

Nehemiah 8:8

"So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading."







The Story Begins

Acts 7:1-16

Stephen's threefold purpose ...

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- (1) To defend himself against charges of blasphemy against God, Moses, the Law, and the Temple.
- (2) To confront the Jewish leaders with their sinfulness in rejecting Jesus.
- (3) To proclaim Jesus as the promised Messiah and Savior of the world.

- 1. Don't let the blessings of God or the religious activity to which He calls you overshadow your relationship with Him.
 - → In first century Judaism, the Jews took great pride in their heritage, the Land, the Law, and the Temple.

Psalm 29:2-3

"Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters."

Genesis 12:1-3

"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

Genesis 15:6

"And [Abraham] believed in the LORD; and he [God] counted it to him for righteousness."

- 1. Don't let the blessings of God or the religious activity to which He calls you overshadow your relationship with Him.
- 2. Be mindful of the flesh's propensity to rationalize and reject what God wants to teach you through His Word.