

## Stephen's Defense, pt. 3

### Temple

Acts 7:41-53

Review: National Identity of Israel –

- Land (7:1-16)                                      Law (7:17-43)                                      Temple (7:41-53)

Stephen's Defense, pt. 3 - Temple

41-43 Israel's Patterns: Idolatry / Rejection of Moses

- Golden Calf Incident – Rejection of Moses and Divine Revelation
- Continued Pattern - Idolatry

44-50 Impermanence of the Temple

- Tabernacle – 44-45
  - Made according to God's pattern – God's provision for Israel
  - Temple is not God's original plan!
- Temple – 46-47
  - Desired by David, built by Solomon (after they were in the Land!)
- Inadequate Theology regarding the Temple – 48-50
  - Temple cannot contain God
    - Temple became an idol – built by hands of man (see 7:41)
  - Isaiah 66:1,2 – God is greater than the Temple

51-53 The final prophetic call: repent!

- Stiff necked – See Ex 33:3, 5; 34:9; Deut 9:6, 13.
- Uncircumcised – Lev 26:41; Jer. 4:4; 6:10; 9:26; Ezek. 44:7,9.
- Resisting the Holy Spirit – Isaiah 63:10
- Prophets – resisted and killed by their forefathers – They are doing the exact same thing!
  - See Luke 11:50-51

Point: In Israel, the Land, the Law, the Temple had replaced a relationship with the Living God.

- The Land – Not needed by Patriarchs. – Now we inherit the whole earth!
- The Law – Points to Christ (Prophet!) – New Testament Ethics
- The Temple – Not even God's ideal. – Worship in Spirit and Truth

Application:

- Jesus changes everything.
- Do we have a limited view of God?