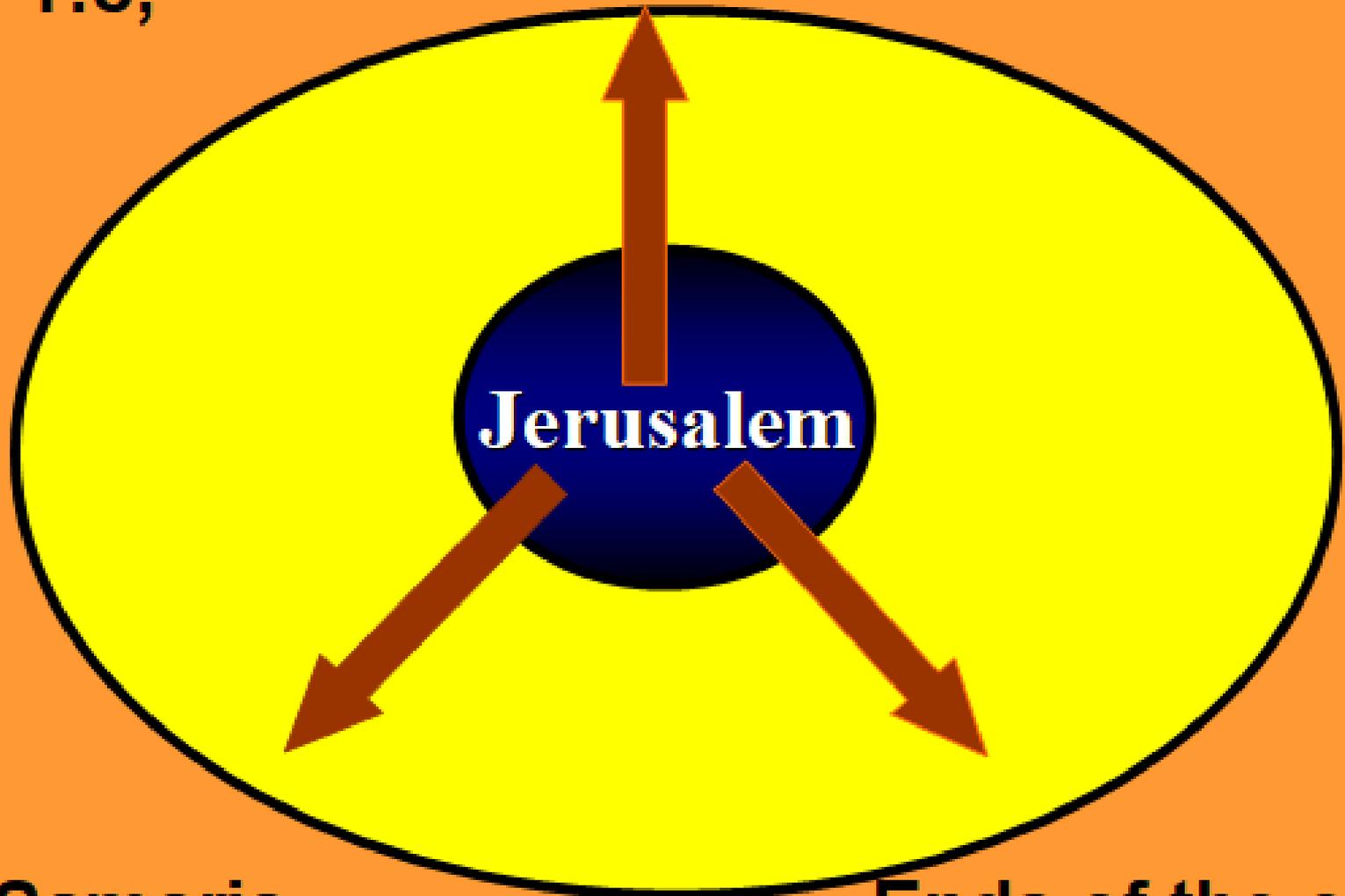


Acts 8:1-8; Persecution!

Matt 28:18; Mark 16:16; **Go into ALL the World!**

Acts 1:8;

Judea



Samaria

Ends of the earth

Acts 8:1-25; Introduction!

Scattered abroad / except apostles.

The Samaritans accept the Good News.



Acts 8:1-8; Introduction!

**In our study of Acts 6-7;
we saw five important events:-**

**There was a distinction between the work
of the assembly in evangelism and providing
benevolence to needy saints.**

**Even religious leaders who were in error
could be taught the word of the Lord.**

**There would be those
who would reject the Word of God.**

**Some people were strongly affected by God's word.
Stephen was the first Christian
martyred for the cause of Jesus Christ.**

Acts 8:1-4; Saints Spread the Gospel!

After the death of Stephen,
there arose **a great persecution**
against the ecclesia at Jerusalem.

Because of the persecution, the assembly was
scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. (vs 1;)

Devout men buried Stephen. (vs 2;)

Saul **“made havoc of the ecclesia,”**
throwing men and women into prison. (vs 3;)

The **saints**, being scattered,
“went everywhere preaching the word.” (vs 4;)



Acts 8:1-4; Saints Spread the Gospel!



Acts 8:1-3; Saints Spread the Gospel!

1. “And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the assembly at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.”

2 “Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.

3 But Saul began to destroy the ecclesia. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.”

v1 'on that day' a GREAT PERSECUTION
arose against the Church in JERUSALEM.

We remember what accounted for this radical
change in people's attitude towards the assembly.
It was because, after the sermon by Stephen,
they now recognized
that what had appeared among them was not:-

A welcome **vital new** development in **Judaism**, but
an entirely new faith which said that the old religion
in which they had trusted no longer served
any purpose; **Its purpose had been fulfilled.**

The **COVENANT** which God
had made with their father's at Sinai
had been **replaced** by a **NEW covenant.**

v1 'on that day' a GREAT PERSECUTION arose
against the Church in JERUSALEM.

