

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James

December 24, 2023

Just a recap on what has happened thus far. The Apostles received the filling of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, 50 days after Jesus' ascension.

Peter and John went to the temple and as they entered, they spoke healing to a crippled man that way since birth. They spoke in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth to rise and walk, and he did. A miracle lot of people saw it and heard. The Sanhedrin had them arrested and jailed. A miraculous release from the prison by an angel and more teaching and miracles back at the Temple. The Sanhedrin threatened them to stop speaking of Jesus, having them beaten. They did not and the number of Believers grew.

The Apostles and disciples were faced with criticism of not caring for the widows as they endeavored to carry out their ministry. God led them into the creation of a church government allowing for those who would be in charge of the day-to-day function of the communal living, serving and helping those in need.

Seven men were selected to carry out this function that would eventually be called “deacons”. Of the 7 selected, Stephen was one that in addition to carrying out his duties was gifted by the Holy Spirit to bring miracles in the Name of Jesus.

Stephen was arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin where a number of liars were presented offering untruths in order to have Stephen condemned.

On with our study.

Acts 7

Stephen Addresses the Sanhedrin

1Then said the high priest, Are these things so?

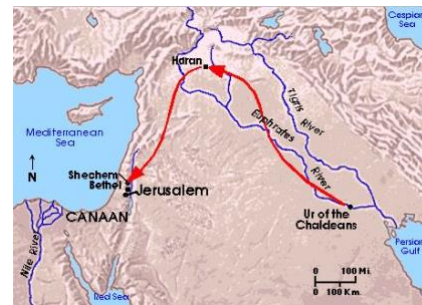
Many false allegations were made against Stephen. It is remarkable that today we call this “cancel culture”. When lies are told about someone to destroy them professionally or personally. Who would have thought that it started such a long time ago? We have seen that the high religious leaders could be easily stampeded with false allegation and in many instances promoted the false words themselves in order to destroy a person that threatened their power.

2And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,

Stephen begins his response to these false allegations by referring to history to the one that the Jews think of as their patriarchs. Abraham leads the list when Jews speak of their heritage by saying; “we are the children of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob”.

Stephen used this term “The God of glory” to counter the allegation of blasphemy. One would not say “The God of Glory” in one breath then blaspheme in his next breath. Stephen also began with the titles; “Men, brethren and fathers” to show a proper amount of respect in responding to the religious rulers.

Charran is actually Haran near today's Turkey, northeast of Cyprus. This picture is the path Abraham took when he left Ur enroute to the Canaan.



3And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee. 4Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence,

when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.

This was God telling Abraham to leave the land of Ur and go to Canaan the promised land. Abraham would leave Canaan and first go to Haran or Charran as it is spelled in the KJV.

5And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so *much* as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when *as yet* he had no child.

Stephen is reciting the progression of their Father Abraham from the time God called him out and sent him on his journey with several promises.

Genesis 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

Promises of something to come sometime in the distant future. It required faith on the part of Abraham. Consider this, you as a Believer has been promised an eternal future with the Creator of the Universe. There is no physical evidence of this promise already visible, it requires faith, just like the faith Abraham was asked to have. Can any of us tell or show where this eternal existence is? We not knowing whither we go!

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an

inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

I heard something the other day that really caused me to think. A pastor said, “it is not the amount of faith we have it is the type of faith we have”.

On that note of Faith, let’s take a useful detour and look at that.

Jesus said:

Mark 4: [30](#)And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? [31](#)It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: [32](#)But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.

The idea of growth of “Faith” in this and similar verses is about the Church (Big C). It literally started with one man, Jesus. His Faith was such that it reached other men and women in such a way as to cause them to have a tiny amount of faith at first planted by God through the Holy Spirit. As another person was added to the followers each was linked in faith. So, it was not the growth of the individual seed of faith but the growth of the number of seeds of faith coupled together causing the Church to grow.

That is not to say that “faith” in each of us does not grow, it most certainly does. The proper type of Faith gives the believer a boldness to share the Good News in Love and Mercy, the same Love and Mercy God gave us when we first found Him.

