

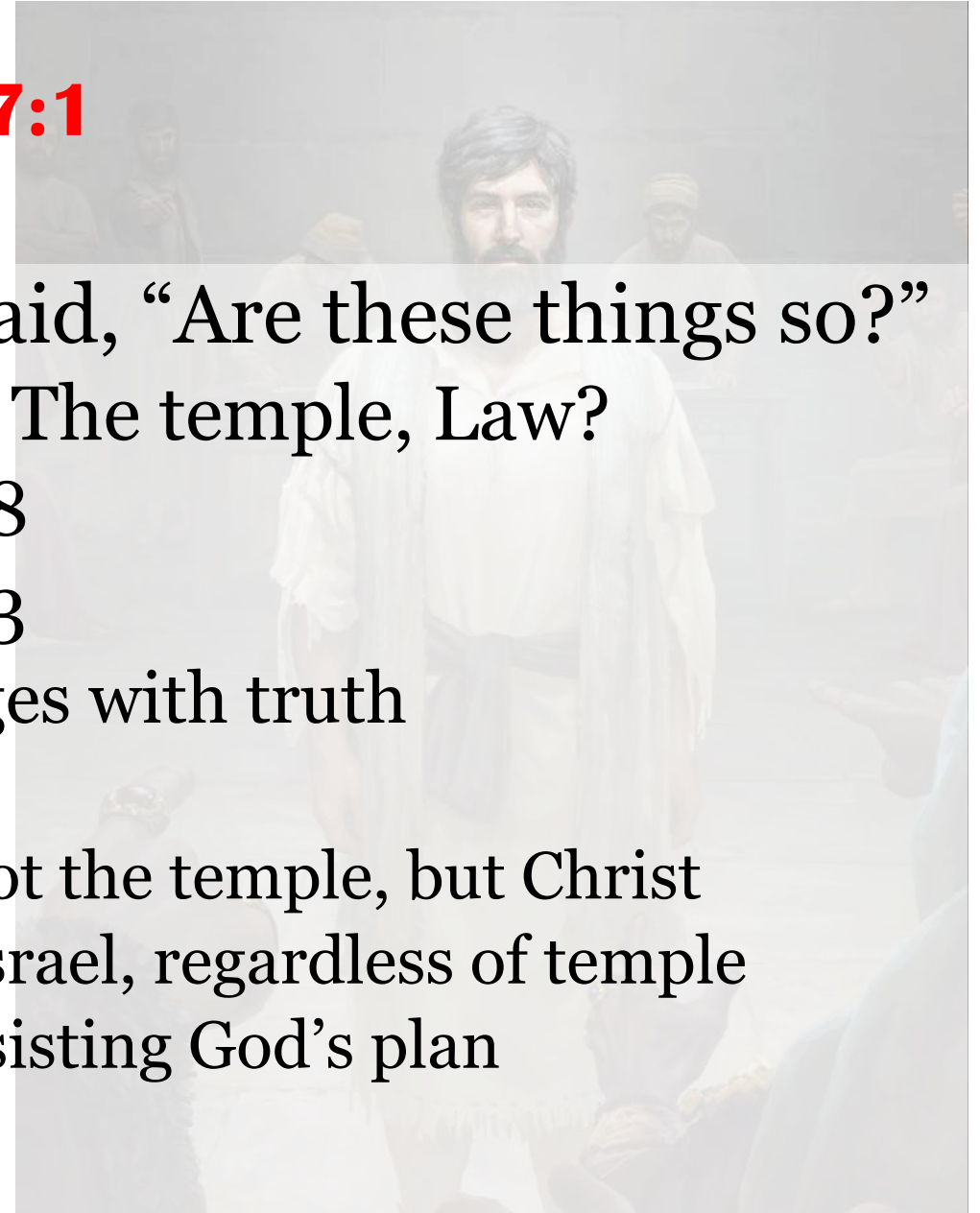


Stephen Defends the Faith

Acts 7:1-60

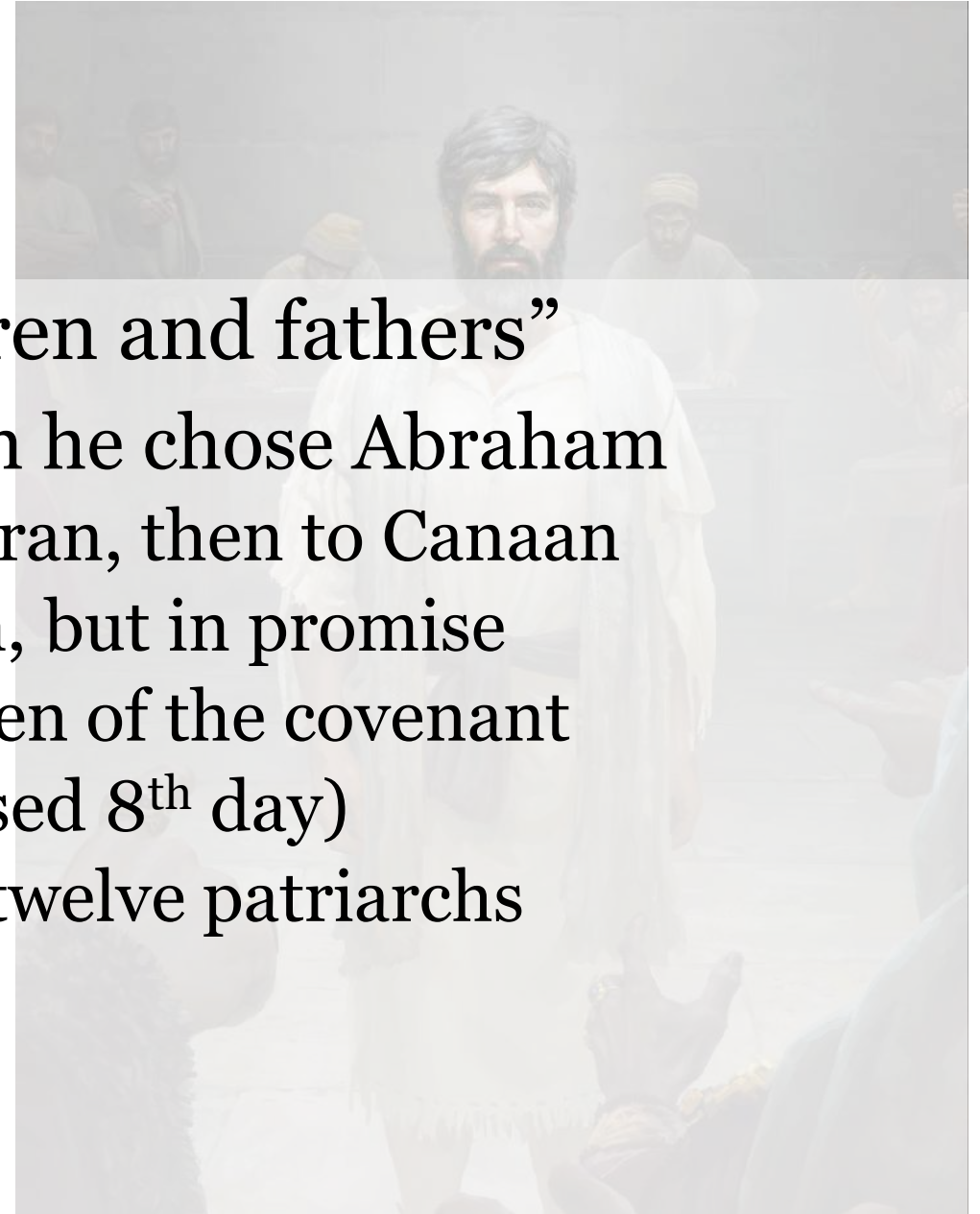
Stephen before the Court 7:1

- Acts 7:1 Then the high priest said, “Are these things so?”
 - Blasphemed Moses and God? The temple, Law?
 - Christ’s words .. Luke 21:12-18
 - Stephen’s full sermon .. 7:2-53
 - Purpose: to answer the charges with truth
 - Establish three facts..
 - God’s ultimate purpose is not the temple, but Christ
 - God has faithfully blessed Israel, regardless of temple
 - Israel has long history of resisting God’s plan



