- ü Only God was ruler of Israel**
- ü Gamala – called such it
was like Camel’s hump**



5:36-37 Waiting During Deliberations – Gamaliel, pt. 2

After him, Judas the Galilean
of the census and led a band
and all his followers were sca

ü Josephus said he founded a
among Pharise

ü Nationalist movement of Ze

ü Only God was ruler of Israe

ü Gamala – called such it
was like Camel's hump



5:38-39 Waiting During Deliberations – Gamaliel, pt. 3

Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail.

But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves

fighting against God.”



5:40-42 Rejoicing for the Opportunity – *flogged*

40 His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them **flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.**

~ Flogged ~

You CAN imagine what a flogging is like



5:40-42 Rejoicing for the Opportunity – *flogged*

41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

Flogged and REJOICING?

**Worthy of Suffering
Disgrace for the Name**



5:40-42 Rejoicing for the Opportunity – *flogged*

Flogged and REJOICING?

Worthy of Suffering Disgrace for the Name



Worthy of Suffering Disgrace for the Name

What does that mean “worthy of suffering”?

ü **To the Apostles ...**

ü **To Peter the Rock ... from crow to utterly BOLD**

ü **To you, member of FBC Woodville ...**

ü **To your neighbor or Mission of the Church**

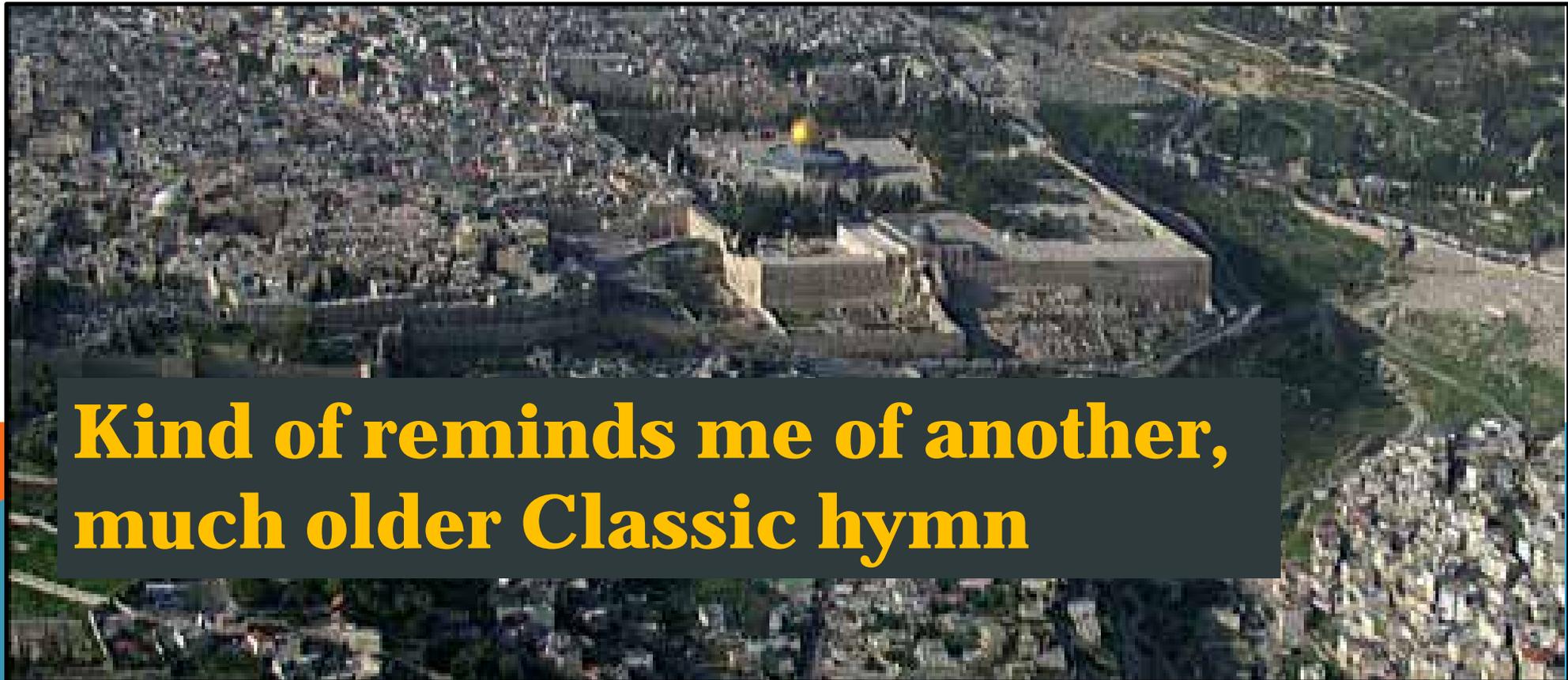
has to do with the heart

and how you view your future



5:40-42 Daily Proclaimed

42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.



**Kind of reminds me of another,
much older Classic hymn**

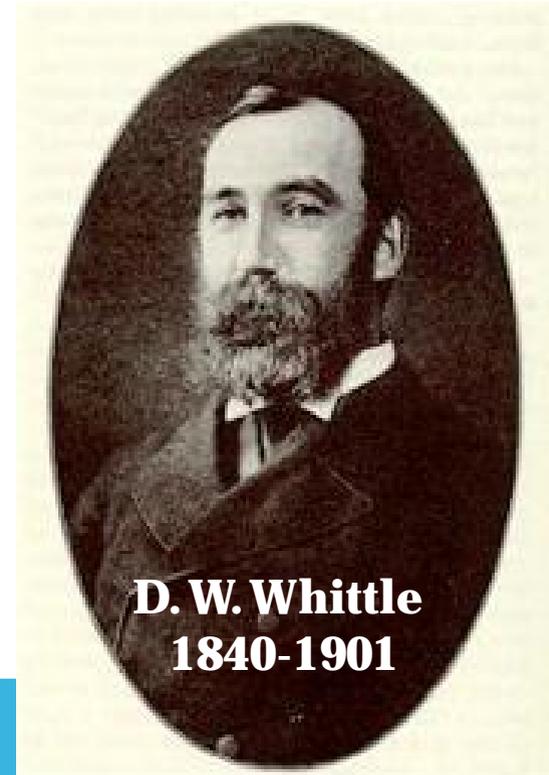


~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Major Danial Webster Whittle

**“I know not why God's wondrous grace” in 1883
... also known as “I whom I have believed”**

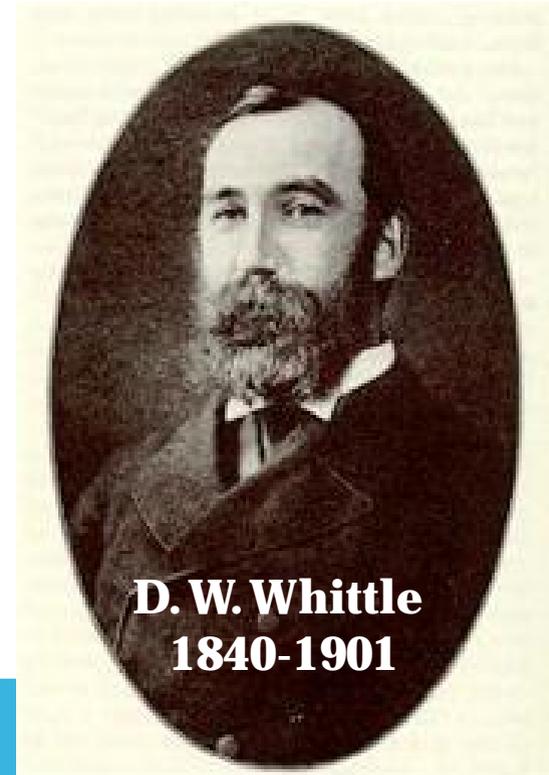
- ü Also wrote under pseudonym, El Nathan**
- ü Also wrote “Showers of blessings”**
- ü Served with Gen. Sherman in Civil War**
- ü Married the day before he left**
- ü Wounded and lost arm ... then POW**



~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Major Danial Webster Whittle