Ephesians 2: 1And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (emphasis mine)

It all starts with the combining of the God given seed of Faith. If that God given seed of Faith is joined together with others, then the Good News is spread, and more seeds of Faith are planted. As the CHURCH grows so grows the Faith of each Believer. So, what kind of Faith is this Faith that is the right kind of Faith. It is Faith in Jesus Christ the Messiah. Not Faith in self, or faith in

religion, nor faith in a political party or candidate, it as and always will be about Faith in Jesus Christ the Messiah.

Faith, to follow Jesus allows us, encourages us to “walk in good works”. Vs 10 of Ephesians 2 says that we, the people of Faith;

“are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works.”

So, the type of Faith is one that is focused on doing “good works” in Jesus’ name. It’s not the amount of Faith it is the type of Faith that promotes good works.

We have been talking about the Faith of Abram (Abraham), we now continue in what God told Abram what was to come.

6And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat *them* evil four hundred years.

Abram hadn’t even started a family yet, and God was telling him that his lineage would be taken into bondage. This bondage would come about by an evil king of Egypt and would last many generations, 400 years to be precise.

7And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place.

God declared He would judge Egypt and He did. God said that His people would come to what would later be known as the Promised Land and serve Him. That was God's Perfect Will. Like us He allowed Israel to operate in His Permissive Will which led to idol worship and debauchery, and finally judgement.

8And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so *Abraham* begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac *begat* Jacob; and Jacob *begat* the twelve patriarchs.

The lineage begins on its march to the Messiah. There was another strain of Abram's seed, through Sarah's handmaiden and her son Ishmael. Ishmael became the father of other nations the Arab's. Not the chosen people but a stiff-necked people that would hate God's Chosen People Israel. But let's not forget about Israel's stiffed neck approach to God and the Law.

Satan has tried to interrupt the lineage from the beginning and still tries to compromise God's plan.

Stephen continues the story of the lineage of Abraham, to demonstrate that he, Stephen loved God and would walk in righteousness with God.

9And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him, **10**And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

Seeking power over others has always been a ploy of Satan. In this case however: “But God”

Genesis 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

Joseph in confronting his brothers that had sold him into slavery knows that he was protected by God.

11Now there came a dearth over all the land of Egypt and Chanaan, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance. **12**But when Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first. **13**And at the second *time* Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto Pharaoh. **14**Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to *him*, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls. **15**So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers, **16**And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor *the father* of Sychem.

From Strong's Concordance “Sychem”

Phonetic Spelling: (soo-khem')

Definition: Shechem, a city in Samaria

Stephen continues the history lesson to make sure these who were to judge him, knew without a doubt that he was a devout and learned lover of God.

December 31, 2023 IE 123123

17But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,

Genesis 22 gives us a glimpse into the depth of the Faith that Abraham had in God. God told Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac and at the last moment stopped Abraham from doing so. Abraham was proved, I don't think for God's own edification but for Abraham and for us. It would be easy to say that Abraham said he would sacrifice his only son; however, to carry it out to the point of actually moving the knife towards his own son's body to carry out the sacrifice is an entirely different level of obedience out of Faith. After Abraham had done as requested when stopped, God made this promise to him.

Genesis 22: 16and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.

Vs 17 says:

17But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,

Exodus 1: 7And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them. 8Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. 9And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we:

The time of the promise was to have the lineage of Abraham occupy the promised land of Canaan.

Stephen continues with the history of the Hebrew Nation to the Sanhedrin.

18Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph. 19The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.

By Pharaoh's orders all Hebrew male children born after a certain time were to be "cast out", thrown into the river to drown, if the midwives failed to kill the baby males when born. The girl babies were to be left alive. Moses's mother put him in a basket and sent it down the Nile in hopes someone would find him and save him. As we know it turned out to be Pharaoh's own daughter.

20In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three

months: **21**And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son. **22**And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds. **23**And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. **24**And seeing one *of them* suffer wrong, he defended *him*, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: **25**For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.

The Hebrew's had become accustomed after 400 years of bondage to the harsh treatment of their Egyptian Masters. With this latest Pharaoh it had become even worse.

When Moses intervened by killing one of the Egyptians who had struck one of his Hebrew brothers, the Hebrew's did not look upon him as a savior but as a just another problem now to deal with. They knew that the Egyptians would take it out on them, not on Moses.

