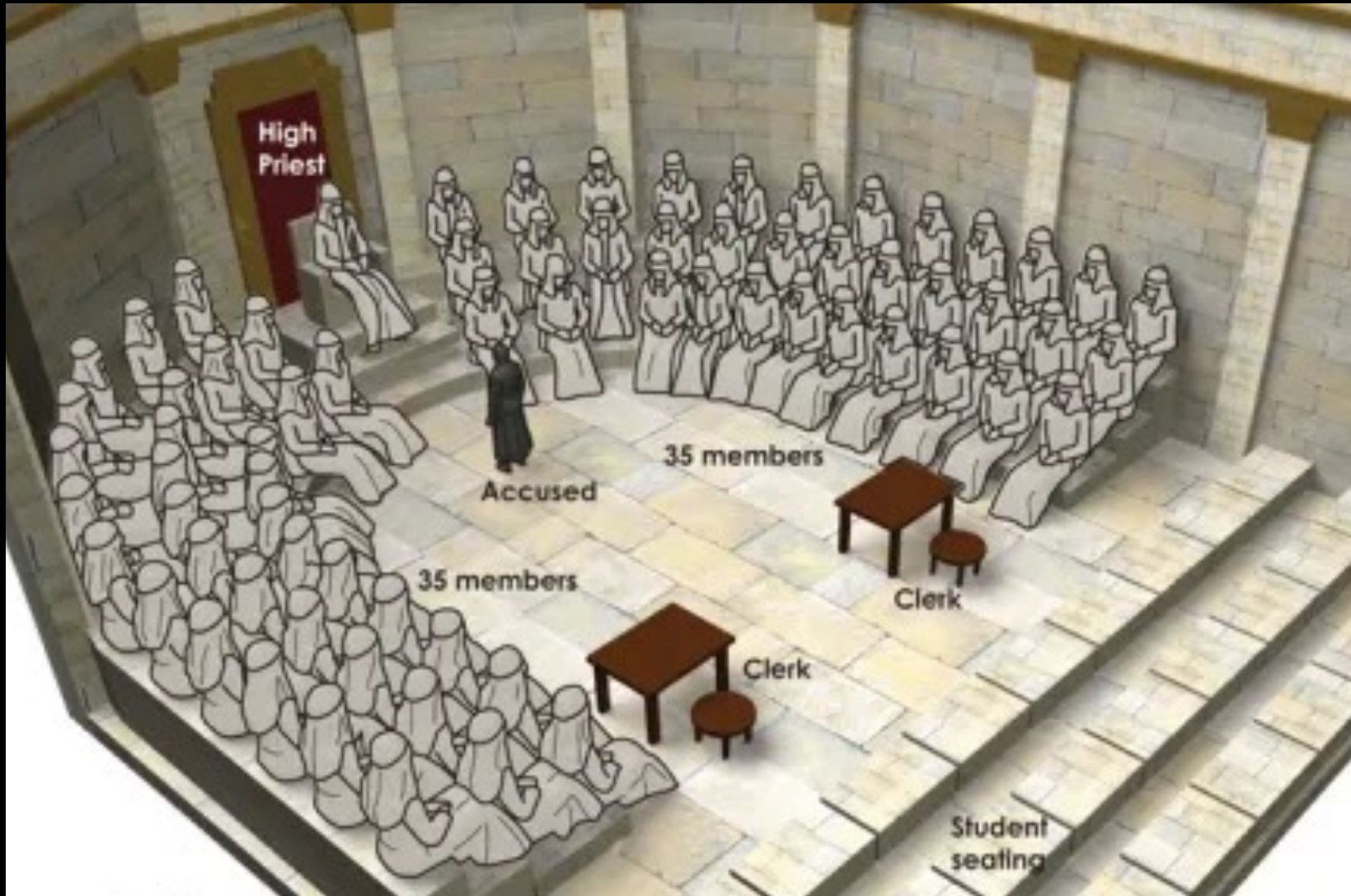


Facing Persecution

Acts 7:54-8:3

But they could not stand up against
the wisdom the Spirit gave him as
he spoke. – Acts 6:10

The Sanhedrin



You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors... Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him—you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it. — Acts 7:51-53


When the members of the
Sanhedrin heard this, they were
furious and gnashed their teeth at
him. – Acts 7:54

They will throw them into the
blazing furnace, where there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth.
– Matthew 13:42

But Stephen, **full of the Holy Spirit**,
looked up to heaven and saw the
glory of God, and Jesus standing at
the right hand of God. – Acts 7:55

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit,
looked up to heaven and saw the
glory of God, and Jesus standing at
the right hand of God. – Acts 7:55

“**Look,**” he said, “I see heaven open
and the Son of Man standing at the
right hand of God.” – Acts 7:56

A dramatic sky scene featuring a bright sunburst breaking through a layer of clouds. Numerous rays of light shine down from the sun, illuminating the clouds below. The sky transitions from a deep blue on the left to a warm orange and yellow on the right, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is hopeful and uplifting.

Look up!
And see hope!

“Look,” he said, “I see heaven open
and the Son of Man standing at the
right hand of God.” – Acts 7:56

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. – Acts 7:27-58





Look up!
And see hope!

Listen up!
And take heed!

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. – Acts 7:27-58

“The drop from the stoning place was twice the height of a man. It was a cliff of about 10 feet plus. Rocks below. One of the witnesses pushes the criminal off from behind so he falls face forward onto the rocks. Then he is turned over on his back. If he dies from the fall, that is sufficient. If not, the second witness takes a large stone and drops it on his heart. If this cause death, it is sufficient. If not, all the congregation of Israel then stones him.” - *Mishna*

While they were stoning him,
Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus,
receive my spirit.” – Acts 7:59



Doctor, you are wrong. The best days of my life are yet to come because I shall see my Saviour in his beauty and glory.

Someday you will read in the papers that DL Moody of East Northfield is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now; I shall have gone up higher, that is all, out of this old clay apartment into a house that is immortal – body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned like unto His glorious body.



Look up!
And see hope!
Listen up!
And take heed!





God, I pray Thee, light these idle sticks of my life, and may I burn for Thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life, but a full one, like you, Lord Jesus. – Jim Elliot



Look up!
And see hope!
Listen up!
And take heed!