The **SACRIFICES and CEREMONIES**
of the old religion **now had no purpose**, because
they were a shadow of something better to come,
which HAD now come.

The **Priesthood of AARON**, with its HIGH PRIEST
no longer had a role to fulfil, because **Jesus**
had become **A PRIEST LIKE MELCHIZEDEK.**

The TEMPLE was not the centre
of the worship of God, as they had always believed.
THEY were no longer the unique,
exclusive PEOPLE OF GOD.

8:1. "Saul was in agreement with putting him to death."

Saul **"consented"** to the death of Stephen.

"consented" - to take pleasure with others in anything; **to approve of; to agree with.** Later in life Saul (Paul) was very sorry for this and other actions.
(1 Cor 15:9; Gal 1:13-14,23;)

Also later in life, he would become a penitent, prayerful, powerful preacher of God's word.

First, we must see him as a persistent persecutor!

Because of the martyrdom of STEPHEN the Jewish leaders were emboldened to launch out on a GREAT PERSECUTION of the assembly, because they now **felt confident** that, for the first time, **they had the Jewish population of JERUSALEM on their side.**

8:1. "Saul was in agreement with putting him to death."

We can imagine the feelings of outrage and anger which the Jews now experienced. They **TURNTD** **AGAINST** the followers of Jesus, and **the priests and leaders of the nation took advantage of this change of attitude, in order to launch their onslaught on them.**

We recall that, up to that time, the disciples had enjoyed **POPULAR SUPPORT**, as we see in chs, 2:47, 5:13, etc., and the Jewish leaders had been forced to tread very carefully lest they upset the people. **NOT ANY LONGER.**

The leaders were delighted that they now had evidence that **this new SECT** - as they called it - was a danger and **a threat which had to be put down at all cost and by any means.**

Acts 8:1-4; Saints Spread the Gospel!

The martyrdom of Stephen marks the beginning of a general persecution of the church.

Many disciples leave Jerusalem for other parts.

But **their enemies** are still hesitant to attack the 12 Apostles, probably because they have seen God's intervention to rescue them and because most of the common people **like their miracles of healing.**

Acts 8:1-4; Saints Spread the Gospel!

The persecution drove the saints back to their home countries, preaching the word.

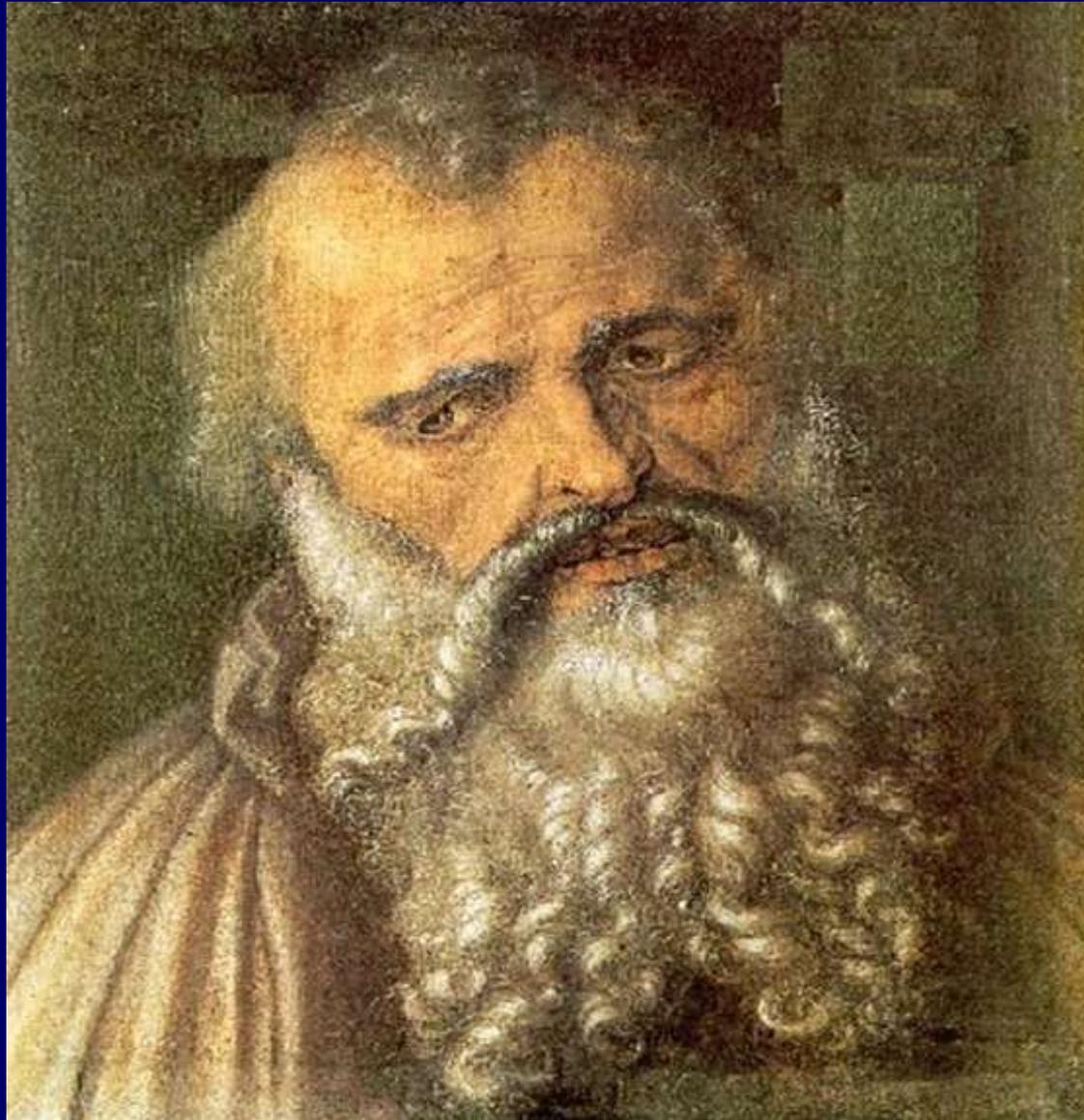
Consider the benefits of trials and persecutions within our lives. (James 1:2-11;)

Paul taught that “tribulations produces perseverance.” (Romans 5:3-5;)

The key to enduring persecutions and tribulations is to not give up. Instead, finish the race.
(1 Cor 9:24-27; Heb 12:1-2;)



Acts 8:1-4; Saints Spread the Gospel!