26And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, **Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?**

After dispatching the Egyptian soldier, the day before, Moses sees one Hebrew slave attacking another. He intervenes and

chastises the Hebrew for attacking his brethren. The response is not what Moses expected.

27But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us? 28Wilt thou kill me, as thou diddest the Egyptian yesterday? 29Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Midian, where he begat two sons.

Moses attempt to intervene on behalf of his brethren the Hebrews did not go as planned. When they rejected his attempt at protecting them, he saw that both sides would be against him, so he fled.

The last thing Moses wanted in his flesh was to go back to Egypt but that was going to be God's Perfect Will for Moses. Would Moses walk in God's Perfect Will or in His Permissive Will and refuse to go?

30And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush. 31When Moses saw *it*, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold *it*, the voice of the Lord came unto him, 32Saying, I *am* the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

Just to keep track of Moses's age here, he is now around 80 years old. All the while he was in Midian for the past 40 years his Hebrew brethren were still in violent bondage to Egypt.

Stephen is quoting God, summoning the name of the Patriarchs. Stephen did likewise in his effort to establish his own bona fides as a man who walks with God. Remember Stephen is on trial and is addressing the Sanhedrin and they are going to judge him. Stephen knows full well that this trial will lead at least to 39 lashes and perhaps more, even death. God is giving him the words to speak, but will they listen?

Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold. [33](#) Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground. [34](#) I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt.

Stephen artfully now hands his judges a hand grenade with the pin pulled showing a comparison of the beloved Moses and how he was treated the by Hebrews/Jews and how Jesus was treated by the Hebrews/Jews.

The comparison works like this. Egypt is a type and shadow of sin. Moses is a type and shadow of the Messiah Christ Jesus, and by the Word of God brought salvation from bondage to God's people by allowing them to escape their captors IE sin (Egypt). This was a type and shadow of the real Salvation that was to come from God.

Jesus was the real salvation first to the Jews then to the Gentiles. Jesus died so that mankind could escape the bondage of sin, not a type or shadow of sin like Egypt represented but real sin that effects all humankind. By being set free mankind, first the Jews could worship their Creator God. What did they do?

35This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send *to be* a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush. 36He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

Moses did what he was told to do by God and through the power of God delivered the Hebrew Nation out of Egypt. God's Perfect Will was that Moses would lead them to the Promised land God had promised Abraham. In God's Permissive Will the Hebrew Nation, Israel showed its true colors, just like all of mankind. Even Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land due to his own arrogance.

37This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

Stephen, quoting Moses in prophesying about the Messiah to come.

Deuteronomy 18: [15](#)The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; [16](#)According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not. [17](#)And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken. [18](#)I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

Was Oct 7, 2023, the result of not adhering to God's Word:

Deuteronomy 18: [19](#)And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

The World at the moment the attack and the kidnapping happened immediately said,

“How did Israel and the U.S. miss what Hamas was planning?”

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/israel-us-miss-hamas-was-planning-rcna119335>

This article or any other article written on the day of October 7, 2023, perhaps misses the point that God made in Deuteronomy 18? The fault finding and finger pointing began immediately. It is the way of the world from a non-biblical world view.

Deuteronomy 18: [19](#)And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

It is estimated that 90% of the Israelis living in Israel are not practicing Jews. On the day of the attack the huge peace rally just a short distance from the border of Gaza Strip had

<https://www.eventer.co.il/event/novaparalellotranslate/wCqCL>

The Peace Festival that had over 260 murders by Hamas was advertised as a “psy trance music festival”. Without much more information what would you think the idea is behind a “psy trance” movement? In this instance the abbreviation of “psy” means “psyadelic”

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, 5th Edition •

*“psychedelic /sīˈkī-dəlˈīk/
adjective*

- 1. Of, characterized by, or generating hallucinations, distortions of perception, altered states of awareness, and occasionally states resembling psychosis.*
- 2. Suggestive or evocative of an altered or hallucinatory state of perception.*

“psychedelic patterns; psychedelic music.”

- 3. Of, containing, generating, or reminiscent of drug-induced hallucinations, distortions of perception, altered awareness etc.*

These folks that attended were lauded as the most peaceful people in the world. Does that remind any of you of the hippy era?

