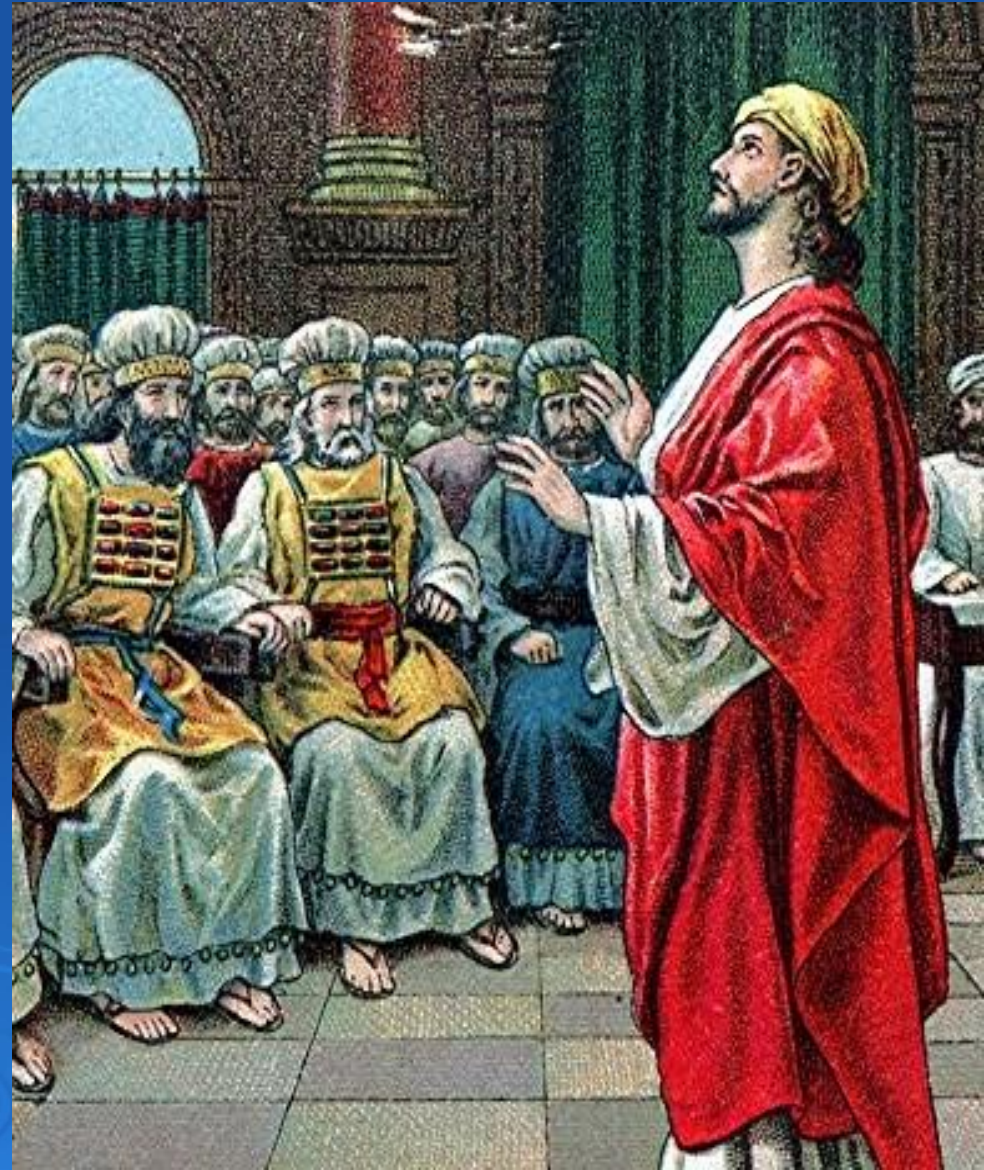


# STEPHEN ACCUSES HIS ACCUSERS

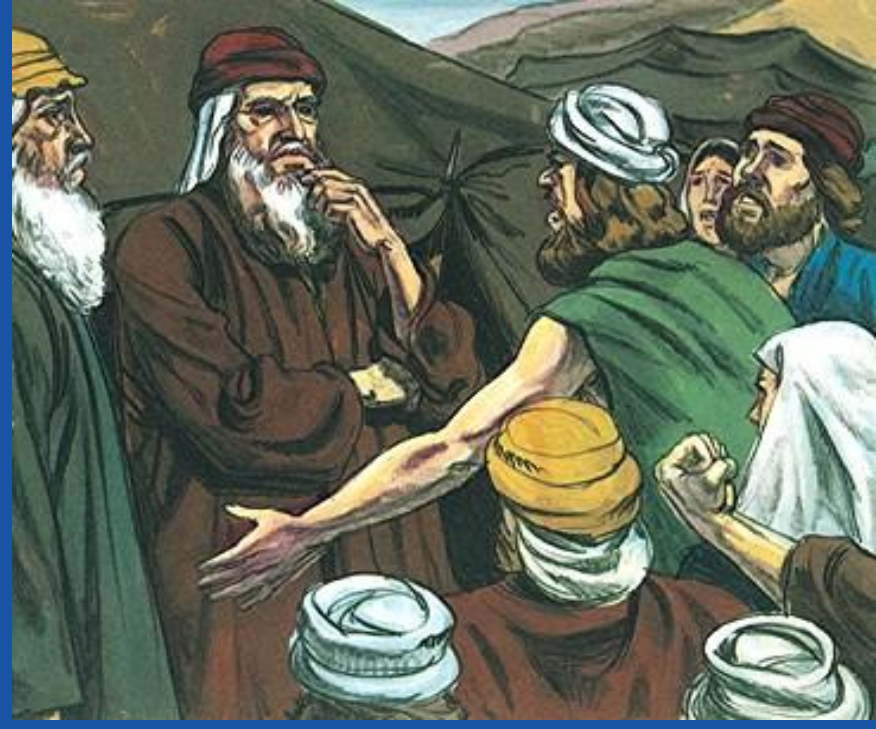
- Stephen's speech will end in his stoning
- History of the Hebrews is about rejection of God's prophets
- Parallels are drawn between Joseph, Moses, David and Yeshua
- Stephen was doomed from the beginning as he was a Hellenist, Samaritan, and a Believer





