



The True Presence of God

ACTS 7:44-53

The Council's Charge Against Stephen

- Charge 1: This man blasphemes against the Temple, where God dwells.
- Charge 2: This man blasphemes against Moses, who interceded with God on our behalf.
- Charge 3: This man blasphemes against the Law, God's self-revelation.



Acts 7

Stephen's Defense

- 2-8 (Abraham, Covenant of Circumcision and Promise)
- 9-34 (Joseph, Slavery, and Moses)
- 35-43 (The Mighty Deeds of Moses and the Constant Rebellion of the People)



[44] “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. [45] 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, [46] who found favor in the sight of God and asked to find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. [47] But it was Solomon who built a house for him. [48] Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says,

Acts 7:44-53

[49] “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? [50] Did not my hand make all these things?” [51] “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. [52] Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, [53] you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

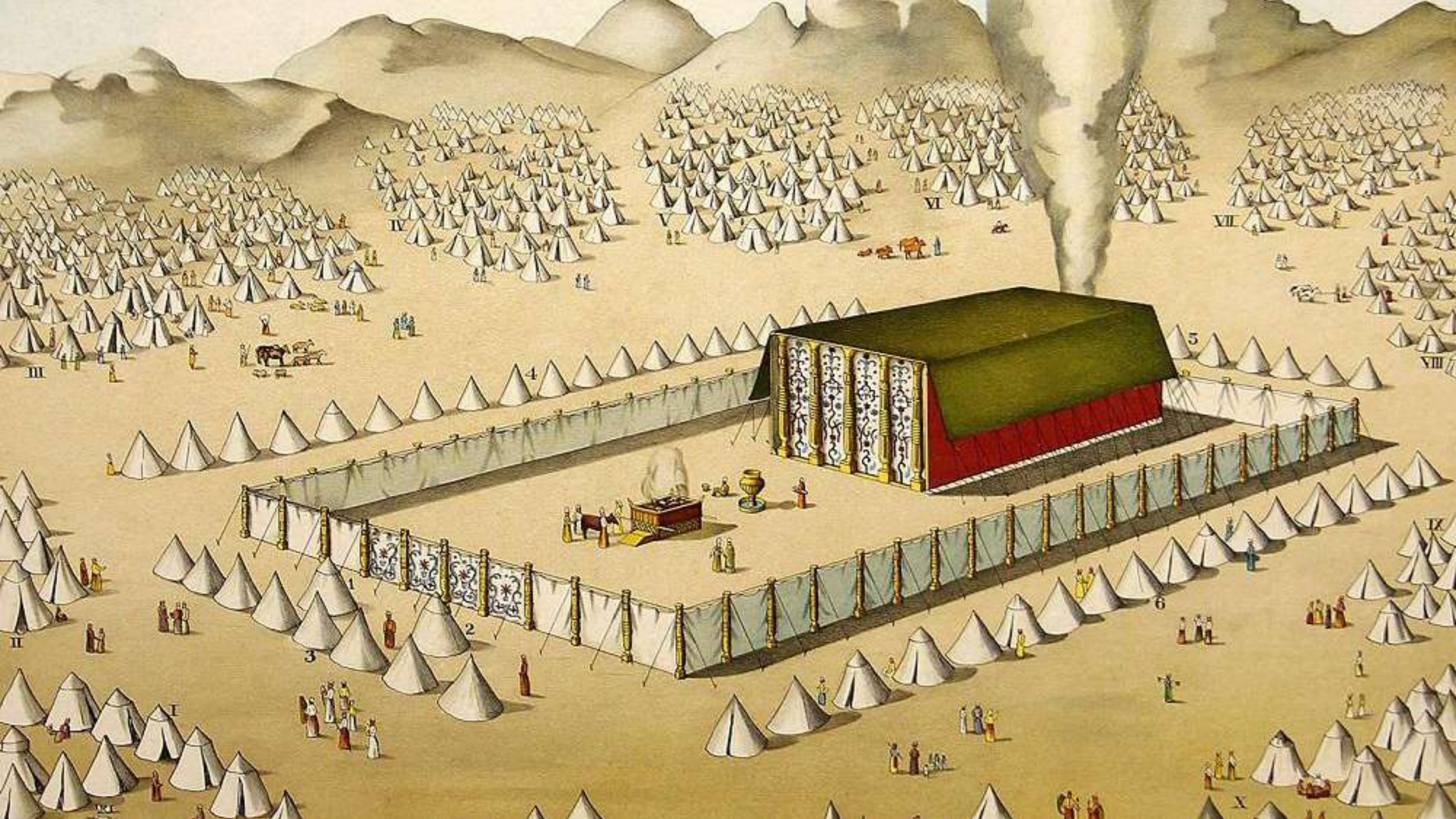
Acts 7:44-53

[41] And they made a calf in those days, and offered a sacrifice to the idol and were rejoicing in the works of their hands. [42] But God turned away and gave them over to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets: “Did you bring to me slain beasts and sacrifices, during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? [43] 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.’