I have not found proof of a giant “Buda” at the festival but that was reported earlier. There has been quite an incursion of Buddhism into Israel. It is not tolerated by practicing Jews for Biblical reasons.

“For traditionally religious Jews, engaging in Buddhist practices is a violation of the prohibition against avodah zarah, idol worship, and Jews who become Buddhists are apostates. Jewish groups—ranging from Jews for Judaism to Chabad-Lubavitch and Hillel—spend considerable time and energy trying to convince Jews attracted to Buddhism (and other non-Jewish paths) that whatever they are seeking can be found within Judaism. The current popularity of kabbalah (Jewish mysticism) as a Jewish alternative to Eastern spiritual thought and practices may be traced in part to this counter offensive.”

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/the-jewish-buddhist-encounter/>

The point I am attempting to make is that anyone that is pulled away from God toward an alternative “life” aside from God has or is in the process of committing the unpardonable sin. As God said in Deuteronomy 18:19

Deuteronomy 18: 19 *And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.*

Psalms 10:13 *Why do the wicked renounce God? He has said in his heart, “You will not require an account.”*

Luke 12:10 *And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that*

blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.

From Pulpit Commentary as to what constitutes blasphemy against the Holy Ghost:

“.....they dared to ascribe to the devil what their own hearts told them came direct from God. This sin, now as then, the merciful Savior tells us has no forgiveness. Luke 12:10”

Now, as to the “psyc trance” festival was October 6 and 7th 2023. What better time to celebrate manmade religion than on Sukkot or right after, the celebration of the Festival of Tabernacles. In 2023 Sukkot was celebrated on Sept 29- Oct 6. The day after Sukkot was the attack by the Arabs of Gaza,

The celebration of when God saved Israel from its oppressors in Egypt. Remember it was a type and shadow of Salvation from Sin. So, how does this “psyc trance festival” stack up against the Festival of Sukkot? These folks by the thousands would rather be in a drug induced trance reveling in their own method of escapism than in God’s TRUE SALVATION. And what was the cost?

2 Timothy 3: 1This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5Having a form of godliness, but

*denying the power thereof: from such turn away. **6**For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, **7**Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. **8**Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. **9**But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.*

The several hundred people that were taken as hostages were put into bondage by Arabs. Egypt still makes up the largest Arab population of the Middle East. Egypt also refuses to take in their brother Arabs the so-called Palestinians. Why, probably because they are so evil and bring nothing but trouble with them.

38This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and *with* our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

The word “church” In vs 38 is unlikely in the original Hebrew, it is more likely “congregation” speaking of the people of Israel at the foot of Mt Sinai.

39To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust *him* from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt,

2 Timothy 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

What did all these peace-loving people learn in the desert in their phisidelic state?

40Saying 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. 41And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.

Stephen is making a defense for his own life to his own people. There are hostages today in Gaza making a defense for their own lives to Arab's. Would you believe their own people as well? The Jews and the Arab's are of the same family all posterity of Abraham. In fact, as we fight with others around the world, we are all fighting and making a case with our own family. Estranged family to be sure but not for Stephen. These are the family he grew up with. Fought to preserve and feed. Yet they are demanding an answer from him about speaking about another member of their very own family; Jesus Christ, whom they crucified.

Stephen has repeatedly testified about how the Jewish nation has turned on God, reminding them of what happened when Moses was gone on the Mountain with God. While God was writing the 10 Commandments on the tablets, his brother Aaron and the

whole family were making an idol and turning away from the One that saved them.

42Then 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?*

Jesus the Messiah addressed some of these same Pharisees when He said this:

Matthew 15:8 8This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

During the 40 years in the desert this Hebrew nation that God had freed from bondage (Egypt) turned to other gods, made idols, worshiped creation instead of the Creator God. Their religious leaders went through the steps, saying all the Legal words, but some were only interested in what power they could gain. Some doubted God's commitment to the Law, to their own demise.

Stephen through the power of the Holy Spirit continues to present God's allegations against the Sanhedrin, the very ones who killed His Son.

43Yea, 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.

Like people today, the next greatest thing the people flock to. In the desert 40 years and as they encountered other nations, they would easily fall into their idol worship. God had warned them about comingling with other nations, not because He was a racist or what today is called a nationalist, but because He knew how weak they were, and they would fall into idol worship. Like the saying goes. How are we completely convinced: by the last person we talked to.