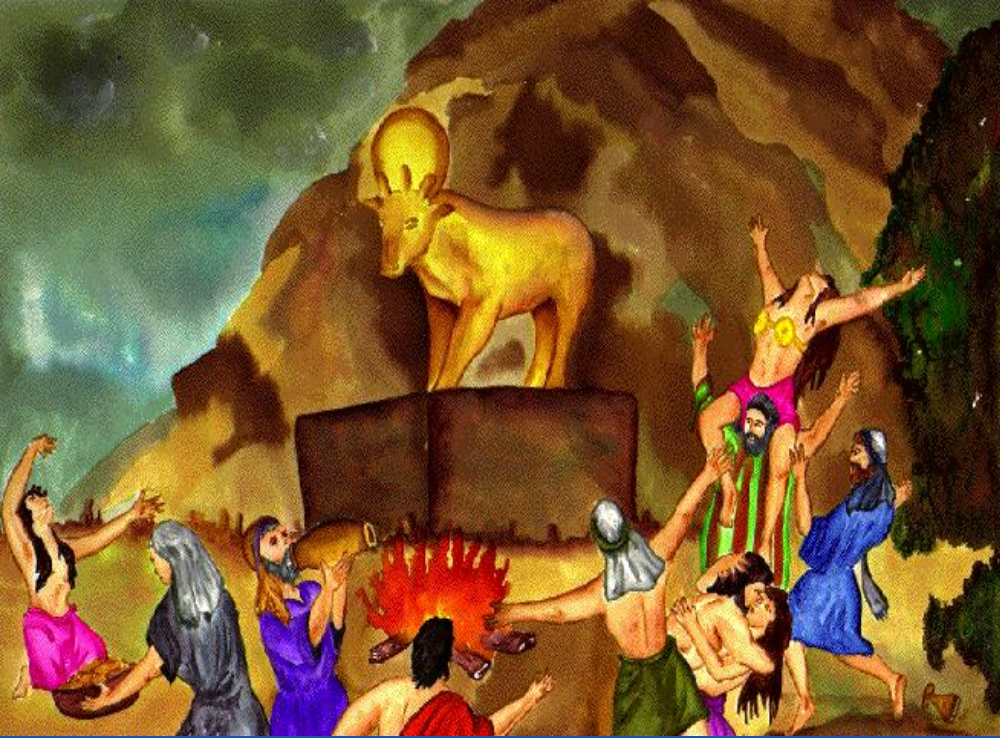
# A PROPHET LIKE MOSES

- Israelites in Egypt would not obey Moses
- Charges against Stephen blaspheming Moses were not against the person of Moses, rather against the Oral Torah taught by the Rabbis
- Deut. 18:15 – 19
- John 5:45 – 47
- New prophet to be more in the mold of Moses than David