Philip the evangelist!

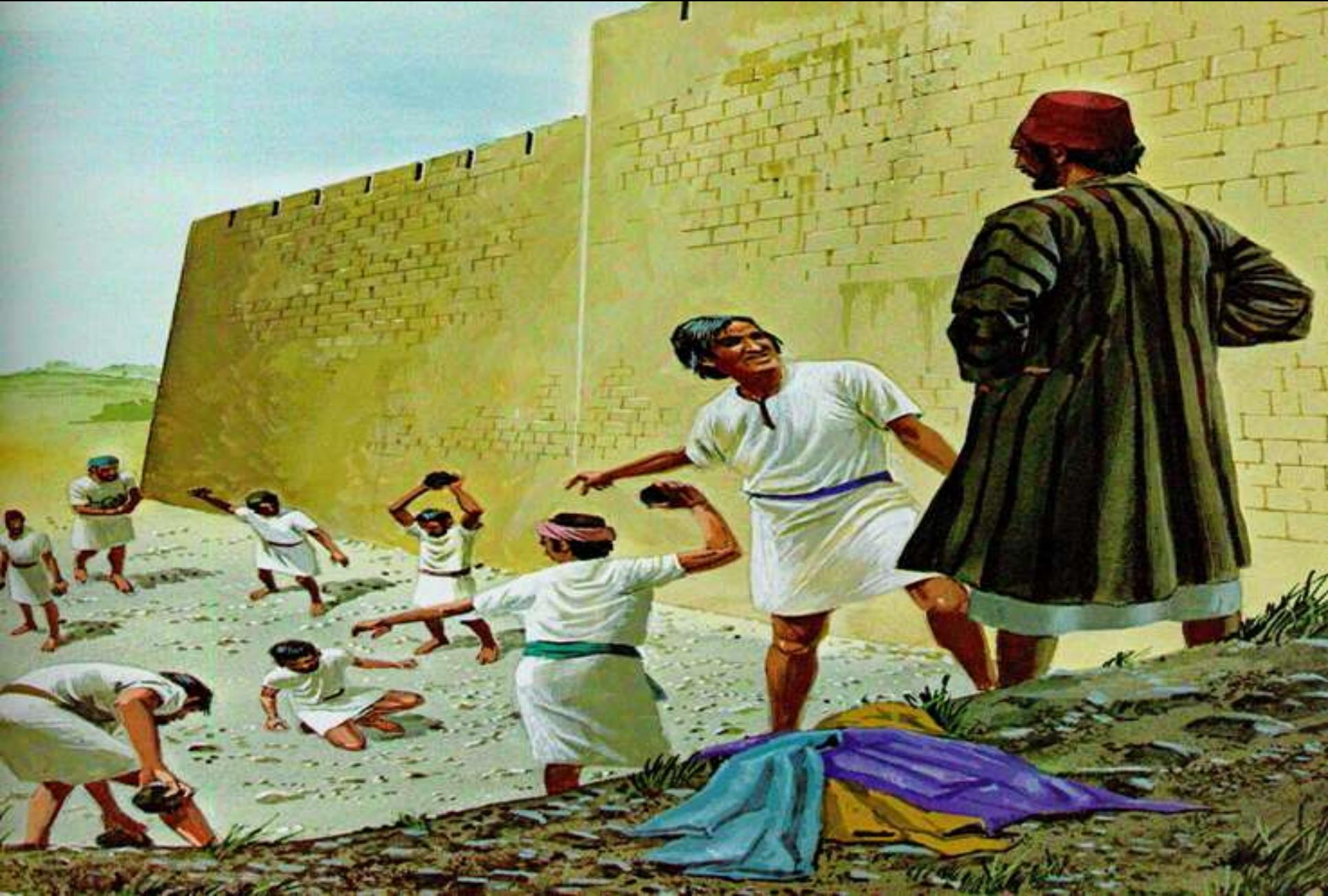
Acts 8:1-4; Saints Spread the Gospel!

The **eighth chapter** is mostly a description of the **evangelistic ministry in Samaria of Philip**, one of the Seven chosen to serve in Acts 6.

In the Great Commission Jesus had told His disciples to preach first in **Jerusalem** and **Judea**, then in **Samaria**. After that they were to go into **the entire world**.

Since Jerusalem is being evangelized, the disciples are now also seen going to Judea and Samaria.

Acts 8:1-4; Saints Spread the Gospel!



Acts 8:1-3; Saints Spread the Gospel!

1. “And Saul was there, giving approval

2. to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the assembly at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.”

2 “Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.

3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.”

Acts 8:1-3; Saints Spread the Gospel!

The first verse of chapter 8 would seem to go better with chapter 7. We meet Saul as a leader of the persecution of the church.

As you know, he had a life-changing experience on the road to Damascus as he was going there to capture and bring the believers back to Jerusalem to stand trial before the Sanhedrin.

But Jesus appeared to him and changed his life. We will read about that in chapter 9.

Acts 8:1-4; Saints Spread the Gospel!

