

Acts 7:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;

Analysis

Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David. Stephen traces the tabernacle's journey from wilderness to promised land, connecting worship to conquest and eventual temple.

Brought in with Jesus refers to Joshua (Hebrew: Yehoshua, Greek: Iēsous)—same name as Jesus, signifying 'Yahweh saves.' This connection is typologically significant: Joshua led Israel into earthly promised land; Jesus leads believers into spiritual rest (Hebrews 4:8-11). The tabernacle accompanied conquest, symbolizing God's presence empowering victory.

Possession of the Gentiles refers to Canaan, occupied by pagan nations. God drove out indicates divine judgment on Canaanite wickedness while fulfilling promises to Abraham. This raises the theology of holy war—God's sovereign right to judge nations and give their land to His chosen people.

Unto the days of David establishes timeline—roughly 1010-970 BCE when David consolidated the kingdom and desired to build a permanent temple. The progression shows God's faithfulness: wilderness wandering → conquest → established kingdom → permanent worship center. Yet Stephen will argue even the temple was never meant to limit God's presence.

Historical Context

Joshua's conquest (approximately 1406-1390 BCE or 1250-1230 BCE depending on chronology) fulfilled promises made to Abraham 600+ years earlier (Genesis 15:16). The tabernacle at Shiloh (Joshua 18:1) served as worship center during the judges period.

David's reign (1010-970 BCE) unified the tribes and brought the Ark to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6). His desire to build a temple (2 Samuel 7) was deferred to Solomon. Stephen's audience in 34-35 CE venerated the temple as peak of God's provision, yet Stephen will challenge this assumption.

The reference to Jesus/Joshua carries deliberate theological weight. Early Christians recognized typological connections between Joshua and Jesus—both delivered God's people into their inheritance. This wasn't coincidental naming but divine orchestration revealing Christ in Old Testament narrative.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Joshua as a type of Christ illuminate Jesus' role as deliverer into spiritual inheritance?
2. What does the tabernacle's accompaniment of conquest teach about God's presence in spiritual warfare?
3. How should we understand the conquest of Canaan in light of God's sovereignty and justice?
4. In what ways does the progression from tabernacle to temple parallel the believer's journey from conversion to glorification?
5. What dangers exist in assuming that institutional religious structures represent the height of God's purposes?

Interlinear Text

ὧν	καὶ	εἰσήγαγον	διαδεξάμενοι	οἱ	πατέρων	ἡμῶν
Which	also	after brought in	that came	G3588	father	of our
G3739	G2532	G1521	G1237		G3962	G2257
μετὰ	Ἰησοῦ	ἐν	τῇ	κατασχέσει	τῶν	ἐθνῶν
with	Jesus	into	G3588	the possession	G3588	of the Gentiles
G3326	G2424	G1722		G2697		G1484
Which						G3739
ἐξωσεν	ό	θεὸς	ἀπὸ	προσώπου	τῶν	πατέρων
drive out	G3588	God	before	the face	G3588	father
G1856		G2316	G575	G4383		G3962
						G2257
ἔως	τῶν	ἡμερῶν	Δαβίδ·			
unto	G3588	the days	of David			
G2193		G2250	G1138			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 44:2 (Parallel theme): How thou didst drive out the heathen with thy hand, and plantedst them; how thou didst afflict the people, and cast them out.

Acts 13:19 (Parallel theme): And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.

Joshua 23:9 (Parallel theme): For the LORD hath driven out from before you great nations and strong: but as for you, no man hath been able to stand before you unto this day.

Joshua 24:18 (References God): And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God.

Joshua 18:1 (Parallel theme): And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. And the land was subdued before them.