Look at Israel today even on October 7, 2023, how they had fallen for false idols in the desert near Gaza? Granted a small group but Israel as well as the rest of the world has fallen for so many false gods like Buddha. How about in our own lives. Hopefully since coming to Christ our Spirit living in us has stabilized out desires and focused them on Christ the Messiah and God the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit.

44Our 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. 45Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;

Stephen is citing the history of the Hebrews from leaving Egypt (bondage) to arriving at the Promised Land with Joshua. In vs 45 the name Jesus is used. In Greek it is Joshua. In this case it is talking about the leader of Israel when they crossed the Jordan, Joshua, not Jesus the Messiah.

They brought their Tabernacle with them when they crossed into Canaan.

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

According to Gill's Exposition the following inscription was found on the pillars called "Hercules's pillars" in Canaan.

"The language on the "Tingitane", or Hercules's pillars, said to be set up by some of these Canaanites, agrees with this, on which they inscribed these words;

"we are they who fled from the face of Joshua the robber, the son of Nave,"

or Nun:"

Stephen continues now from the point where David is King and desires to build the Temple of God.

46Who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob. 47But Solomon built

him an house. [48](#)Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,

This is a prophetic remembrance and one that is fulfilled in Stephen and all Believers from the Resurrection of Christ on. God's Holy Spirit dwells in the hearts of men and women who Believe. Remember God is omnipresent, He is where ever He chooses to be at any instant and in all places at once.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

[Romans 6:16](#) Do you not know that when you offer yourselves as obedient slaves, you are slaves to the one you obey, whether you are slaves to sin leading to death, or to obedience leading to righteousness?

[Romans 8:9](#) You, however, are controlled not by the flesh, but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

[1 Corinthians 3:9](#) For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

[1 Corinthians 3:17](#) If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

[1 Corinthians 6:19](#) Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

[2 Corinthians 6:16](#) What agreement can exist between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell with them and

walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people."

Ephesians 2:21 *In Him the whole building is fitted together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord.*

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 needs nothing built by man; God is self-sufficient in all things in all ways. He has chosen and vowed to abide with man, to love man and watch over him, to fill any who believe with His Holy Spirit.

50 *Hath not my hand made all these things?*

Now Stephen in the boldness of Christ will chastise these feeble religious leaders just as Christ did.

51 *Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so do ye. 52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: 53 Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept *it*.*

Matthew 23: 13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. 14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and

for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

15Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

16Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! 17Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? 18And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. 19Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift? 20Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon. 21And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein. 22And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon.

23Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. 24Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

“Major in the minor things and minor in the major things”

25Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. 26Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

27Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones,

and of all uncleanness. [28](#)Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

[29](#)Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, [30](#)And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

[31](#)Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. [32](#)Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. [33](#)Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

[34](#)Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: [35](#)That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. [36](#)Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

Matthew 27:24When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but that instead a riot was breaking out, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "You bear the responsibility." [25](#) All the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" [26](#)So Pilate released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed Him over to be crucified....

The Stoning of Stephen

*[54](#)When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth. [55](#)But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus*

standing on the right hand of God, [56](#)And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. [57](#)Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, [58](#)And cast *him* out of the city, and stoned *him*: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. [59](#)And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. [60](#)And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

This is a quote from Pulpit Commentary about how it works in God's economy for those who reject Him.

<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/matthew/23-35.htm>

"God, foreseeing the issues of their evil heart, puts in their way occasions which will aid his vengeance and accelerate the time of their punishment. He lets them work out their own destruction by committing an unpardonable sin. He does not force them into this course of conduct; they can resist the opportunity if they will; but he knows they will not do so, and the visitation becomes judgment. To have a man's blood upon one's head is to be held guilty of the crime of murder, and to be liable to make the required atonement for it. So in their blind fury, taking the punishment on themselves, the Jews a little later cried, "His blood been us, and on our children!"

Deuteronomy 32:35 To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

Romans 12:19

Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written: "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, says the Lord."

Hebrews 10:30

For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge His people."

2 Peter 2:3

In their greed, these false teachers will exploit you with deceptive words. The longstanding verdict against them remains in force, and their destruction does not sleep.

Leviticus 19:18

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against any of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James