The last chapter closes with the **martyrdom of Stephen**. The church has already been under some persecution, but until now there had been **a boundary line** beyond which the **Jewish authorities had not been willing to cross**.

This was now changed. **There was a new outlook and it wasn't in favour of the Christians.**

Notice the adjectives which are used.

**- GREAT persecution. - ALL scattered.
LOUD lamentation.**

Things just weren't bad. They were **VERY** bad.

Stephen had been executed.

Others were being arrested and imprisoned.

Acts 8:1-4; Saints Spread the Gospel!

The **REASONING** of Stephen was completely ignored and the **only thing people heard** was that this man represented a faith which was **AGAINST GOD AND MOSES AND THE TEMPLE AND THE CUSTOMS.**

The opposition now turns from the defensive to the offensive. The leadership of the persecution passes from the Sadducees to the Pharisees.

Saul was a “Pharisee of the Pharisees.”

The opposition swept upon the disciples with a fierceness that had not before been known. There were to be **no more trials, no more defences.**

Acts 8:1-4; Saints Spread the Gospel!

The cause of Christ was condemned in a wholesale manner that permitted no hearing. Evidently the popularity of the new movement presented to the mind of the Jews a real threat to their power and prestige.

It did indeed, for had the ecclesia been left to continue its march, all Jerusalem would have bowed at the feet of Jesus.

Now THIS showed the JEWISH LEADERS in a NEW LIGHT! THEY were the defenders of ORTHODOXY AGAINST THE ATTACKS OF THIS NEW SECT!

Acts 8:1-4; Saints Spread the Gospel!

THEY were the ones who stood
for the **PROTECTION OF THE OLD FAITH!**

**They now believed they could depend
on the people for their support in whatever
they did to put down this new heresy!**

Prison isn't a very pleasant place.

There were no air conditioners and colour televisions in these prisons. **They were often disease-infested, cold, dark and damp.**

This was **a reign of terror** that precluded all civil rights. Remember Hitler's Gestapo? This was a similar situation. Jewish Christians were being dragged away to concentration camps.

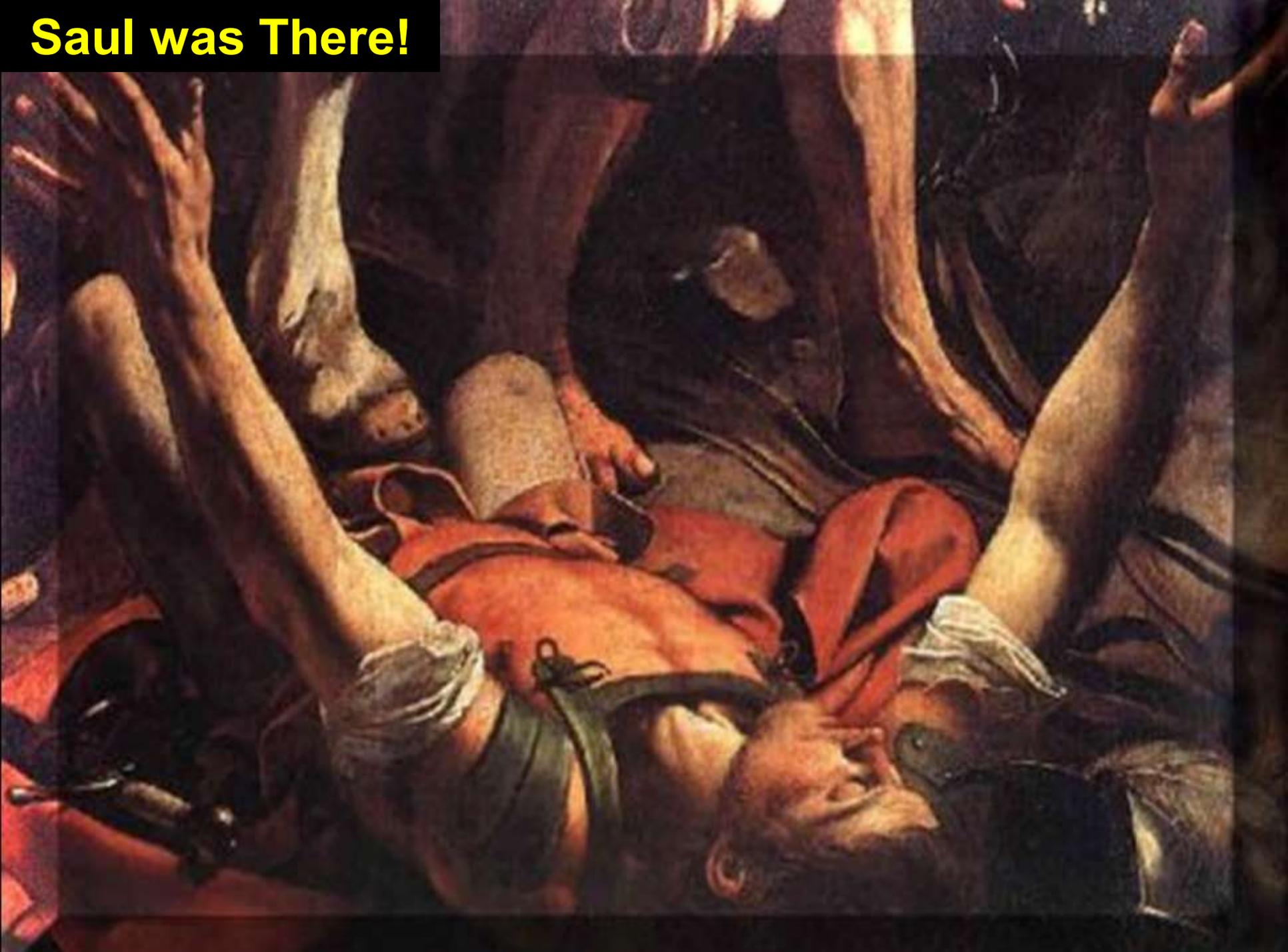
Saul of Tarsus was to the Christians what Hitler would be to the Jews. (Acts 22:4; 22:19-20; 26:9-11;)

Saul was a driven man.

