

WHY DID GOD CHOOSE SOLOMON TO BUILD GOD'S HOUSE?

Throughout history men have have built buildings to be the house of God. Why? Does God even want such a house. **(1 Kings 8:27, Acts 17:24, Jer. 3:24, 1 Peter 4:17)**

The Jews had such a building which they revered. It was built by Herod the Great. **(Matthew 23:38)** Jesus said it would be destroyed. **(Luke 21:24)** (ill. The Twin Towers destruction provoked American patriotism.)

Stephen was accused of speaking against the Holy Place (The Temple) and the Law. Even though he brilliantly explained that he was not against those things, he was just saying something greater has come.

ACCORDING (Exodus 25:9)

Acts 7:44 Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen.

If they would remember the words of God to Moses they would have realized there had always been something greater than their temple, because Moses had seen it.

THE POSSESSION

45 Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;

If the tabernacle was the final resting place of God why would David want to build a permanent residence for God? Stephen was implying if the first Tabernacle could be replaced why think that the temple of Herod was so permanent?

FAVORED

46 Who found favor before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob.

The Tabernacle served its purpose. Proof: David wanted to built a temple. **(1 Chronicles 7:6)** God never asked the people to build Him a house. He planned to make His own. **(Hebrew 3:6)**

THE TEMPLE IS NOT THE TRUE TEMPLE

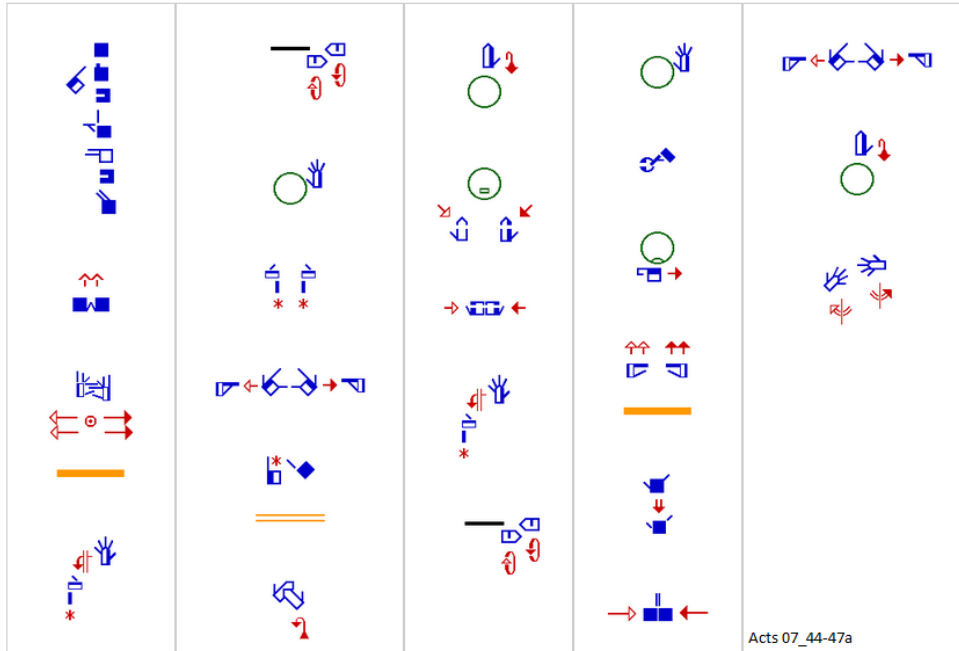
47 But Solomon (Peace) built him an house.

"Tension" The old paradigm was a temple. Solomon's temple was gone. **(Ezra 3:12)** It's replacement was inferior. **Ezekiel 40-48** wrote of a greater temple. Stephen alluded that it was now being built by the the true King of Peace.

In reality people cannot enter the true church for it is God who adds. **(Acts 2:47, 1 Cor. 12:13, Romans 6:3, Mat. 3:11, 1 Cor. 3:16)**

The true believers in Jesus Christ are the temple of God. When they meet special gifts of the Holy Spirit are manifested.

Stephen's, the Apostle's, and the disciple's preaching threatened all that the Jewish leaders possessed: Their temple, their law, their government, their customs, and their religion. Just like Muslims today are threatened by the West's way of life.



