

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 7 35-50



When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of a strange tongue,
Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion.
Psalm 114:1-2

Praising:

Jesus Christ is risen, God the
Father's Son!
With the Holy Spirit, you are Lord
alone!
Lamb once killed for sinners, all
our guilt to bear,
show us now your mercy, now
receive our prayer.

Reading:

Acts 7:35-50
Stephen comes to his point

Although he begins by
highlighting the historic
disobedience of the Jewish
people, Stephen is quite ready to
extend his insult directly to the
people now listening to him!
Stephen's basic complaint is that
by binding God's promises
inseparably to Jerusalem and its
Temple, Israel has effectively
downgraded God. So rather than

honour the Lord of heaven and
earth, they have reduced God to
something small, something local.
They have put God on a footing
with the idols of the pagans.
Stephen goes on to say that the
depravity and perversity of
Israel's moral and spiritual
behaviour down successive
generations, are an insult to the
God who first called them His
chosen people. The Temple as it
stands must pass away. The Law
as it stands is only part way to
God's final salvation. Is Stephen
looking for trouble?

Listening:

Praying:

Lord when we're tempted to
downplay, diminish or even
dismiss you

- reveal yourself once more to
us as Alpha and Omega, the
beginning and the end
- refresh us with a sense of your
mystery and majesty, your
grandeur and glory
- restore our vision of the world
as your temple, the universe
as your sanctuary

Father: I want to squeeze you
down to a size I can control,
when the truth is it's me that's
small, it's me that's insignificant.
So small and insignificant you
gave your Son to die for me.
Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 27 April 2016