He was sincere in his persecution of the Christians.

But **sincerity is no substitute for truth.**

Saul was There!



Acts 8:1-3; Saints Spread the Gospel!

“Persecution against the **ASSEMBLY.**”

Greek: **EKKLESIA**, Aramaic: **EIDTA**.

Hebrew cognate of **EODTA** is **EDAH**:
CONGREGATION, ASSEMBLY, Strong's 5712.

Unfortunately **mistranslated**
as **church** (from Greek **κυριακή- kuriakE**)
in our modern bibles.

EKKLESIA is used nearly **150 times**
frequently seen as:-

“ASSEMBLY” “CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL”
and “CONGREGATION OF YHWH.”



All Scattered Except the Apostles!

Acts 8:1-4; Saints Spread the Gospel!

All Scattered Except the Apostles!

I think it was God's plan that **all 12 of the Apostles stay in Jerusalem** for a time **to maintain a unified front** in order to get the assembly off to a good start.

Note that as the disciples were scattered they did not go under cover or hide but wherever they went **they preached the Word**. One translations says **"Gossiping the gospel."**

Was the persecution in God's plan to disperse the disciples? Compare this with what happened at the Tower of Babel.



Acts 8:1-4; Saints Spread the Gospel!

The people in the story in Genesis 11 built the tower so they would not be scattered over the earth. (Genesis 11:4;)

God had told man that He wanted them to be scattered over the earth to multiply and fill the earth and subdue it.
(Genesis 1:28; 9:1;)

I'm sure God did not want these thousands of disciples **to stay in Jerusalem** forever.

Acts 8:1-4; Saints Spread the Gospel!

When the builders of the Tower of Babel would not scatter and fill the earth, God confused their language. This scattered them.

In Acts we have the story of people who came from many lands to build **a new “Tower.”**

This “Tower” in Jerusalem was a **Tower of Power and Unity**, to unify the world in one Body to speak a single **“language” of spiritual truth.**
(1 Corinthians 1:10;)

Acts 8:2; “Godly men buried Stephen”



Acts 8:2; Godly Men Buried Stephen!

The passage does not say that these “**devout men**” were **Christians**. They may well have been **Jews** who did not approve of the actions of the **Sanhedrin** in stoning Stephen.

The **Mishnah** states that when a man who has been stoned is buried, there is to be **no mourning** on his behalf.

These men were in **direct violation** of the **Pharisaic tradition**.

They did not approve of the decision to murder Stephen, and so **they mourned**.

A cemetery just outside the walls of Jerusalem !



Acts 8:2; Godly Men Buried Stephen!

Stephen must have been buried near Jerusalem but no one knows where his grave is now.

Perhaps it is in the cemetery just outside the walls of Jerusalem shown in the picture.

But the **ossuaries** or bone boxes of **James**, brother of Jesus and **Caiaphas**, the high priest mentioned in Acts, **have been found** and identified, although there is still **some question** about the authenticity of the James ossuary.

Acts 8:2; **Question?**
Since Christians view death
as simply a transition
to a better place
is it OK to mourn ?

R.I.P

“Jesus Wept.” - John 11:35;
**“Rejoice with those who rejoice;
mourn with those who mourn.”**
Romans 12:15;



Creating
From Grief
a Missionary Minded
to Opportunity
Church

No Opportunity for Grief

Acts 8:1-3; Saints Spread the Gospel!

1. “And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the assembly at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.”

2 “Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.

3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men & women and put them in prison.”

Saul was there, giving **approval to his death!**

A great **persecution initiated!**

A **family scattered!**

**Acts 8:3; “Ravaging the church,
going from house to house, he dragged off
men and women and put them in prison.”**

v3 says that, even at this time,

he was 'ravaging the assembly' AV versions says

Saul "made havoc "of the Lord's church."

(Incidentally this is the only time that word 'havoc'
or 'ravaging' occurs in the N.T.)

"made havoc"

This word was used to describe the destruction
of victims committed by wild and savage beasts.

In other words, Paul viciously attacked the assembly
with the intention of utterly destroying it.

Saul was the **“spearhead”** in this **“all out”**
campaign. He left no stone unturned.

Acts 8:3; “Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.”



Acts 8:3; "Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison."

Notice how God described Saul's evil efforts:
"entering every house."

Methodical, organized, massive effort to destroy!

"dragging off men and women" - forcing both men and women to leave their homes and places of worship. "committing them to prison." -

Remember 2 Tim 3:12;!

We cannot help thinking that what he heard and saw of **Stephen** himself - and the action of these devout men, remained with him, and **helped to prepare him** for that meeting on the road to DAMASCUS.

Acts 8:3; “Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.”

No Opportunity for Grief!

**Anyone who chooses
to live a life for God
will ultimately have to contend
with a culture of aggression!**

Acts 8:3; “Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.”

No Opportunity for Grief!

Being Missionary minded is an attitude that calls for godliness in the midst of ungodliness!

The Missionary minded Community must be different from the culture in which it bears witness.

Acts 8:3; “Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.”

Matthew 5:10-16; “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.”

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.

Acts 8:3; “Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.”

“You are **the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?...
...It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.”**

“You are **the light of the world.**

A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.”

“Instead they put it on its stand, and **it gives light to everyone in the house.”**

Acts 8:3; Question?

**Did Paul persecute
people while having
a good conscience?**

Acts 8:1-4; Paul a good conscience!

“ Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, “My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God

“My conscience is clear, but that **does not make me innocent.** It is the Lord who judges me.” 1Cor 4:4;



Acts 8:4-8; From Tragedy to Transformation!



