

The Promise

1. God's Promise Is the Basis for God's People.
2. The Land Is Connected to the Covenant of Circumcision.
3. He Will Restore His People to Right Worship.

Stephen is falsely accused of speaking against Moses, God, the temple, and the law. In his response he summarizes the history of God's people to show that it is his opponents who have rejected the God of Abraham and His promised Messiah. He counters their false narrative with the truth of God's merciful provision for His people. How do we understand this biblical narrative? Do we worship God in Spirit and Truth through Christ or attempt to cobble together enough good works that we might somehow be acceptable to the Holy God?

Luke 24: 13 – 27

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

Acts records God’s faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit’s direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

Taking Gathered Worship Home

We need to be reminded of the wonders of God. Hearing and recounting His faithfulness in saving us enables us to see Christ properly as our rescuing King. It puts in context all His commands as loving care for us rather than onerous requirements. We will be looking at some of the songs from Psalms singing about these realities.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ Acts 7:1-16; Luke 24:13-27; Psalm 27:4. DISCUSS, What does it mean that Jesus is the Christ? Why does that bother so many of the Jews? How does Christ fulfill all the law and the prophets? How are you (we) serving Christ? PRAY for God to enable us to serve Him and one another well. Ask God to give our deacons and elders wisdom and strength.

Sunday Evening

In lieu of the evening worship service tonight, please set apart some time to pray for God to bring repentance and renewal to us at FCCW and throughout His Church.

Monday

READ Acts 7:1-16; Genesis 17:1-11; Psalms 15 and 27. DISCUSS, How does this summary of salvation history help us to understand God's promise to His people? What did circumcision accomplish? Why was it important? How do we dwell in the house of God? PRAY, "Lord Jesus, thank You for Your promise to Your people. Thank You for securing it. Teach us to serve You faithfully as our King."

Tuesday

READ Acts 7:1-16; Hebrews 11:1-12:2; Psalms 42 and 43. DISCUSS, What is faith? What is the Psalmist's hope? How does one approach the holy hill? Why? How do we please God? PRAY, "Jesus, You are our only Hope, our Salvation. Give us voice and joy with which to praise You as our Lord and King."

Wednesday

READ Acts 7:1-16; Genesis 15:9-21; Psalm 84:1-12. DISCUSS, Who was supposed to pass through the pieces? Who did? Why? What is the point of dwelling in the land? How is that related to dwelling in His house? PRAY, "Lord, You have gone to prepare a place for us to dwell. Help us to long to be with You as You have promised."

Thursday

READ Acts 7:1-16; Psalms 122 and 134. DISCUSS, How does the Psalmist's understanding of the holy place and our being the temple of the Holy Spirit affect your view of how we ought to be holy? What are you repenting of today? PRAY, "Lord, teach us to trust You and obey You faithfully as our rightful King."

Friday

READ Acts 7:1-16; Luke 24:13-27; Psalm 27:4. How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? BONUS: How does that relate to **Psalms 147** and **150**? REJOICE if Christ has counted you as part of His own! PRAY for renewal in the Church and revival in our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow.

READ Acts 7:1-60; Hebrews 11:1-12:2. Invite others to watch the *live-stream service* with you tomorrow. Pray for Christ to grant us obedience.

Psalm 27: 4

One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.