

The Undomesticated God

Acts 7:1-53

May 19, 2019

What purpose does Acts chapter 7 serve in the early church?

- Stephen answers the false charges against him (6:13-14)
- Israel's rejection of God's messengers and message is shown to be consistent from the time of Moses, even rejecting Jesus
- The storyline in Acts shifts from Jews/Jerusalem to Samaria

1. God's **story** matters (see also Psalm 78, 105, 106)

Abraham David Adam Moses Joseph Noah Daniel

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2. Where is the Holy Land? *"this holy place"* = Jerusalem/temple

Wherever and whenever the *"God of **glory**"* shows up

Abraham in Ur (**Iraq**), later in Haran (**Turkey**)

Abraham had no land, no heir, only God's promise

Joseph was sold, *"but God was with him"* (**Egypt**)

Joseph was buried in Shechem (**Samaria**)

Joseph died with a promise, not in the Promised Land

Moses born in slavery (Egypt), fled to Midian (**Arabia**)

God made a **bush** in the desert *"holy ground"*

BTW the first worship facility was a **tent** !!

God's chosen messenger / message were rejected

David's son **Solomon** built a temple that lasted 400 years

Built in 970BC and destroyed in 586BC by Babylon

3. *The Most High* does **not** dwell in houses made by hands!

God dwells in a community of people who joyfully pursue the glory of His Son, Jesus Christ, and share His love with others
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Life Group Homework

1. READ Acts 7. How many times did God speak or act ____ ?
(God acts to save His people, but they rebel time after time.)
2. The title is "The Undomesticated God." What are some ways that people try to domesticate, tame, or manage God? Are you uncomfortable with the idea God might not be safe?

C.S. Lewis [writes] in The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe when Mr. Beaver tells Susan that Aslan (the ruler of Narnia) is a great lion. Susan is surprised, since she assumed Aslan was a man. She then tells Mr. Beaver, "I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion." She asks Mr. Beaver if Aslan is safe, to which Mr. Beaver replies, "Safe? Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King."

3. Since God is equally at home anywhere in the world, how can we avoid the temptation to think that God is especially happy to be where we live, more so than other places in the world?
4. READ Jeremiah 7:1-8. What did the people trust to protect them from judgment? What could the people do to escape?
5. READ Mark 13:1-2. What were the disciples impressed with? What did Jesus say would happen to the temple?
6. READ 2 Corinthians 6:16. Is the temple of God a building or a people? See also 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 1 Peter 2:4-5.