Acts 8:4-8; From Tragedy to Transformation!

4 “Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there.”

6 “When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said.”

7 “With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed.

8 So there was great joy in that city.”

Acts 8:4; Saints Spread the Gospel!

By the time Saul was done, the Jerusalem assembly had shrunk by thousands and the 12 apostles.

An assembly that had been so big was now so small! **Had God failed?**

No! Instead of one big assembly, there were now hundreds of small ones.

The assembly in Jerusalem had been enjoying some phenomenal success. It had grown greatly over the years. With this, a new problem had come.

It was the problem of **complacency**. There was **no longer any urgency** to preach the gospel to other peoples. **They had become insular.**

Acts 8:4; Saints Spread the Gospel!

To tell you the truth, the believers did not even **conceive of taking the gospel to the Gentiles.**

Indeed, they were not really even interested in taking it to the Jews who lived in other countries.

They had become lax. Therefore God will use this persecution to stir up the assembly, to spread it out to other nations.

How many missionary reports have we heard that are **full of glowing successes?** Revivals and mission conferences are presented in such a way that **they often glorify the workers** instead of the Lord. This can be very intimidating.

Acts 8:1-4; Saints Spread the Gospel!

Not all of us enjoy apparent success.

Often the reverse is true. **We are undergoing hardship and failure.** This does not mean that God is not working in our lives. Often just the opposite.

God often works through our failures.

Up to this point, the church had been confined to the area immediately around Jerusalem. The church had become a pot potpourri. **It sat there, it did good works, but it was not moving out into the world.**

Now the Lord turns on the heat. **It becomes a pressure cooker.** Have you ever seen a pot full of water begin to boil? As the water expands, it doesn't remain in the pot.

The assembly was like that. As the heat was turned up, people began to get out of town.

Acts 8:4; Saints Spread the Gospel!

Oliver Cromwell sent his men into the Catholic Churches to search for funds for his beleaguered nation. They came back saying,

“We found no gold or silver except that which was in the statues of the saints.”

“Good,” he replied, “we will melt down the saints and put them into circulation.”

That is what God did with the persecution of the early church.

As a result, those who had been scattered went abroad preaching the word (Acts 8:4). This was not the apostles who were doing this preaching. This was everyone except the apostles. There is a lesson here.

It is that evangelism is EVERYONE'S responsibility.

Acts 8:4; Saints Spread the Gospel!

This is a pivotal point in the history of the Church.

Acts 1:8 didn't happen until Acts 8:1 happened.

When the going got tough, the tough left town. But as they left, they took with them the message of the gospel.

This reflects a dramatic change in the program of God. Up to this time, the knowledge of God Had been primarily focused in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem was the single beacon of light which was to draw all the nations to herself.

This is what happened at Pentecost. Jews from all the nations gathered together to meet the Lord.

Now all change. Instead of the world coming to the church, now the church will go to the world.

Acts 8:4-8; From Tragedy to Transformation!

4 “Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

It is interesting to note that the word for “**scattered**” both in **verse 1** and in **verse 4** is the Greek word **diaspare'ntes**.

It is a compound word made up of **dia** (“**from**”) and **spare'ntes**, to scatter.

What is interesting is that **spare'ntes** is used in Matthew 13 to describe the actions of **the sower who goes out and sow his seed, literally, The scatterer who goes out to scatter his seed.**

Acts 8:4-8; From Tragedy to Transformation!

**“Those who had been scattered
preached the word wherever they went.”**

**In the midst of Tragedy, we need to learn
to speak the Word! because it is not Tragedy
but the Word of God that transforms people.**

**The Message of the Mission minded is not
that there is Hope in the midst of Tragedy.**

**Rather there is hope in
the transforming POWER of GOD!**

Acts 8:4-8; From Tragedy to Transformation!

**“Those who had been scattered
preached the word wherever they went.**

**The word which is translated
'PREACHING' is the 'LALOUNTEES'.**

**The usual word from
'TO PREACH' is the word 'EVANGELIZO'. - the
formal presentation
of a message – PROCLAIMING.'**

**But this word 'LALOUNTEES'
is use of SPEAKING and even GOSSIPING.**

**They went everywhere
GOSSIPING THE GOSPEL!**

**Acts 8:4; “Those who had been scattered
preached the word wherever they went.**

**These fervent followers of Jesus could not be
stopped by threats, beatings, imprisonment;
not even by death!**

**How much they must have loved the Lord,
His word, and His church!**

We need more people like them today!

That includes you and I.

**As we have seen time and again in our study
of Acts, persecution does not stop
dedicated disciples of Jesus.**

**Instead, it causes them to grow
and be more zealous in teaching others,
just as it did with these Christians!**

Acts 8:4-8; From Tragedy to Transformation!

4 “Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.”

“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that **your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.**” 1 Corinthians 2:4-5;

So, what is OUR message?

Acts 8:5-13; Philip Spreads the Gospel!

**Philip preached the gospel in Samaria. Acts 8:5-13;
Many people received the teachings of Philip. 8:5-7;**

**Simon had convinced the people
that he had the power of God. 8:9-11;**



**After the people heard Philip,
they believed and were baptized. 8:12;**

Simon also believed and was baptized. 8:13;

Matt 28:18; Mark 16:16; Go into ALL the World!



Philip in Samaria!



Acts 8:5; Philip Spreads the Gospel!

Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them.

The Character of Philip.

Philip is a Greek name. It was a fairly common name among the Greeks and had been ever since the days of Philip the father of Alexander the Great.

This is not the same **Philip** who was one of the apostles. This is a different Philip. He was first introduced to us as **one chosen to serve.** He was named immediately after **Stephen. (Acts 6:5;)**

Stephen had been the first martyr.

