

STEPHEN'S SPEECH OUTLINE SUMMARY

Two major themes:

- (1) God always has been active outside the land of promise revealing himself among the Gentiles.
- (2) God's people always have resisted God's plans.

I. Introducing the major themes (7:2–19)

- A. Patriarchal Age (7:2–8)—“Our father Abraham” is the story of God active outside Palestine in Gentile territory revealing himself to a Gentile.
- B. Israel in Egypt (7:9–19)—“Our nation Israel” is the story of God's people always resisting God's plans.

II. Speaking Against Moses and God? (7:20–43)

- A. Moses's Early Days (7:20–29)—Pharaoh was not the only one opposing God! Moses, though divinely appointed, was not even accepted by his own fellow Israelites at the time.
- B. Moses's Call (7:30–34)—In the epoch events of the patriarchal age, look where God is active. He reveals himself outside the promised land: (1) to Abram in Ur of the Chaldees, (2) to Joseph in Egypt, and now to (3) Moses in Sinai. Why, no place is sacred of itself, not even the promised land; it's only dirt. God's presence makes *any* place sacred. Even Gentile territories have been the place of great revelations, places so holy you had to take off your shoes. God always has been active outside the land of promise revealing himself among the Gentiles! Why should that be surprising now? And why should God feel tied down to a building in Jerusalem if a burning bush was satisfactory?
- C. Wilderness Wanderings (7:35–43)—Nostalgic for the honeymoon days of some supposed pure innocence in the wilderness? Israel at Sinai? Why, she made a calf idol! And her sacrifices? Even the prophet said they were deceitful, really made to “hosts of heaven,” the planetary powers, as if she were fooling God. So, Israel's history is defined more by her *idolatry* than by her faithfulness! Even now. The Jesus patterns are present also: Jacob's sons rejecting God's chosen; Hebrew slaves rejecting the royal son Moses.

III. Speaking Against the Temple? (7:44–50)

The “house” Nathan promised to David where God's name would dwell? Never was meant to be a stationary building like a temple! The tent of the tabernacle in the wilderness, *a structure that could move with God*, that was God's presence with Israel, not a building in downtown Jerusalem. Now the dwelling place is Jesus himself, and he is on the move into Gentile lands.