



*"...and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*  
*Acts 1:8b*

**Where Is the House of God?**  
Acts 7:44-50

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**They Took Up Moloch's "Tent"**

**Acts 7:43 (ESV)**  
'You took up the tent of Moloch and the star of your god Rephan, the images that you made to worship; and I will send you into exile beyond Babylon.'

- " This is the astral idolatry (Amos 5:25-27)
- " The "tabernacle of Moloch" is a Canaanite sun god
- " "Rephan" had to do with astral idolatry
- " Astral terminology is often used of evil spirits as in Isaiah 14:12f

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**They Had Substituted Moloch's Tent for the Tent of Witness**

**Acts 7:44 (ESV)**  
Our fathers had the tent of witness in the wilderness, just as he who spoke to Moses directed him to make it, according to the pattern that he had seen.

- " The "tent of testimony" contained the "ark of the testimony" (Exodus 26:33)
- " See 2Samuel 7:1-7 where God is content with the tent
- " God directed Moses to make the tent (Heb. 8:5)

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**Which "Tent" Is Now Valid?**

- " The tent of Moloch is Idolatry (Acts 7:43)
- " Moses' tent of the testimony was valid (Acts 7:44)
- " Peter wanted three tents (Luke 9:33)
- " God endorsed Christ alone (Luke 9:34-36)
- " Jesus pitched His tent among us (John 1:14)
  - " "The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. We gazed on his glory, the kind of glory that belongs to the Father's unique Son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14 ISV)

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### The Tent Is Brought to Canaan

#### Acts 7:45 (ESV)

Our fathers in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our fathers. So it was until the days of David.

- “ Stephen continues to emphasize corporate solidarity
- “dispossessed” translates **κατάσχεσις** which is not a common word but used also in Genesis 17:8 LXX
- “ Abraham had been promised a “possession” in Canaan

### A Tent and Then a House

#### Acts 7:46, 47 (ESV)

He found favor in God’s sight and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built Him a house.

- “dwelling place” is *ske\_no\_ma* “pitched tent”
- “ Solomon built an *oikos* “house”
- “ See 2Samuel 7:1-17 for David’s desire to build
- “ See 1Kings 8:1-11 and 1Kings 8:22-27 for Solomon’s temple
- “ Jeremiah 7:1-10 = wrong use of the temple

### “Made With Hands”

#### Acts 7:48 (ESV)

Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says, . . .

- “ “hand-made” can denote idols (Acts 7:41, 19:26)
- “ God is transcendent
- “ The claim in Luke/Acts is that God’s purposes are not tied to the temple precinct, but that He is bringing salvation to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8)
- “ The temple can not restrict, confine or be used to manipulate God (see Mark 11:17)

### God Is the Transcendent Creator

#### Acts 7:49, 50 (ESV)

‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?’

- “ Implied answer: Yes!
- “ The temple was a house for Israel where they would meet God
- “ This is from Isaiah 66:1, 2