WHO:
Stephen, Jewish Council

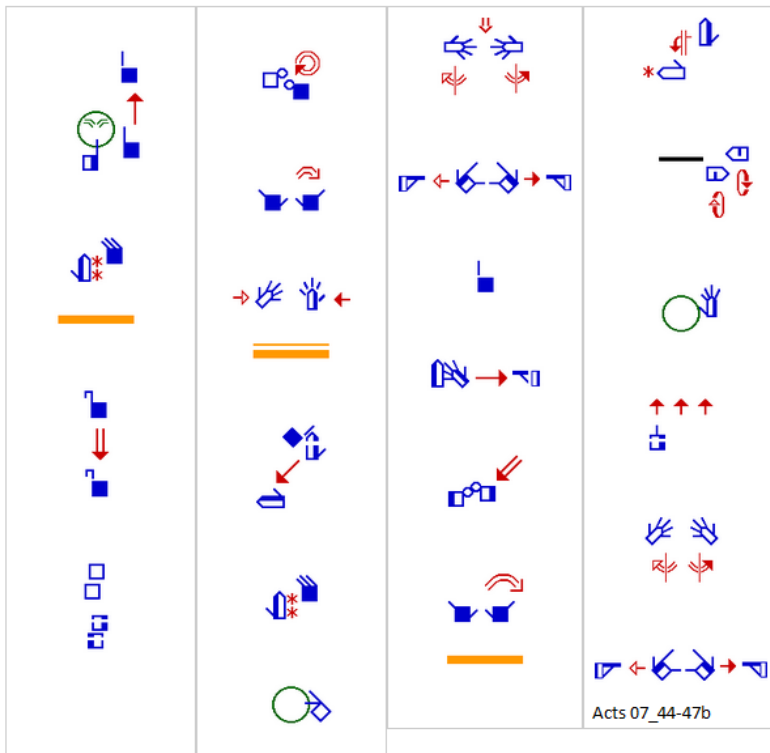
WHAT:
Trial of Stephen

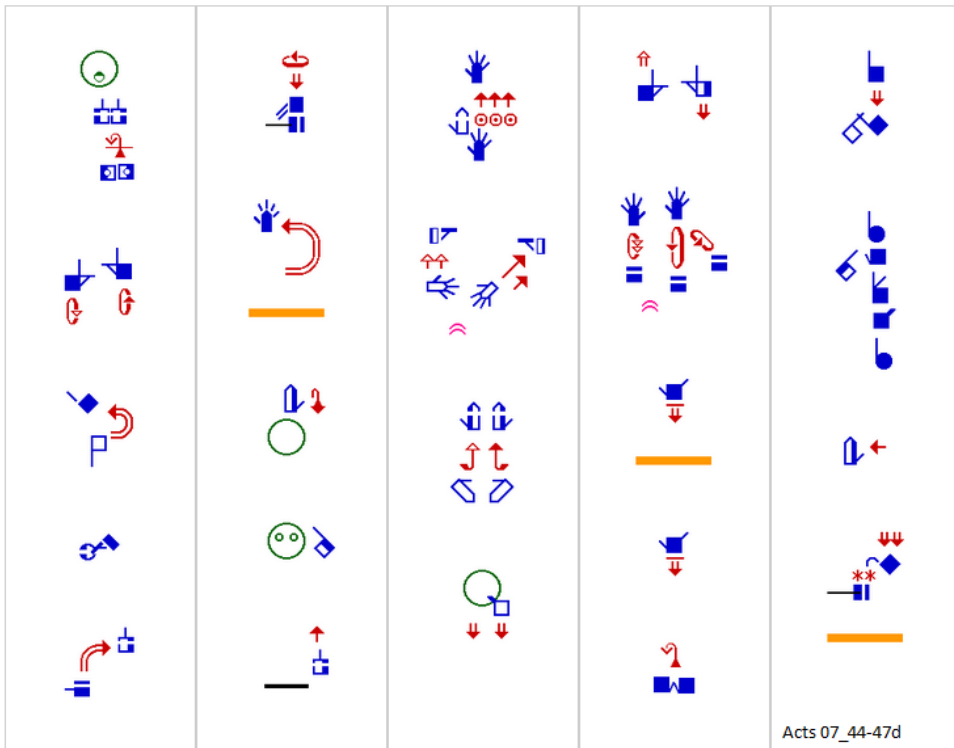
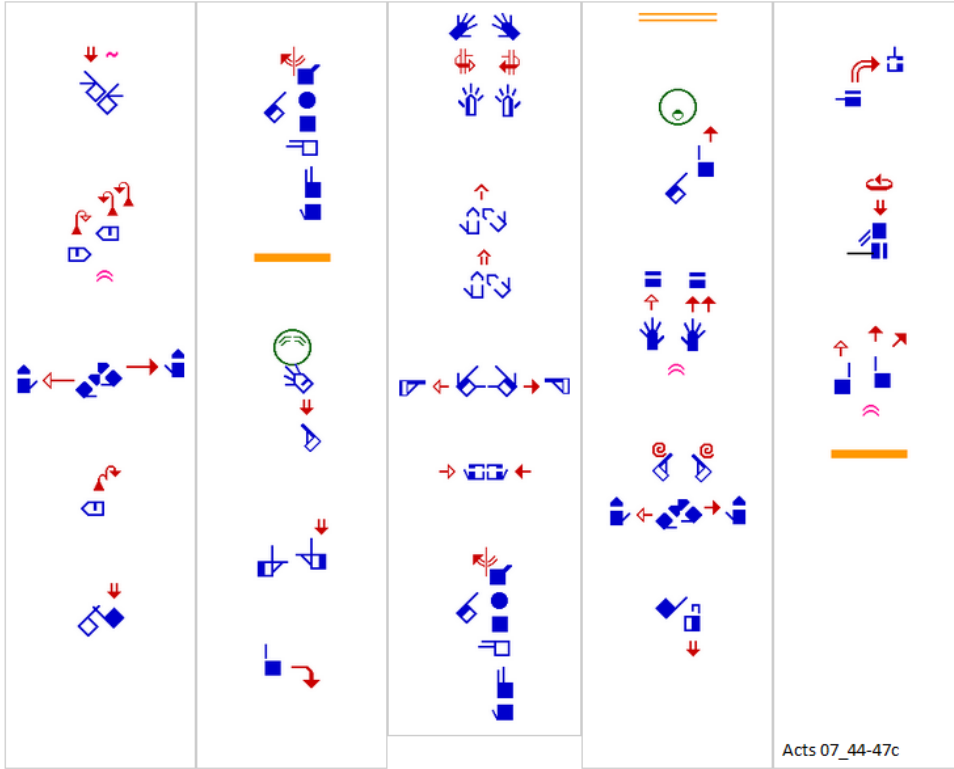
WHEN:
31 A.D.

