

Challenging Nationalism

Acts 7

1. Describe the setting of this trial. What would Stephen have been seeing, hearing, and feeling as he gave this speech?

2. What major point was Stephen developing? (Notice his conclusion in Acts 7:48-53.)

3. Looking throughout this passage, list all of the ways that God had used Israel.

How had Israel resisted?

4. What countries outside Israel were mentioned in Stephen's speech?

How did God use each of the countries mentioned? (Be specific with each country; a concordance or Bible dictionary can be helpful.)

5. How would the fact that God was using other countries beside Israel challenge those listening to Stephen?

6. What does the quote from Isaiah reveal about God and the temple, which was so highly revered in Judaism (vv. 49-50)?

7. How had Stephen illustrated that God's work has never been confined to one country or religious center?

8. Why might his accusers see this as an attempt to "destroy the customs of Moses"?

9. What are some ways in which we see God only in terms of our own culture or country?

10. How can we overcome this sin?

Why is it imperative to do so?