

Stephen's Masterful Defense of the Gospel

Acts 7

PART FOUR

Introduction

"the congregation in the wilderness" v38

Stephen accurately states then corrects their wrong view of the temple: vv. 44-50

"the tent of witness in the wilderness" v44

This was to be the "sanctuary," or, temporary dwelling place of God among them.

The manmade structures God instructed them to build were two things: *symbolic* and *temporary*.

"They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things." Hebrews 8:5;

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!" 1 Kings 8:27

Corruption in the temple made by man. Ezekiel 8:5-13

The Lord departs the temple

"Then the glory of the Lord went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim."
Ezekiel 10:18

God told Moses to have the people build a portable tent or "tabernacle"

So He could dwell with them as He leads them through the wilderness: Exodus 25:1, 8, 9

David wanted to build God a permanent place for Him to dwell among His people – the *Temple*.

Psalms 132:2-5

Though He would allow David's son Solomon to eventually build a temple, God made it clear that is not His plan for David.

2 Samuel 7:4-7

1 Chronicles 17:4-5

2 Samuel 7:11-13

Luke 1:32-33

The Israelites understood and believed it would be in the Messiah, from the line of David, that the permanent house for the name of God would be built.

The “temple” of God’s permanent dwelling would no longer be a fixed building made of wood and stone, but a *living temple* built from the resurrected body of the Christ, Jesus:

John 2:19-22

By faith believers are now “in Christ” an eternal unified body, a *building not made with hands*.

Mark 14:57-59

And indeed, the stone temple “made with hands” would be destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D.

Ephesians 2:19-22

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Where is the “tent/tabernacle/temple” of God now?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

If our bodies are the temple of the Lord, then the heart is the *holy of holies*.

1 Peter 2:4-12

Stephen’s scorching indictment: vv. 51-53

The Golden Calf Idolatry

Exodus 32:7-9

The Command to Leave Sinai

Exodus 33:1-5

Jesus exposes and excoriates the lies and hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees:

Matthew 23:29-35

1 Thessalonians 2:14-16