

WHERE IS GOD?

Stephen continues on teaching that there is a paradigm shift in worship because of Jesus. There no longer is a need for a priesthood, sacrifices, or temple. The true religion had arrived. **(John 4:21)** Stephen was expounding the things Jesus had taught His disciples but through the apostles this doctrine was becoming wide spread. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ gave life and meaning to the Words of Christ which formerly were mysterious. However, much of this doctrine was already in the Old Testament for those who would make a deeper study.

God does not live in man made objects.

Acts 7:48 Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, (Isaiah 66:1-2)

God hates idolatry. Anytime men attempt to make a place for God to live in will ultimately fail. The reason He filled the Tabernacle was for temporary purposes and even then He was distinct from the Temple.

God cannot live in a man made object.

Acts 7:49 Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?

God is omnipresent. God does not literally have a physical body but this anthropomorphic description helps us understand just how big is God; He is infinite. Therefore, no one could really build something that could contain God. Stephen is reminding the council that their own Scriptures say this about God.

1 Kings 8:27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?

God is distinct from His creation.

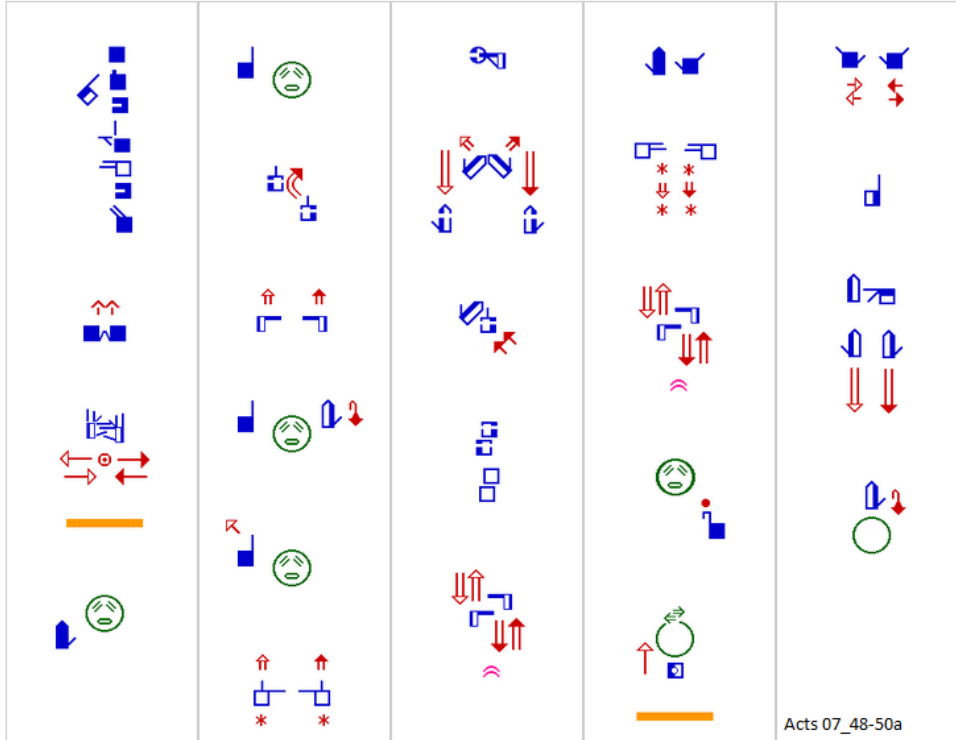
Acts 7:50 Hath not my hand made all these things?

Pantheism is unscriptural. Everything is inferior to God because He has made everything. Man made structures at the most only have symbolic value. The Jewish leaders knew this. They knew the Tabernacle was only patterned after the one Moses saw. They knew that a new covenant would come.

Jer 3:16 And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the LORD, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the LORD: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more.

Jer 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

Stephen testified that what he was teaching was already prophesied in Scripture.



Who:
Stephen

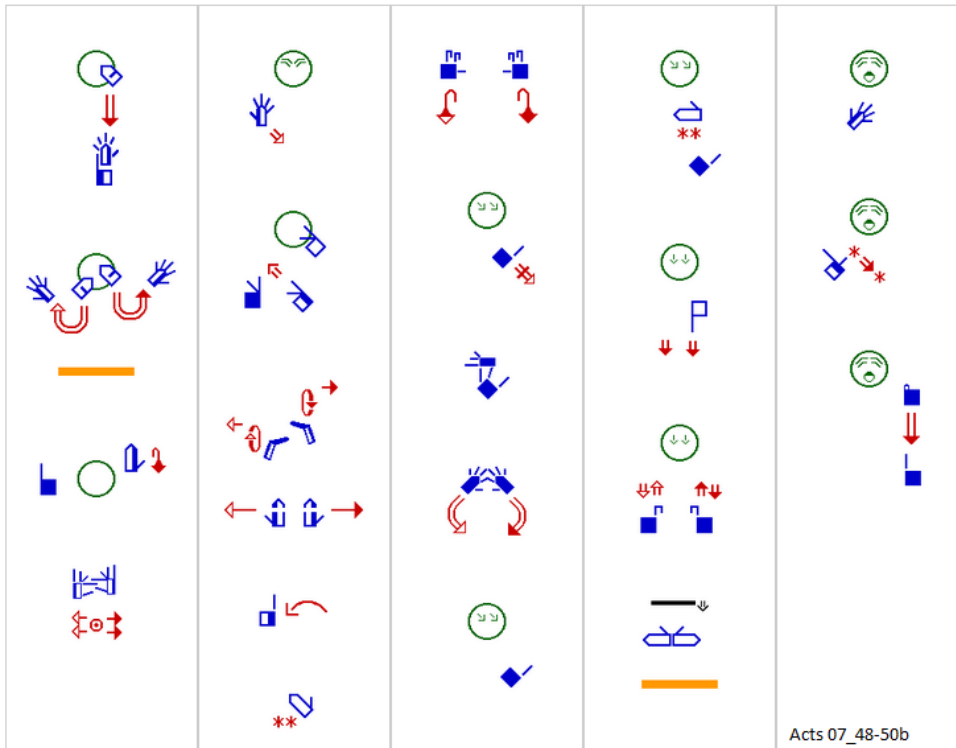
When:
31 A.D.

Where:
Jerusalem

What:
Trial of Stephen

Why:
Stephen is accused of blaspheming the Temple and the Law.

How:
Stephen defends himself by showing the Old Testament predicted that the temple, the Law, and the priesthood were only temporary.



<p>Acts 07_48-50c</p>					