- ü **Bored, found a N.T. his mother had placed**
- ü **Confessed Christ at foot of wounded soldier
... who shortly died**
- ü **Settled in Chicago, worked with D.L. Moody**
- ü **Wrote over 200 hymns ... including this**
- ü **“I know not why God's wondrous grace”
... also known as “I whom I have believed”**



“I know not why God's wondrous grace” — D. W. Whittle, 1883

... so with Major Whittle ... and Peter the Rock ...

we, too, can say ... or sing

- 1. I know not why God's wondrous grace
To me He hath made known,
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love
Redeemed me for His own.**



“I know not why God's wondrous grace” — D. W. Whittle, 1883

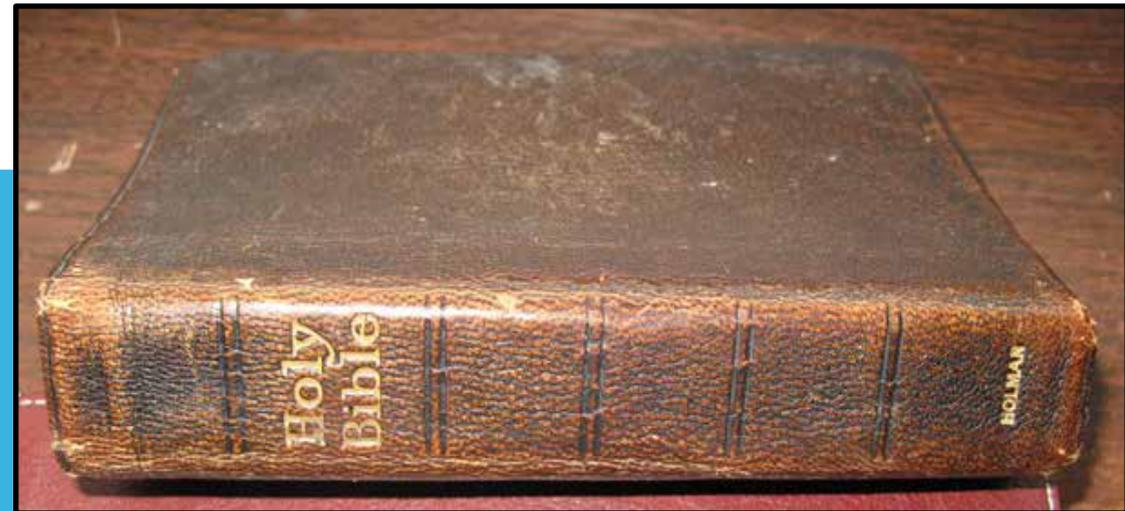
Refrain:

**But “I know Whom I have believed,
And am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I’ve committed
Unto Him against that day.”**



“I know not why God's wondrous grace” — D. W. Whittle, 1883

**2. I know not how this saving faith
To me He did impart,
Nor how believing in His Word
Wrought peace within my heart.**



“I know not why God's wondrous grace” — D. W. Whittle, 1883

**3. I know not how the Spirit moves,
Convincing men of sin,
Revealing Jesus through the Word,
Creating faith in Him.**



“I know not why God's wondrous grace” — D. W. Whittle, 1883

**4. I know not what of good or ill
May be reserved for me,
Of weary ways or golden days,
Before His face I see.**



“I know not why God's wondrous grace” — D. W. Whittle, 1883

**5. I know not when my Lord may come,
At night or noontide fair,
Nor if I walk the vale with Him,
Or meet Him in the air.**



“I know not why God's wondrous grace” — D. W. Whittle, 1883

Refrain:

**But “I know . . . Whom I have believed,
And am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I’ve committed
Unto Him against that day.”**



An aerial photograph of Jerusalem at sunset. The sky is filled with warm, golden light from the setting sun. In the foreground, a large, dark dome with a cross on top is visible. To its right, a tall, white minaret with a smaller dome at the top stands prominently. In the background, another large dome with a golden top is visible. The city's buildings and rooftops are silhouetted against the bright sky.

as for us,
Liberty or Not
We will Serve God

A small inset image in the bottom right corner showing a church steeple with a spire and an American flag flying on a pole against a blue sky with white clouds.

FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
PreciousHeart.net/SS
... *Click Here*