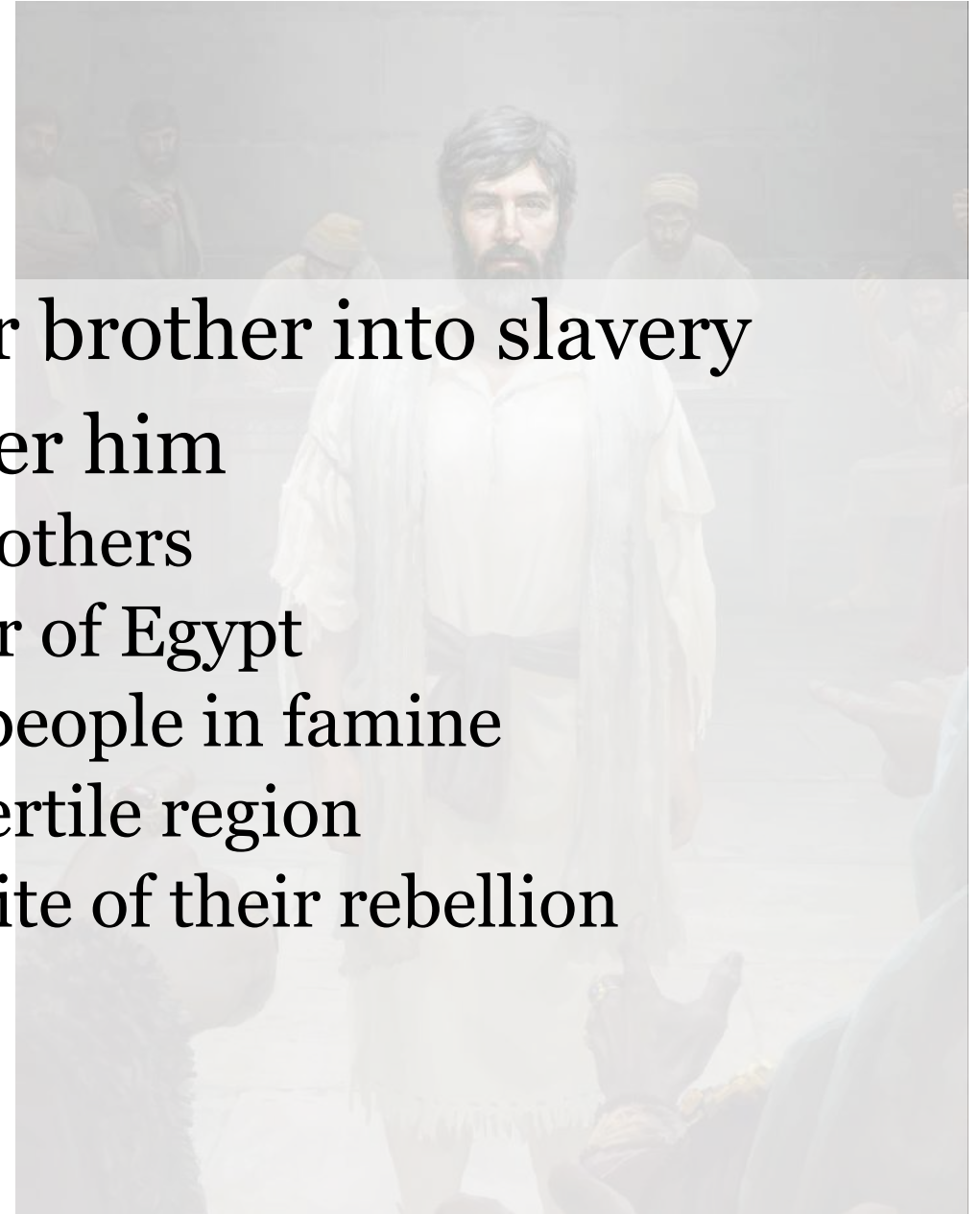
Abraham 7:2-8

- Stephen is respectful .. “Brethren and fathers”
- God began the relationship when he chose Abraham
 - Abraham left Ur, traveled to Haran, then to Canaan
 - Didn’t give the land to Abraham, but in promise
 - Established circumcision as token of the covenant
 - Abraham begot Isaac (circumcised 8th day)
 - Isaac begot Jacob, Jacob begot twelve patriarchs