# GOD IN OUR IMAGE



- When Moses went up Sinai, Israelites grew impatient
- Crafted their own god from their own minds
- As Church waits for Yeshua's return, many doing the same thing
- Bible whittled down in some cases to only the 4 Gospels

THE  
FOUR GOSPELS  
MATTHEW  
MARK  
LUKE  
JOHN



# THE NEW GOLDEN CALF WORSHIP

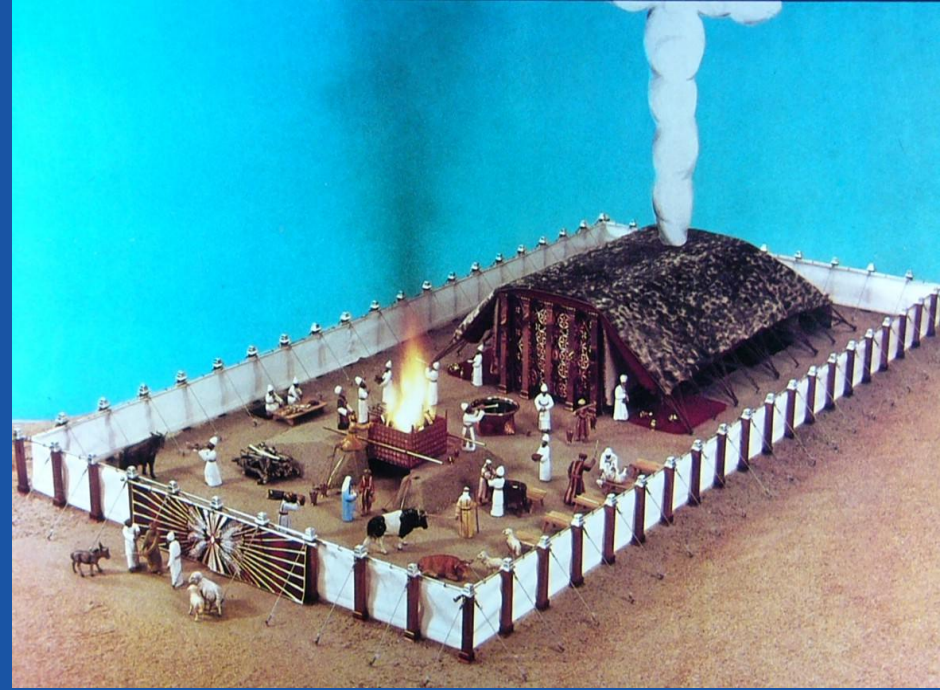


- Too many Christians now worship a God and Savior with no resemblance to Scripture
- Only 2 ways to know God: His Name and His characteristics
- History of Israel and Christianity run in parallel
- Acts 7:42, 43 quotes Amos 5:25 – 27
- Stephen uses Greek LXX version
- Amos's listeners didn't buy what he had to sell
- They believed they WERE worshipping the God of Israel, but in fact it was their imaginations



