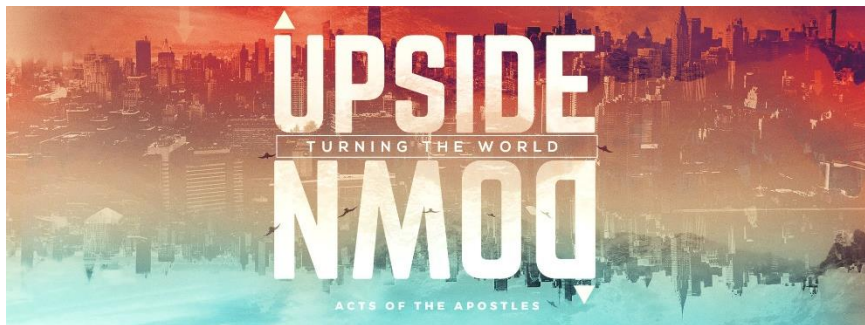




Stephen's Defense

Life Group Study, Week of April 3, 2022

Engage.

Who is the best storyteller you've ever heard? What made that person so effective?

If you had the opportunity to hear Pastor Jim's message on Sunday, what stood out to you personally? What questions or conflicts did it raise for you, if any?

Look at the Book: Read Acts 7:1-17

From 6:11-14, what four charges were brought against Stephen?

Why do you think Stephen addressed the Sanhedrin as he did at the start of verse 2?

Where was God when Abraham was in Mesopotamia, Chaldea, Haran and Canaan? Why does that matter?

What promise did God give to Abraham when he owned no property of his own? What promise did God give to Abraham before he had any children of his own? See Genesis 15.

In verse 8, what else did God give to Abraham? Seen Genesis 17:1-14.

Read Genesis 17:1-14. What do you think Pastor Jim meant when he said, "Before there was a holy land, there was a holy people"?

In Romans 2:17-29 and 1 Corinthians 7:19, what important distinctions does Paul make with regard to the value of circumcision?

Who is taking the initiative in verses 2-8? Why is that important?

What "troubles" did Joseph endure in his exile (Genesis 37:12-36; 39:1-20)? Who was with him (Genesis 39:21-23)? How did God rescue him (Genesis 40:1-52)?

According to Acts 7:11-14, how did Stephen become the deliverer of his family during the famine? Of what significance is Stephen's mention that it was "*on the second visit*" that Joseph made himself known to his brothers?

What specific parallels do you see between the life of Joseph and the life of Christ?

Apply

Which do you think Abraham valued more: his relationship with God or the promise of the land? Why?

How might Joseph have defined "the presence of the Lord"?

What stands out to you most from our discussion?