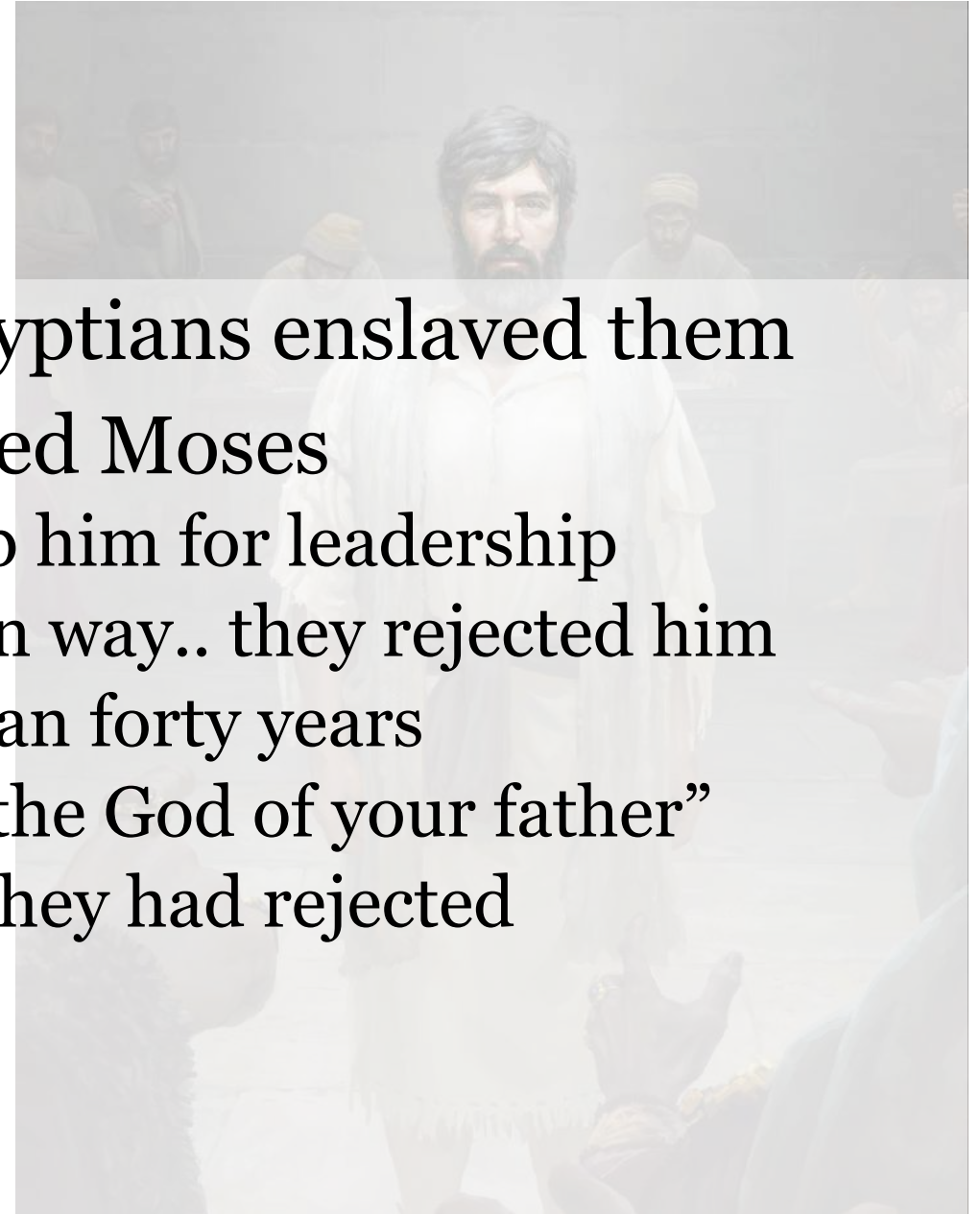
Joseph 7:9-16

- Ten of the patriarchs sold their brother into slavery
- Joseph waited on God to deliver him
 - God used the evil of Joseph's brothers
 - Raised Joseph to prime minister of Egypt
 - Used Joseph to provide for his people in famine
 - For 400 years Israel grew in a fertile region
 - God fulfilled His covenant in spite of their rebellion



