

Katamares: ACTS 7:35-50.

7:37 God Will Raise a Prophet

7:38 The Congregation in the Wilderness

CHRIST GAVE THE LAW.

CHRYSOSTOM: Do not be astonished, he says, if Christ confers benefits on those who decline his kingdom, since it was just the same in the case of Moses. And not only did he deliver them from Egypt, but also he saved them in the wilderness. . . . He shows that the prophecy must by all means be fulfilled and that Moses is not opposed to him. This is the man, he says, “who was in the assembly ³ in the wilderness” and “who spoke to the children of Israel.” Do you see that this is where the root ⁴ comes from and that “salvation is from the Jews”? ⁵ “With the angel,” it says, “who had spoken to him.” Look, again he affirms that it was he [Christ] who gave the law, since Moses was with him “in the assembly in the wilderness.”

HOMILIES ON THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 17.⁶

7:42 Did You Offer Sacrifices?

SACRIFICES NOT NECESSARY.

CHRYSOSTOM: “But God turned and gave them over to worship the host of heaven.” From here come these customs and from here the sacrifices. They themselves were the first to offer sacrifices to the idols. For it is noted that they made a bull calf in Horeb and “offered sacrifices to the idol,” since previously “sacrifices” is nowhere mentioned, only “statutes of life” and “words of life.” “And they rejoiced,” it says, and so the reason for the feasts. ⁷ “As it is written in the book of the prophets.” Notice he does not cite the text without a purpose but shows that there is no need of sacrifices. “Did you offer to me slain beasts and sacrifices? . . .” He speaks emphatically. “You cannot say,” he says, “that it was from sacrificing to me that you proceeded to sacrifice to them.” And this in the desert, where he had especially shown himself their champion. HOMILIES ON THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 17.⁸

7:43 The Tent of Moloch

7:44 The Tent of Witness in the Wilderness

THEY HAVE GOD FOR A WITNESS.

CHRYSOSTOM: But “there was,” he says, “a tent of witness.” Yes, it was there so that they might have God as witness. This was all. “According to the pattern,” he says, “that was shown to you on the mount.” Thus on the mount was the original. And this, while in the wilderness, was carried about and not fixed in place. He calls it a tent of witness, that is, a witness of the wonders and of the statutes. That is why both it and they had no temple. Again it was he himself, the angel, who gave the type. HOMILIES ON THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 17.1

7:49 What House Will You Build?