

YOUR PACIFIERS ARE GONE!

ACTS 7:1-53

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: All the Jews have left to comfort them is the Holy Spirit who they resisted. In Acts 7:51 “stiff-necked” (4644) is hard and proud. Uncircumcised (564) is callous so that they do not listen or obey God’s Word. Spiros Zodhiates, Word Studies in the New Testament.

FIRST: THE LAND—“The land is not the blessing.... The greatest miracles of Israel happened in Egypt, at the Red Sea, and in the desert—not in the Promised Land.” Kent Hughes, Acts, pages 104, 105. (**Acts 7:2-5, Acts 7:35, 36, Hebrew 10:32-39, Habakkuk 3:16-19, Philippians 3:7-10, fn 3:9, 10**) *How can you avoid thinking that your possessions instead of Christ’s presence are the blessing?*

SECOND: THE LAW—By keeping the Law, the Jews thought that they had right standing or approval before God. Their confidence was in their external actions. Our confidence is in what God has done internally by the Holy Spirit, thereby causing a change in our actions. (**Acts 7:37-39, fn 7:38[1st], Romans 6:14, 15, fn 6:14, 15, Romans 7:1-6, fn 7:6[2nd], Romans 9:30-33, fn 9:31-33, Romans 10:1-4, fn 10:3-5, Galatians 3:1-5, fn 3:5, fn 3:5[1st], Ephesians 2:14-17, fn 2:15**) *How is the Holy Spirit guiding your life this day?*

THIRD: THE TEMPLE—The temple is obsolete. It has been superseded by the work of Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross, the veil in the temple that separated us from God’s presence was torn into from top to bottom by God Himself. We now do not have to go to a certain place or building to be in God’s presence or to worship Him. His presence is always with us and our bodies are temples in which He dwells. (**Acts 7:45-50, fn 7:44-50, I Corinthians 3:16, 17, I Corinthians 6:18-20, fn 6:19, 20, II Corinthians 6:14-16, Hebrews 4:14-16**) *How does knowing that you are God’s temple affect your personal relationship with Jesus?*

Pray for one another’s needs.

Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?