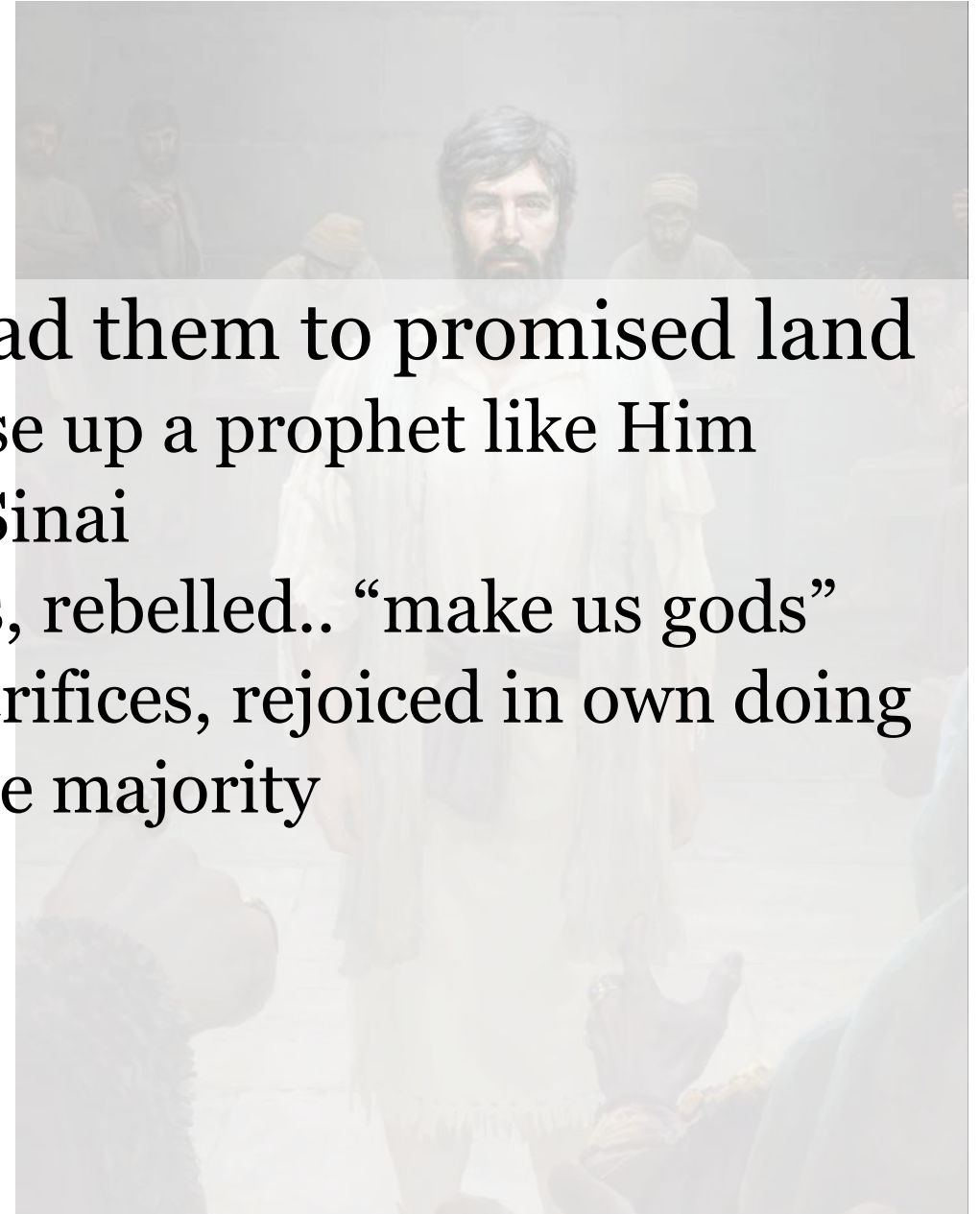
Moses 7:17-35

- God blessed the Israelites.. Egyptians enslaved them
- God raised up a deliverer named Moses
 - God used the Egyptians to equip him for leadership
 - Moses attempted to lead his own way.. they rejected him
 - Moses fled Egypt, dwelt in Midian forty years
 - God appeared to Moses.. “I am the God of your father”
 - God sent His ruler back whom they had rejected