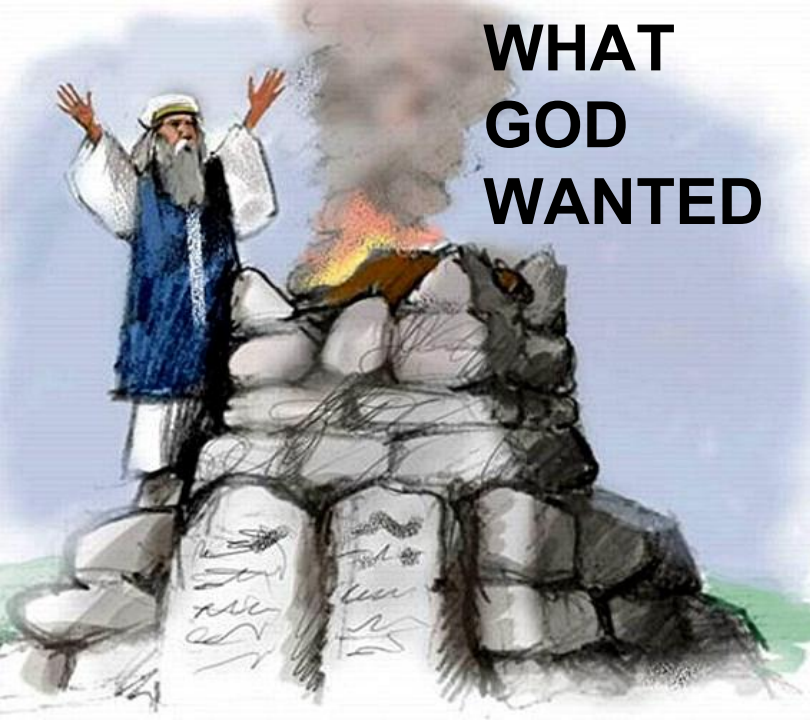
# FROM TENT TO TEMPLE

- Vs. 44, Stephen shifts to the Temple
- God ordered Moses to make a tent Tabernacle
- King David sought God's permission to build a Temple
- Solomon built a lavish complex, mostly for his own pride
- Isaiah 66:1
- Our best is NOT the building, it is using our gifts for the Kingdom as God directs us