Acts 7:41-43

Acts 7:44–50 “Closing Argument”

- 44-45: Despite the rebellion of the people, God still gave the people a “tabernacle” or a “dwelling” place for God.







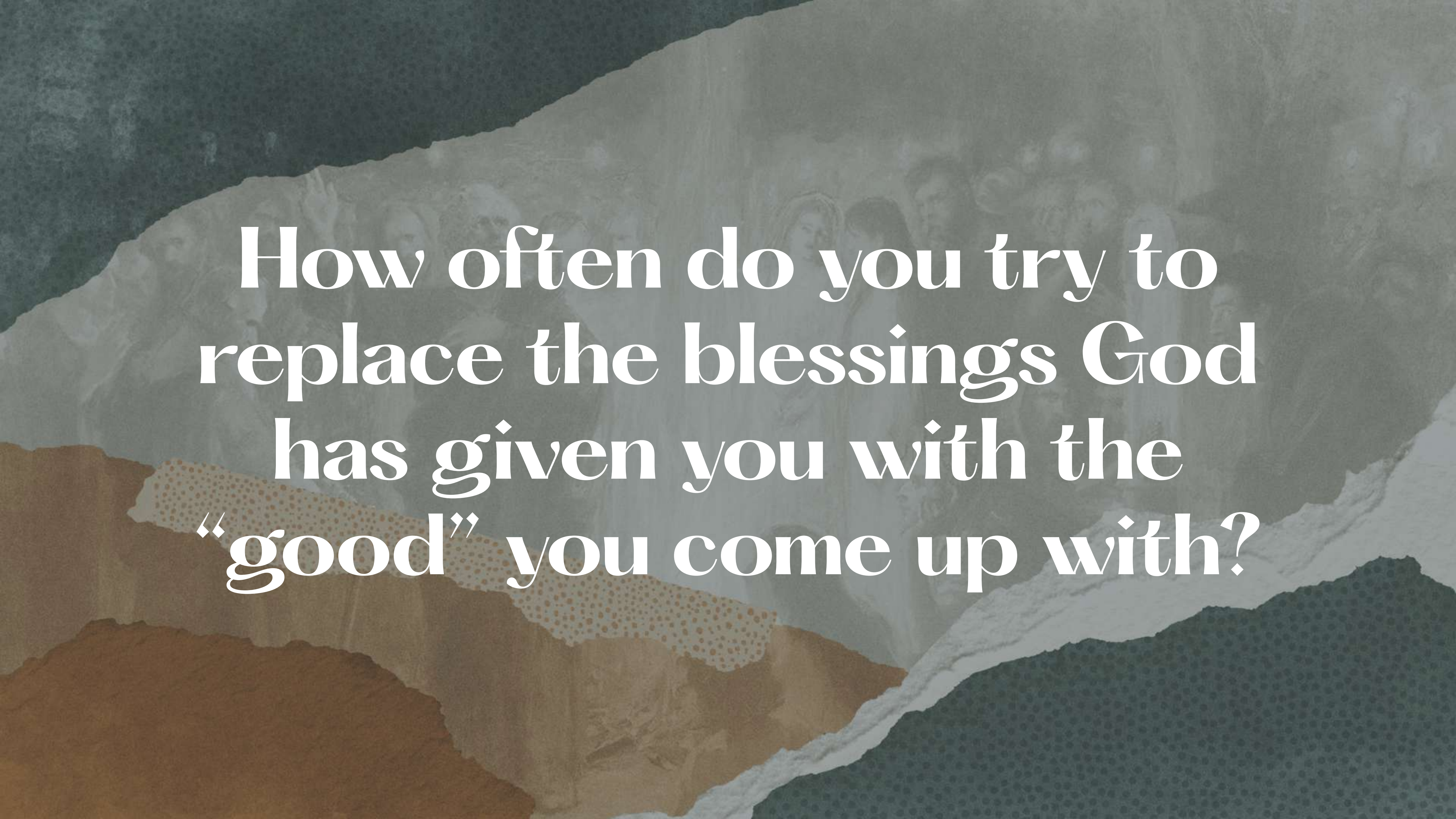
*Why do you want
things that God Himself
puts no value in?*

Acts 7:44–50 “Closing Argument”

- 44-45: Despite the rebellion of the people, God still gave the people a “tabernacle” or a “dwelling” place for God.
- 46-47: The ancient tabernacle gave way to the modern-day temple, something not inspired by God but concocted by humanity.







How often do you try to
replace the blessings God
has given you with the
“good” you come up with?

Acts 7:44–50 “Closing Argument”

- 44-45: Despite the rebellion of the people, God still gave the people a “tabernacle” or a “dwelling” place for God.
- 46-47: The ancient tabernacle gave way to the modern-day temple, something not inspired by God but concocted by humanity.
- 48-50: Despite the reverence given to the temple, both Solomon the builder and many of the prophets declared that nothing built by human hands can truly be the dwelling place of God.



Do you not know that you
are God's temple and that
God's Spirit dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 3:16

Do you value worthless
trinkets more than you
value your own body,
God's temple?

