

- The enemy does not attack powerless Christians or churches.

Acts 5:17, “Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, 18) and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.”

Acts 6:13, “They also set up false witnesses who said, ‘This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law.’”

Acts 8:1, “... At that time a great persecution arose against the church ...”

Acts 14:2, “But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren.”

Acts 14:19, “Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.”

### >>> GOD’S PRIORITIES MUST ALWAYS BE (9) \_\_\_\_\_ PRIORITIES.

Acts 5:40, “And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41) So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. 42) And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

### OUR PRIORITIES ...

1. (10) \_\_\_\_\_ – reaching the lost at any cost.
2. Bible (11) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Faithful (12) \_\_\_\_\_ attendance
4. (13) \_\_\_\_\_ and (14) \_\_\_\_\_ in a world that desperately needs it.

Matthew 5:13, “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”

<sup>1</sup>Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* (838). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House.



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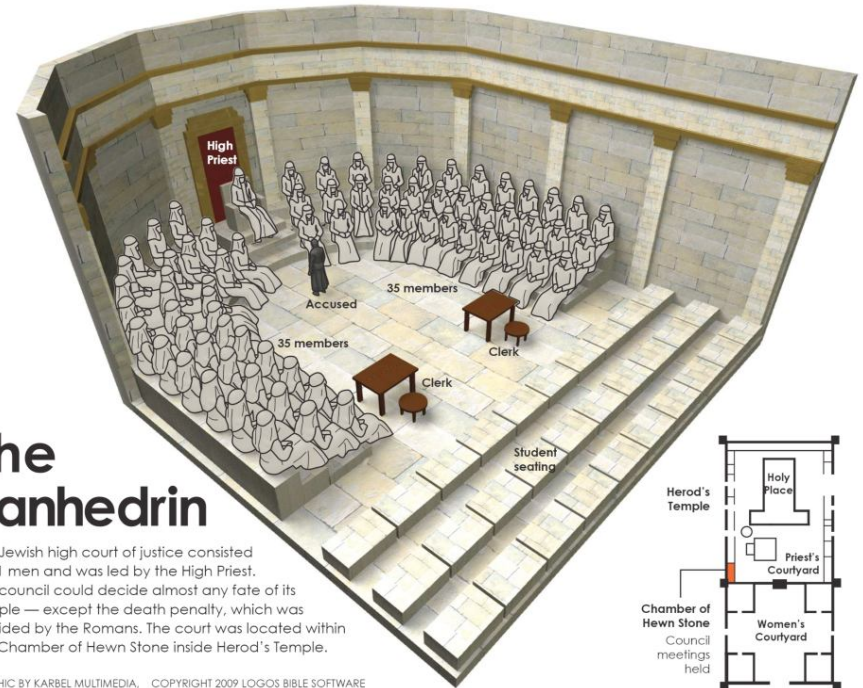
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**Pastor Jerry Johnston's sermonar Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 "The Indestructible Christian" Message #1 in the series, Come Home to First Family Church**

**Bible Text: Acts 5:26-42, pp. 1824-1825 in the Nelson Study Bible**



## The Sanhedrin

The Jewish high court of justice consisted of 71 men and was led by the High Priest. The council could decide almost any fate of its people — except the death penalty, which was decided by the Romans. The court was located within the Chamber of Hewn Stone inside Herod's Temple.

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### Profile of Gamaliel – 5:33-34

>>> His name: Gamaliel גַּמְלִיֵּל [Heb gamlŏꞤēl—‘God is my recompense/reward,’ indicating the loss of one or more earlier children in the family; Gk Gamaliēl].

1. In the Old Testament: Gamaliel son of Pedahzur, leader of the tribe of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ during the census of the Israelites in the desert of Sinai (Nu. 1:10; 2:20; 7:54, 59; 10:23).
2. Rabbi Gamaliel I, son of Simon and grandson (according to the Talmud) of the famous Rabbi (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (founder of the more liberal of the two main schools of the Pharisees, Shammai being the other).

3. Gamaliel was president of the Sanhedrin during the reigns of Tiberius, Caligula, and Claudius, and a teacher of the law (Acts 5:34). He was known in rabbinical writings as “Gamaliel the Elder” to distinguish him from his grandson, Gamaliel II.
4. The learning of Gamaliel was so eminent and his influence so great that he is 1 of only 7 Jewish scholars who have been honored by the title “Rabban.” He was called the “Beauty of the Law.” The <sup>(3)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ even says that “since Rabban Gamaliel died, the glory of the Law has ceased.” <sup>1</sup>
5. It is said Gamaliel died <sup>(4)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ years before the destruction of Jerusalem – A.D. 52.
6. Gamaliel’s counsel was unwise, but God used it to save the Apostles from death. The fact that the Sadducees listened to him showed his influence.
7. Paul studied under Gamaliel on the steps of the temple (Acts 22:3).

### **GAMALIEL’S SERMON – 5:38-42**

**>>> GOD <sup>(4)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ HIS PEOPLE.**

*Acts 5:38, “And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing.”*

*Psalms 91:1, “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2) I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust. 7) A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. 9) Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, 10) No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling.”*

- **The Lord protected the children of Israel from Pharaoh; Joshua in battle; David from Saul’s ambush; Esther from Haman; Nehemiah from Sanballat; Job from severe trials; Daniel from the Lion’s den; and Paul from multiple assassination attempts.**

*Acts 23:10, “Now when there arose a great dissension, the commander, fearing lest Paul might be pulled to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring him into the barracks. 11) But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, ‘Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.”*

- **The devil does not attack inefficient Christians!**

**>>> GOD’S <sup>(6)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ OVERCOMES EVERY PROBLEM.**

*Acts 5:38, “And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or work is of men, it will come to nothing; 39) but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it – lest you even be found to fight against God.”*

*Exodus 9:16, “But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.”*

*Exodus 15:6, “Your right hand, O Lord, has become glorious in power; Your right hand, O Lord, has dashed the enemy in pieces.”*

*2 Chronicles 25:8, “But if you go, be gone! Be strong in battle! Even so, God shall make you fall before the enemy; for God has power to help and to overthrow.”*

*Psalms 62:11, “God has spoken once, twice I have heard this: that power belongs to God.”*

*Psalms 68:35, “O God, You are more awesome than Your holy places. The God of Israel is He who gives strength and power to His people. Blessed be God!”*

*Isaiah 40:26, “Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing.”*

*Mark 2:10, “But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins.”*

*Acts 1:8, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

**>>> GOD’S <sup>(7)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ WILL ALWAYS COME THROUGH!**

*Acts 5:38, “ ‘And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or work is of men, it will come to nothing; 39) but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it – lest you even be found to fight against God.’ 40) And they agreed with him ... .”*

*Philippians 4:19, “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*

- **God will always test your obedience when He provides!**

*Genesis 22:7, “But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, ‘My father!’ And he said, ‘Here I am, my son.’ Then he said, ‘Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?’ 8) And Abraham said, ‘My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.’ So the two of them went together.”*

**>>> GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO <sup>(8)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.**

*Acts 5:40, “And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.”*