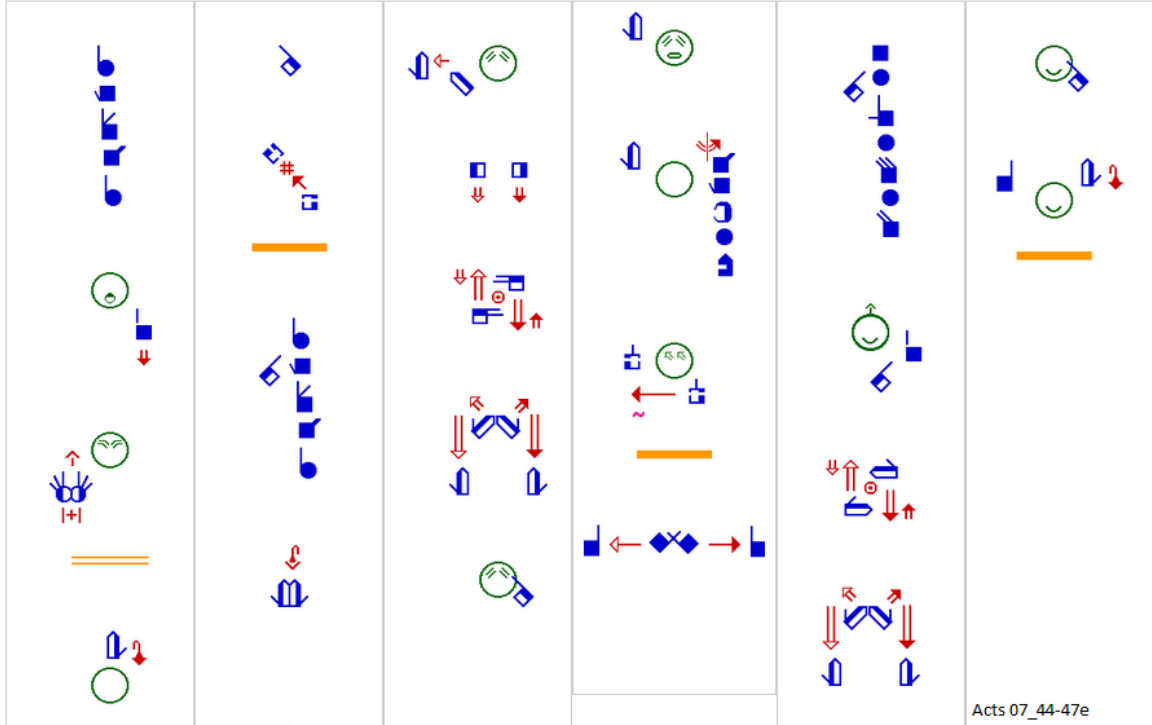
WHERE:
Jerusalem

WHY:
Accused of blasphemy Holy Place & the Law

HOW:
Defending himself before Jewish Council







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