It is **Philip** who has the distinction of being **the first missionary.** We will see him again in Acts 21;

Acts 8:5; Philip Spreads the Gospel!

When **the disciples** were scattered throughout **Judea and Samaria** because of the general persecution in Jerusalem, **Philip** was one who left the city and went to a city in **Samaria**. The city is not named.

The **city of Samaria** had long since been **destroyed by the Assyrians**. There was now another city on that site, but it was no longer called Samaria.

The reference here in verse 5 is likely to **one of any number of cities within the province of Samaria**.

Samaria was the province that lay between Judea and Galilee. It was a beautiful country with rolling hills and fertile meadows, but the Jewish people did not normally go there.

The area in blue is
is Samaria.



Acts 8:5-13; Philip Spreads the Gospel!

The people who lived in the **province of Samaria** were called **Samaritans**. The Jews looked upon the Samaritans as a mongrel race, no better than Gentiles, and in some ways worse. (Matthew 10:5 & 6; John 4:5;).

These people were the **descendants of intermarriages** between the **poorest lowest classes of Jews and Gentiles**.

They had been **brought in** from several countries by the Assyrians to live among them when the **Northern Kingdom of Israel went into exile**.

Acts 8:5-13; Philip Spreads the Gospel!

The Gospel breaks through Cultural barriers.

John 4:7; “There came a woman of Samaria to draw water.
Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.” 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 The Samaritan woman therefore said to Him, **“How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?”**
 (“For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.”)

John 8:48;

“The Jews answered and said to Him,
“Do we not say rightly that
You are a Samaritan and have a demon?””

Acts 8:5-13; Philip Spreads the Gospel!

**God fights against prejudice
and isolationism and nationalism!**

**Since the first family, division and murderous
hate have characterized fallen humanity.**

**Race, class and gender head the list
Religion often leads the way. . .
Atheism, Islam, Communism,
Hinduism Buddhism, Shintoism,
Mormonism, Christianity.**

Acts 8:5; Philip Saints Spreads the Gospel!

There is a principle here. It is that there is no room for prejudice within the people of God.

An old black gentleman living in southern Georgia had become a Christian, he moved into a new area and came to worship one Lords day at a rather exclusive, upper-class white congregation, but they wouldn't let him join them in worship because he was black.

He was heartbroken and he prayed that evening, **“Lord, I wanted so bad to worship You this morning, but they would not let me in.”**

The Lord answered his prayer and said to him, **“Son, I've been trying to get into that congregation for years and they won't let me in, either.”**

What does God say to all this?

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are **all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28;**

As Philip travels to Samaria, we need to realize that he is crossing the barrier of hundreds of years of racial prejudice.

Acts was written by a Gentile!

Our attitude ought to be different to what is often called the post modern anti-racism position.

Postmodern anti-racism
Charges that **only**
the majority culture
is racist.

Biblical anti-racism
Charges that
all have sinned.

Calls people to
“respect diversity.”

Calls us to
love ALL people.

Argues for
different truths
for different groups.

Argues for **THE**
TRUTH which
liberates all groups.

ELIMINATES **universal**
moral norms.

Is BASED ON
universal norms.

Based on **group**
empowerment.

Based on **self-denial**
for the sake
of others.

Acts 8:5; Philip began to proclaim Christ!

We should read the definite article
with the word **“Christ.”**

Philip was proclaiming THE Christ.

The Samaritans knew about the Christ.

They knew that the Greek word **“Christ”**
is the same as the Hebrew word **“Messiah.”**

They believed that a Messiah was going
to come and that He would teach them all things.

Philip's proclamation
went to the very heart of that belief.

The message that Philip
proclaimed was startling:-

Acts 8:5; Philip began to proclaim Christ!

“He has come!” “The King and His Kingdom have come.” “The Messiah for whom you have been waiting has arrived. He even came to Samaria and spoke to a woman by a well.”

“He was crucified and buried and then he rose again from the dead and today He is alive.

**By His death, He paid for sins;
by His resurrection,
He calls us to come to a new life
and new relationship through faith in Him.”**

Acts 8:6 The Response to Philip's Preaching!

**Philip preached and performed miracles,
healing various diseases
and casting out demons.**

This was fertile ground.

**Jesus had already
ministered within Samaria.**

The seed had been planted.

Now the season of harvest has arrived.

When the harvest begins, it is a great harvest.

**Note that the people paid attention
to his words because of the signs he did.**

Acts 8:6 The Response to Philip's Preaching!

We tend to look at this passage and to be impressed with the miracles of healing and the fact that demons were being cast out and that people who had been paralyzed and lame were now square dancing.

But I want to suggest to you that it was no less a miracle that **the multitudes were of one accord.**

It is difficult to get a multitude to do anything with one accord.

That brings us to a principle.

It is that there needs to be unity among the pure.

The people of God need to be seen to be the people of God by their unity.

Acts 8:6 The Response to Philip's Preaching!

That doesn't mean we all dress the same
or look the same or talk the same.

But it does mean that
**We all follow the same Lord
and have the same faith
and have participated in the same baptism.**

Acts 8:6 The Response to Philip's Preaching!

The response to Philip's preaching was one of joyful acceptance: And there was much rejoicing in that city. (8:8;)

I love to be around brand new Christians and to see the Lord through their eyes. Everything is fresh and new and exciting.

Multitudes in the city of Samaria believed and were baptized. There was great joy in the city.

Acts 8:8; Response to Philip's Preaching!

**This is an early example
of conversions outside of Jerusalem.**

**This is no small example
of the Gospel's power to save.**

Rom 1:16-17;

**Paul taught that if the word of God was
preached then God would give the increase.**

1 Cor 3:5-8;



Acts 8:5-13; Philip Spreads the Gospel!

By this time in the churches growth the Apostles were not the only disciples who could **perform miracles**.

