

### ~ANANIAS 1 (81)

(An-a-ni'as) [Greek form of the Hebrew name Hananiah, meaning Yehowah Has Shown Favor, Yehowah Has Been Gracious]

- A member of the early Christian congregation of Jerusalem. Following Pentecost of 33 C.E. the physical needs of the believers who remained in Jerusalem were cared for by mutual assistance among the Christians. A common fund was set up for this purpose. It was sustained by contributions representing the price of fields and houses sold by members of the congregation and then voluntarily donated.
- In fact, there was not one in need among them, for all those who were possessors of fields or houses would sell them and bring the values of the things sold. (Acts of Apostles 4:34)
- And they would deposit them at the feet of the apostles. In turn distribution would be made to each one, just as he would have the need. (Acts of Apostles 4:35)
- So Joseph, who was surnamed Barnabas by the apostles, which means, when translated, Son of Comfort, a Levite, a native of Cyprus. (Acts of Apostles 4:36)
- Possessing a piece of land, sold it and brought the money and deposited it at the feet of the apostles. (Acts of Apostles 4:37)
- **Ananias** sold a field and, with his wife's full knowledge, presented a part of the money obtained, while giving the appearance of turning in the entire sum, no doubt to gain a measure of commendation and esteem within the congregation.
- However, through a special gift of knowledge by the spirit, Peter discerned his pretense, exposed him as playing false to the Holy Spirit and to God, and **Ananias** fell down and expired. When the men who buried him returned in about three hours, they found his wife Sapphira also dead for having tried to keep up the same false pretense.
- However, a certain man, **Ananias** by name, together with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession (Acts of Apostles 5:1)
- And secretly held back some of the price, his wife also knowing about it, and he brought just a part and deposited it at the feet of

the apostles. (**Acts of Apostles 5:2**)

- But Peter said; **Ananias**, why has Satan emboldened you to play false to the Holy Spirit and to hold back secretly some of the price of the field? (**Acts of Apostles 5:3**)
- As long as it remained with you did it not remain yours, and after it was sold did it not continue in your control? Why was it that you purposed such a deed as this in your heart? You have played false, not to men, but to God. (**Acts of Apostles 5:4**)
- On hearing these words **Ananias** fell down and expired. And great fear came over all those hearing of it. (**Acts of Apostles 5:5**)
- But the younger men rose, wrapped him in cloths, and carried him out and buried him. (**Acts of Apostles 5:6**)
- Now after an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. (**Acts of Apostles 5:7**)
- Peter said to her; Tell me, did you two sell the field for so much? She said; Yes, for so much. (**Acts of Apostles 5:8**)
- So Peter said to her; Why was it agreed upon between you two to make a test of the spirit of Yehowah? Look! The feet of those who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out. (**Acts of Apostles 5:9**)
- Instantly she fell down at his feet and expired. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her alongside her husband. (**Acts of Apostles 5:10**)