

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO ISRAEL?

Why do the people of God have a history of thrusting out the ones God has sent? Is it the message or what is in the hearts of the listeners?

They turned back to Egypt.

Acts 7: 39 To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt, (Matthew 23:31)

Stephen reminded the council that even Moses was originally rejected by the Israelites, not because of the miracles, nor even because he was sent by God, but because their hearts had turned back to Egypt.

We don't know.

40 Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

The weakness of humans is to make gods that we like instead of letting God be God. The elders knew where Moses went. **(Ex. 24:10-14)** They had seen the great God but preferred their own.

Celebrated what they made.

41 And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.

Worship often degenerates into something humans enjoy. In those times it was idolatry, eating, drinking, and playing. **(Ex. 32:6)** People haven't changed much; they'd rather play with something they had made than worship God according to His way.

God gave them up.

42 Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness?

"God giving up" can be compared a parent being exasperated to childish demands. Children often judge parental love as control. A loving parent will accept that label. They choose to worship creation instead of the Creator.

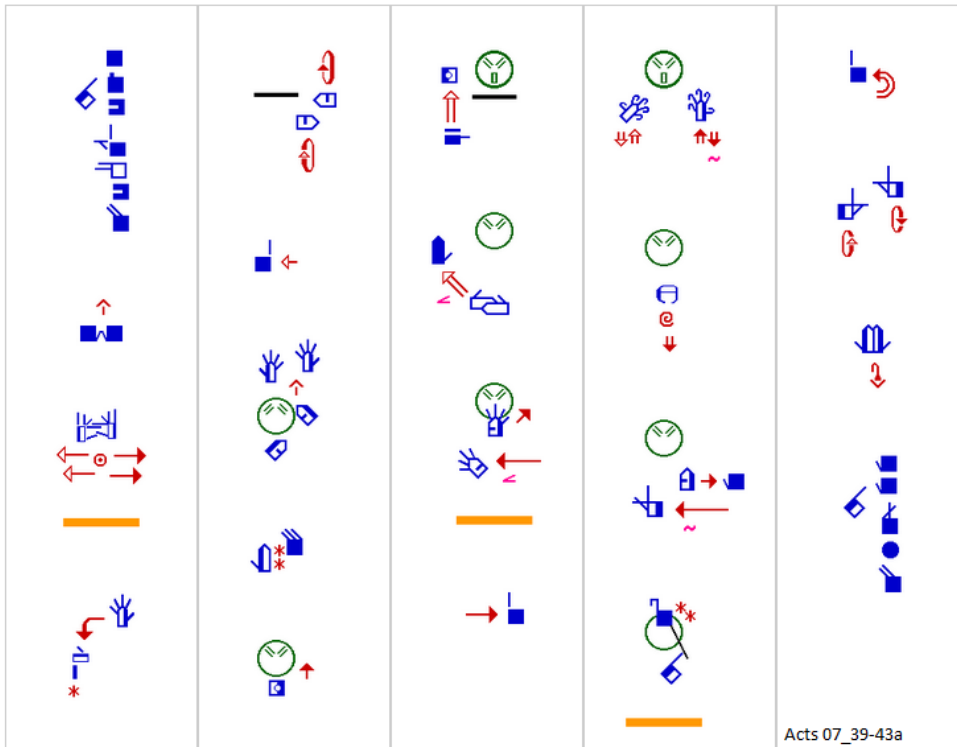
Carried beyond Babylon.

43 Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon. (Acts 19:24)¹

The people hid their idolatry, but God saw their tabernacles. Like Adam & Eve they had to leave the home that God had made for them. Soon, because of their rejection of Jesus Christ, the Jews would be expelled from Jerusalem.

Stephen's message made it impossible for Judaism to absorb Christianity.

¹ It was customary for the idolaters of all nations to carry images of their gods about them in their journeys, military expeditions, &c.; and these, being very small, were enclosed in little boxes, perhaps some of them in the shape of temples, called tabernacles; or, as we have it



Who:

Stephen, council, Israelites, God, idols.

When:

31 A.D., 1446 B.C.

Where:

Jerusalem Wilderness of Sinai

What:

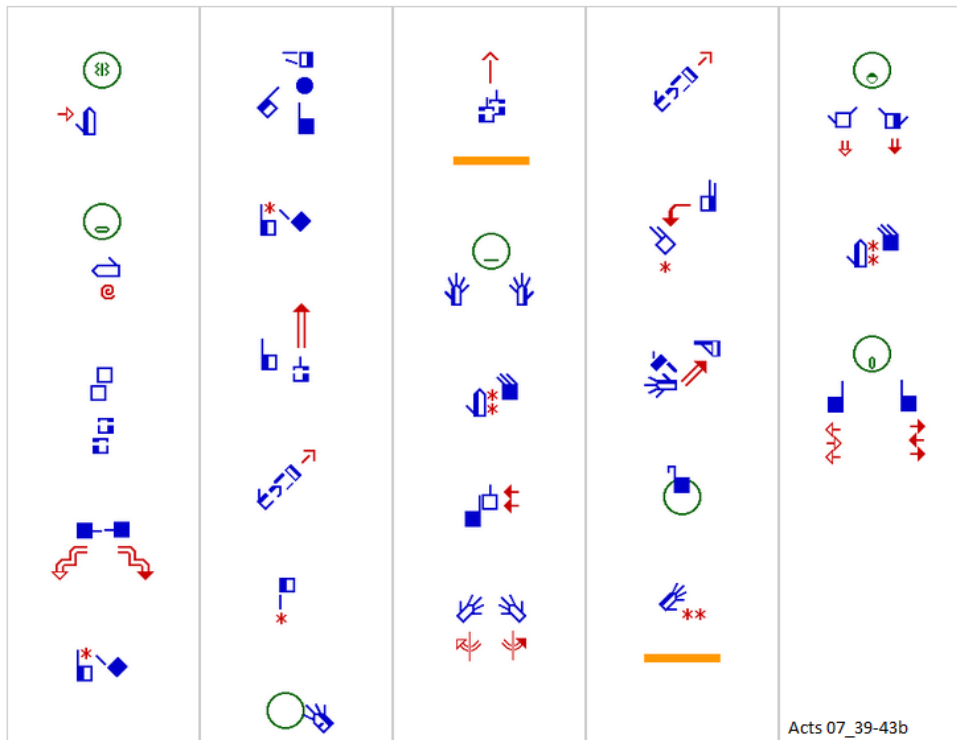
Idolatry of Israelites

Why:

Hearts in Egypt

How:

Make themselves idols



Point:

The Jews had a history of rejecting God's messengers.

Jesus was the prophet that Moses said would come.

Deu. 18:15

Result:

Christianity would develop as a new religion.