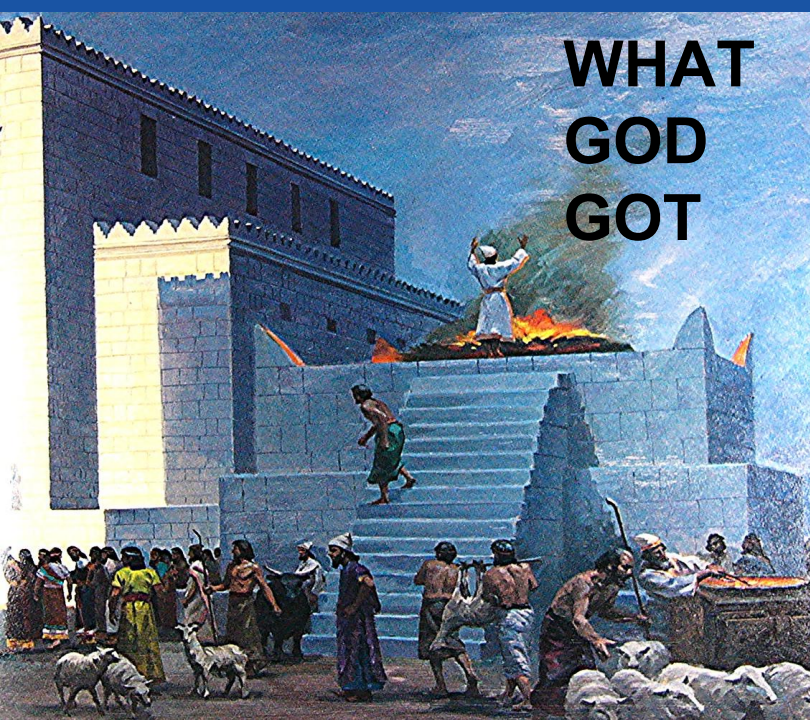




**WHAT  
GOD  
WANTED**



**WHAT  
GOD  
GOT**

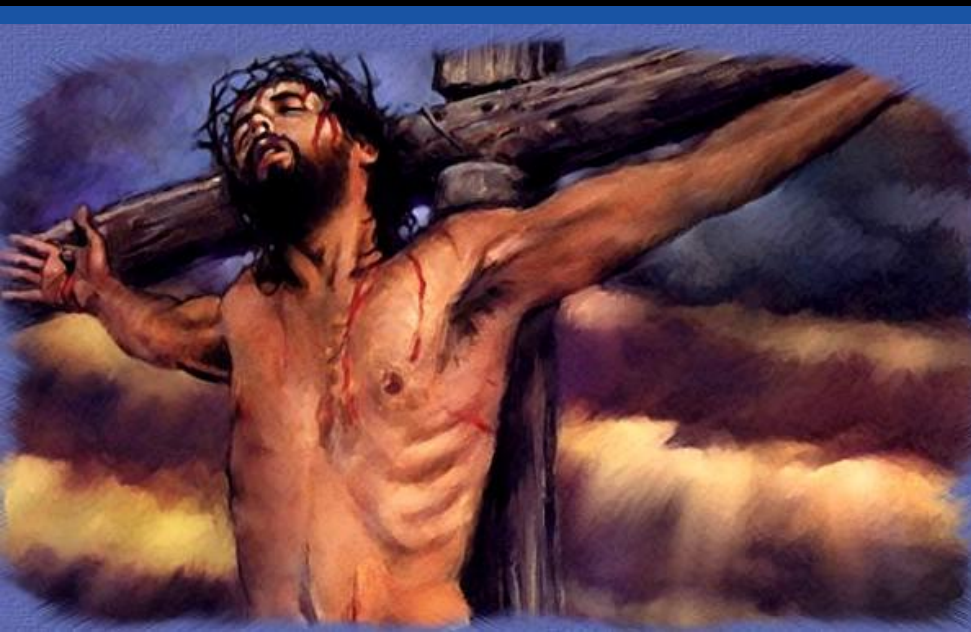
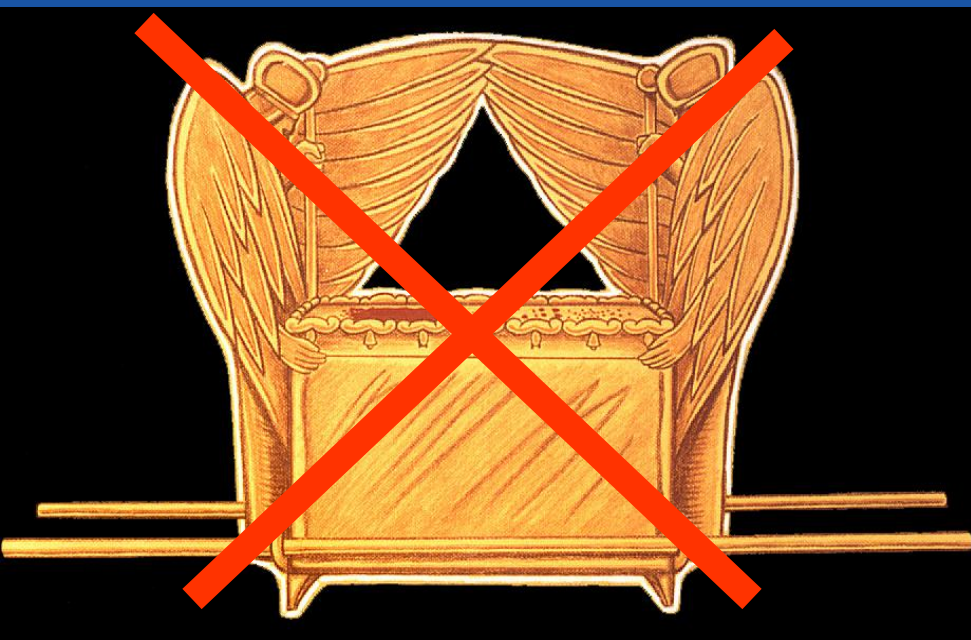


# THE DOWNSIDE OF TEMPLES

- NOTHING made with human hands is perfect enough to entice God to dwell there
- God wanted sacrificial altars of uncut stones
- Ex. 20:21, 22
- Man cannot perfect God's creation; we can only defile it
- Stephen's point: The Temple is held in much too high a regard



# NO ARK IN THE HOLY OF HOLIES



- Ark missing since Babylon
- God's presence above the Ark, so was God's presence still at the new Temple?
- The Temple was not God's idea, it was a human idea
- Stephen says that your fathers killed the prophets for prophesying the *Tzaddik*, but YOU killed the *Tzaddik* when he arrived!
- *Tzaddik* = Righteous One = Messiah
- By bashing the Synagogue and Temple authorities Stephen assured his death



# RECEIVING THE TORAH

- Stephen used Synagogue language
- Rabbis were said to “receive the Torah” when they were creating Oral Torah (Traditions)
- Jews had a lack of distinction between Torah of Moses and Oral Torah
- Stephen’s accusers rushed Stephen outside the city and stoned him
- Stephen’s statement about seeing Christ from Psalm 110:1 and Daniel 7:14







- Stoning was the standard form of execution
- 18 cases call for capital punishment
- Mishna Sanhedrin 6
- Condemned is pushed from high place
- If not dead, stone thrown on chest
- If still not dead, the entire crowd throws stones
- Witnesses begin the execution process



# PAUL'S PARTICIPATION



- Executioners laid down their outer garments at Paul's feet
- Very likely Paul was there in an official capacity
- Acts 22:19, 20 Paul admits his involvement
- This was a legal execution, sanctioned by the Jewish high court
- 1Cor. 15:51 - 58