

Acts 6:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

Analysis

Opposition arose from 'the synagogue of the Libertines' (freedmen, possibly former slaves) and various Diaspora groups. 'Disputing with Stephen' indicates attempted debate. When argument failed, they resorted to false accusation. Intellectual defeat often produces violent reaction.

Historical Context

Multiple Hellenistic synagogues in Jerusalem served diaspora Jews. Stephen's apologetic skill made him a target. These were Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and Asia Minor.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Why does intellectual defeat sometimes produce violent reaction against truth?

2. How should believers engage in disputation while preparing for escalating opposition?

Interlinear Text

ἀνέστησαν	δέ	τινες	τῷ	ἐκ	τῷ	συναγωγῆς	τῷ
there arose	Then	certain	which	of	which	the synagogue	which
G450	G1161	G5100	G3588	G1537	G3588	G4864	G3588
λεγομένης	Λιβερτίνων				καὶ	Κυρηναίων	καὶ
is called	the synagogue of the Libertines				and	Cyrenians	and
G3004	G3032				G2532	G2956	G2532
Ἀλεξανδρέων	καὶ	τῷ	ἀπὸ	Κιλικίας	καὶ	Ἀσίας	
Alexandrians	and	which	of them of	Cilicia	and	of Asia	
G221	G2532	G3588	G575	G2791	G2532	G773	
συζητοῦντες	τῷ	Στεφάνῳ					
disputing	which	with Stephen					
G4802	G3588	G4736					

Additional Cross-References

Acts 15:41 (Parallel theme): And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

Acts 23:34 (Parallel theme): And when the governor had read the letter, he asked of what province he was. And when he understood that he was of Cilicia;

Acts 22:3 (Parallel theme): I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

Acts 15:23 (Parallel theme): And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

Matthew 27:32 (Parallel theme): And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.

Acts 19:10 (Parallel theme): And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

Acts 16:6 (Parallel theme): Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

Acts 21:27 (Parallel theme): And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him,

Acts 18:24 (Parallel theme): And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

Mark 13:9 (Parallel theme): But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.