Stephen's Charge Against The Council

- Charge 1: You blaspheme against the Holy Spirit, whom you closed your hearts to.





You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your
foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the
covenant between me and you.

Genesis 17:11

So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the
precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision
be regarded as circumcision?

Romans 2:26

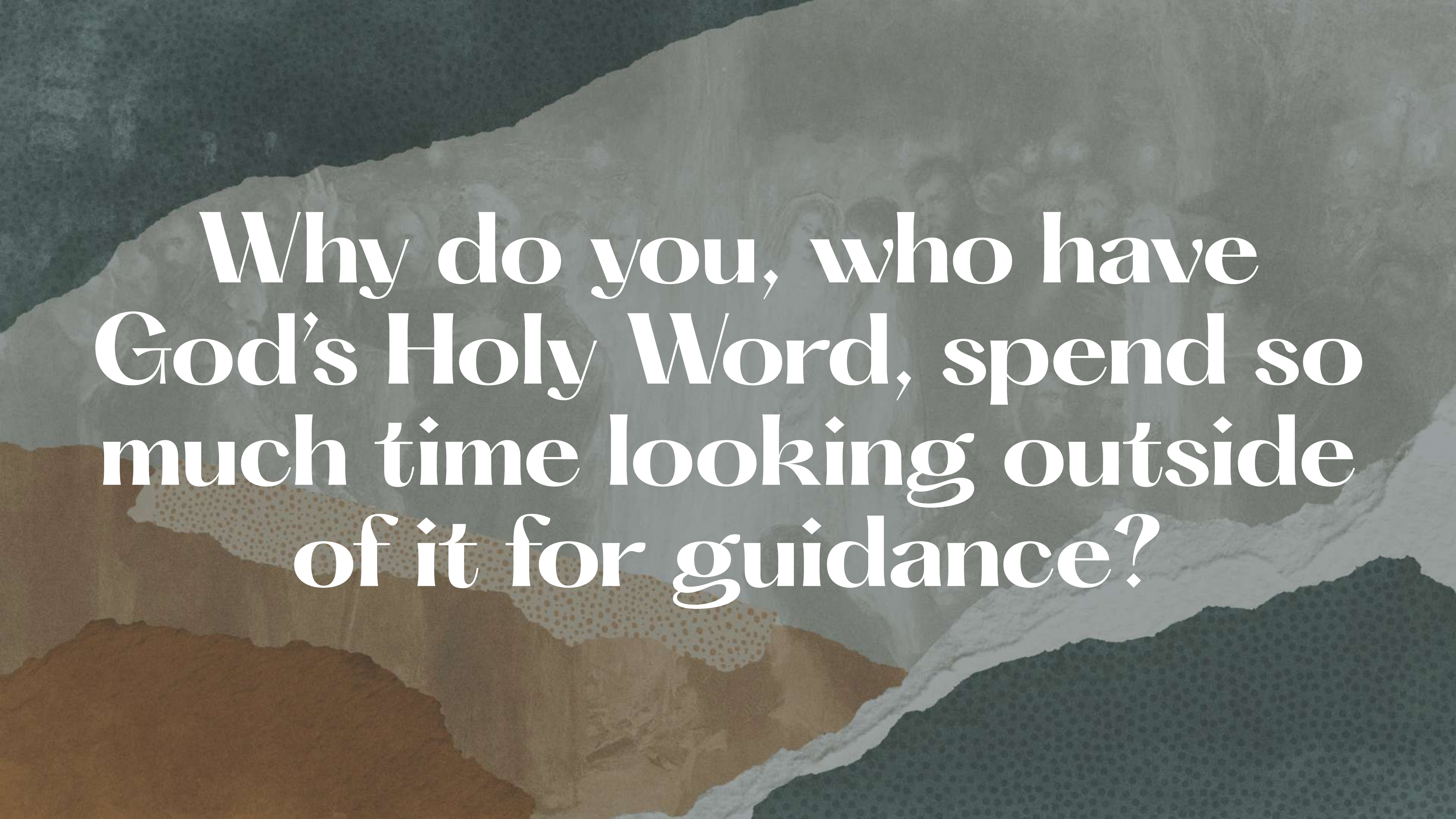


*Are you more worried
about your reputation
or your heart?*

Stephen's Charge Against The Council

- Charge 1: You blaspheme against the Holy Spirit, whom you closed your hearts to.
- Charge 2: You blaspheme against God the Son, who was the righteous lamb slain as our ultimate intercessor.
- Charge 3: You blaspheme against God the Father, for you had God's Law but lived by human customs instead.





**Why do you, who have
God's Holy Word, spend so
much time looking outside
of it for guidance?**



God is not present in monuments we build or customs we create, but in people we love and righteousness we accrue.

God is present in all who are washed in the blood of Christ, Immanuel.

How then shall we live?

- We worship God the Spirit by encountering Him in prayer.
- We worship God the Son by following His example.
- We worship God the Father by trusting in His Word.