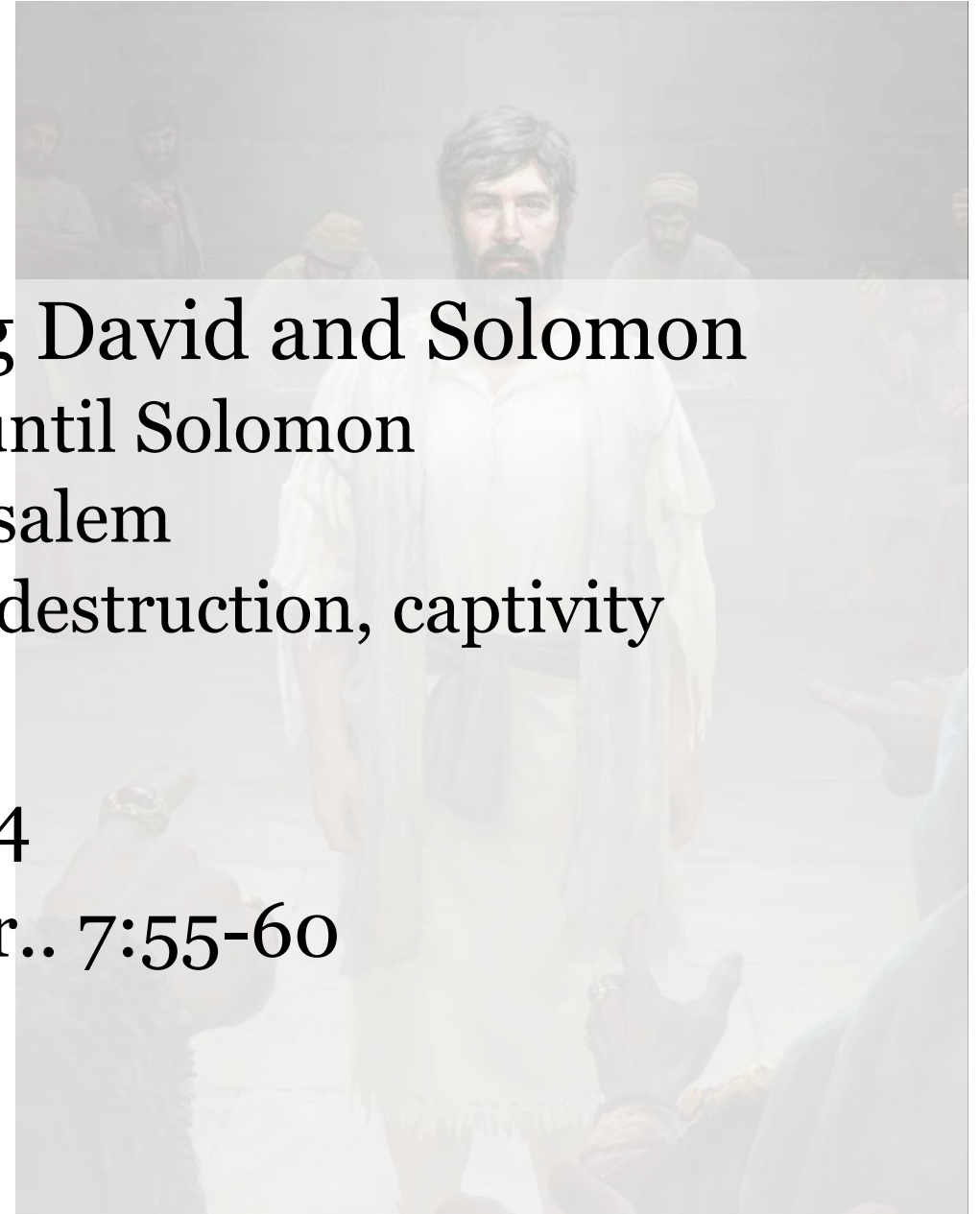
The Exodus **7:36-45**

- God used Moses to free and lead them to promised land
 - Moses promised God would raise up a prophet like Him
 - Moses received the Law on Mt Sinai
 - Our father again rejected Moses, rebelled.. “make us gods”
 - Made a golden calf.. Offered sacrifices, rejoiced in own doing
 - God’s grace despite the sin of the majority



David and Solomon 7:46-50

- Israel's glory peaked with King David and Solomon
 - Israel worshiped at tabernacle until Solomon
 - Permanent temple built in Jerusalem
 - But Israel's disobedience led to destruction, captivity
- Stephen's indictment.. 7:51-53
- Council responds with rage.. 7:54
- Stephen's calm, faithful behavior.. 7:55-60





Stephen Defends the Faith

Acts 7:1-60