## The Second Persecution

## Lesson VII.

## THE SECOND PERSECUTION

February 16, 1902

Acts 5: 33-42. Study Acts 5: 25-42. Commit to memory vs. 40-42. Read ch. 5: 12-24.

33 1 When they heard that, they were cut to the heart,

34 3 Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in treputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space; 35 And said unto them, Ye men of Is'rael, take heed

to yourselves ? what ye intend to do as touching these

36 For before these days ros: up Theu'das, <sup>8</sup> boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were <sup>9</sup> scattered, and brought to nought.

37 After this man rose up Ju'das of Gal'ilee in the days of the 10 taxing, and drew away 11 much people

after him : he also perished ; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were <sup>12</sup> dispersed. 38 And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone : for if this council or this work be

and let then alone: for it this could of this work be of men, it will is come to nought: 39 But if it is be of God, ye is cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to is fight against God. 40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles. I' and beaten *them*, they com-manded that they should not speak in the name of Je'sus, and let them go.

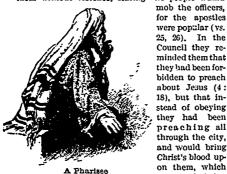
41 18 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejolcing that they were counted worthy to suffer 19 shame for his name.

42 And <sup>20</sup>daily in the temple, <sup>21</sup> and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Je'sus <sup>22</sup> Christ.

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## **EXPLANATION**

Connection-Many miracles were wrought by the apostles, and the Church prospered greatly (5: 12-16). Her rapid growth awakened cnmity, a second persecution followed through the envy of the High Priest and his fellow Sadducees, and all the apostles were arrested and put in prison (vs, 17, 18). Being set free by an angel that night, early in the morning they retuined to the Temple, to the utter astonishment of the rulers (vs. 19-24), who, hearing that the apostles were in the Temple, sent officers to bring them without violence, fearing 'he people would



The fringes are to keep in mind the com. Was an admission mandments of the Law of their guilt and

fear (vs. 27, 28). But Peter again replied that Jesus, whom they had crucified, was Lord and Saviour, and they must be loyal to his command. (Vs. 29-32. Compare 4:19, 20.)

33. Cut to the heart; literally, "were sawn asunder with rage," to which a guilty conscience gave added pain. Took counsel; to kill them, as they had killed Jesus, their Master.

34. Then stood there up one; a remarkable man. A Pharisee. The Pharisees were a zealous, self-righteous Jewish sect. They were not so opposed to the disciples as were the Sadducees, the other great Jewish sect. They opposed Jesus because

He opposed their political views ; but they did not see anything political in the teaching of the disciples. But the Sadducces disliked the teaching of the resurrection (23:8). Gamaliel; the grandson of the famous Rabbi Hillel, and the teacher of Paul (22:3). He was afterwards president of the Sanhedrim. A doctor; a teacher of expounder of the Mosaic law. Had in reputation ; esteemed for his learning and good sense. To put the men forth (Rev. Ver.). A Rabbi would hardly call them "apostles" as in the Authorized Version.

85-87. Take heed; be careful what you are doing and act with due deliberation. Before these days.etc. He cites from history to show the need of caution. Theudas. Nothing is certainly known of this wild insurgent leader. Insurrections of this character were common. To be somebody; possibly the Messian Himself (compare Acts 8:9). Jadas; a Galilean or Gaulonite (Josephus), who headed a rebellion in the early years of our Lord. The days of the taxing ; the famous enrolment of Luke 2 : 2. It was made with a view to taxation,

38. Refrain from these men; do not try to suppress them by force. Counsel; by derivation means to consult together "council" called together. Come to nought; just as the hair-brained attempts of Theudas and of Judas came to nothing.

39, 40. If it be of God ; then nothing can prevent its success, and opposition to it would be opposition to God. Haply; perchance. Beaten them. It was a compromise. They were afraid to put them to death because the people favored them (v. 26). The victim of scourging was tied to a rillar of the synagogue." The scourge had three lashes, and selected portions of the Mosaic law (Bible texts) were read between the strokes.

41, 42. They departed . . rejoicing. They had imbibed the spirit of Matt. 5:11, 12. Daily in the temple, etc. They heeded not the command of the rulers (v. 40), but went everywhere teaching and preaching. Jesus as the Christ (Rev. Ver.). This was the Gospel for the Jews, for they had long been looking for the promised Christ (Messiah).