

# The First Martyr and God's Expanding Temple

Acts 6:8-7:60

November 26, 2023 | Jason Finley, Lead Pastor of Equipping

**Big Idea:** God's unchanging mission is to fill the earth with His glorious presence.

## I. From the beginning, God has purposed to expand His presence on the earth (6:8-7:50)

**Genesis 1:27-28** | 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it..."

| <b>The Structure of Stephen's Sermon</b><br><i>– adapted from Patrick Schreiner</i> |                                    |                         |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>COVENANT</b>   | <b>GOD'S PRESENCE</b>              | <b>REJECTED SERVANT</b> |
| Abrahamic (vv. 2–16)  | Abraham (in Ur) /Joseph (in Egypt) | Joseph                  |
| Old   Sinaitic (vv. 17–43)  | Moses (Egypt, Midian, Sinai)       | Moses                   |
| Davidic (vv. 44–50)   | Solomon (temple, but more)         | Amos (and the prophets) |

## II. Jesus perfectly fulfilled everything the temple represented (7:51-53)

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| New (vv. 51–53)   | Jesus (all the earth)              | Christ                  |

**John 1:14** | And the Word became flesh and dwelt [tabernacled] among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 2:18-22** | 18 So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” 19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” 20 The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 22 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

**Ephesians 2:20** | built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

### III. The church carries forward God's temple purposes (7:54-60)

**Ephesians 2:20-22** | 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

**Hebrews 8:1-2** | 1 Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, 2 a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

**2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1** | For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Therefore go out from their midst, be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, 18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty." 7:1 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

**Isaiah 66:1-2** | Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? All these things my hands have made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word."

**Christ's body fulfills His mission of expanding His glorious presence throughout the world.**

### Benediction

**Psalms 67:1-2** | 1 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, 2 that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.