Stephen also had done so! (Acts 6:6-8;)

Now we read about **Philip** doing the same.

How did these men and others like them who were not Apostles get these powers?

As we will see later in this chapter it was **through the laying on of the hands of an Apostle that the power to perform miraculous signs was given.**

**Acts 8:1 to 8:25;
Persecution
and proclamation
Slide 1 to 79;**

graemestudy@gmail.com

<https://www.graemebibleresources.com>

**Next in the series:-
Acts 8:9-25; Simon the Magician!**



Acts 8:9-25; Simon the Magician!

Acts 8:9-11; Simon the Magician!

9 “Now for some time a man named **Simon** had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. **He boasted that he was someone great,”**

10 “and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, “This man is the divine power known as the **Great Power.**”

11. “And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts.”

Acts 8:9-11; Simon the Magician!

We have seen the pure as it is personified in the person of Philip and we saw that it was good and a reason for rejoicing. But now our focus changes.

We move from the pure to the perverse and the phony. In this case, he was a man named Simon.

Simon had a racket going.

He was a magician and he had the only show in town. More than that, he was a con artist.

He had the people of Samaria conned.

He was a phony

but they did not know that he was a phony. Instead they thought of him as the Great Power of God.



Simon Magnus!

Acts 8:9-11; Simon the Magician!

This brings us to a principle. It is that phony people do not announce their phoniness.

Just the opposite. They always try to pass themselves off as the real thing.

They say at the moment that 40% of all £1.00 coins are counterfeit.

It is no accident that Satan is known as an angel of light.

He is the master counterfeiter.

And he will always make his lie look as much like the truth as possible.

Acts 8:9-11; Simon the Magician!

As we will see, Simon's so-called miracles were nothing more than sleight of hand magic tricks.

Nevertheless he had claimed to have supernatural powers and had convinced a large number of the Samaritans that he indeed had such power.

Simon was a counterfeiter. Notice that we read in two different verses that people were giving attention to him: and they all, from smallest to greatest, were **GIVING ATTENTION to him, saying,**

Acts 8:9-11; Simon the Magician!

“This man is what is called the Great Power of God.”

11 And they were GIVING HIM ATTENTION because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts. (Acts 8:10-11;).

They were awed by him and called what they thought was his divine power, “The Great Power.” The Greek word is “Magus” (Magi is the plural.) and is the source of words like “magic” and “great” (the meaning of magus in translation.)

This man was used to getting lots of attention. He had grown to like it. I have a feeling that he thrived on it. This brings us to a second principle concerning phony people. It is that phony people like to be noticed.

Acts 8:9-11; Simon the Magician!

Most of us tend to be like that.

We tend to like it when people pay attention to us.

It becomes a sign of our own self-importance.

We become like little gods, wanting to be worshipped.

“Come and listen to me and see how important I am.”

Have you ever seen a child on a diving board?

You will hear the same thing: “Mummy! Daddy! Watch me!”

The Scriptures call for us to give attention to the Lord.

This was why God instituted the Sabbath.

**It was to be a day when men stopped their labours
and gave their attention to their Lord.**

What is our reaction when we go unrecognized?

**When we do that special thing or when you achieve
that certain accomplishment and **nobody notices.****

What do we do? Do we get a little resentful?

Modern-Day Samaritans!



Acts 8:12-13; Simon the Magician!

12 “But, Philip told the people
the **Good News** about the **kingdom of God**
and the **authority of Jesus the Messiah**. Men and
women **believed** Philip and were **immersed.**”

13 “**Simon** himself also **believed** and **was immersed**.
Simon stayed near Philip.
He **saw the miracles**
and the very powerful things **which Philip did**.
Simon was amazed.”

Apostolic teaching on water baptism!

“When the kindness and the love to men of God our Saviour did appear (not by works that are in righteousness that we did but according to His kindness,) He did save us, through a bathing of regeneration, and a renewing of the Holy Spirit, Titus 3:4-5; (YLT)

Divine initiative!

Kindness.

Love.

Mercy.

NOT due to works of righteousness.

Saved when?

THROUGH Washing of regeneration. i.e. Immersion, and Renewing of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38; John 3:5; Eph. 5:26; 1 Cor 12:13;

WATER BAPTISM and the NEW BIRTH!

Let Scripture Explain Scripture

NO HAZARD

John 3:5 (NKJV)
Jesus answered,
"Most assuredly,
I say to you,
unless one is
born of water and
the Spirit, he
cannot enter the
kingdom of God."

Titus 3:5 (NKJV)
"He saved us,
through the
washing of
regeneration and
renewing of the
Holy Spirit."

WATER BAPTISM and the NEW BIRTH!

Vincent's Word Studies – on John 3:5;

Born of water and the Spirit -Let Scripture Explain Scripture

The exposition of this much controverted passage does not fall within the scope of this work.

We may observe:- 1. That Jesus here lays down the preliminary conditions of entrance into His kingdom, expanding and explaining His statement in v 3.

2. That this condition is here stated as complex, including two distinct factors, water and the Spirit.

3. That the former of these two factors is not to be merged in the latter; that the spiritual element is not to exclude or obliterate the external and ritual element. We are not to understand with Calvin, the Holy Spirit as the purifying water in the spiritual sense: “water which is the Spirit.”

4. That water points definitely to the rite of baptism.

WATER BAPTISM and the NEW BIRTH!

Barnes:- *Be born of water.* By water, here, is evidently signified *baptism*. Thus the word is used in Eph 5:26; Tit 3:5;

Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown's one-volume Commentary on the Whole Bible:- “Indeed, element of water and operation of the Spirit are brought together in a glorious evangelical prediction of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 36:25-27;) which Nicodemus might have been reminded of had such spiritualities not been almost lost in the reigning formalism.”

“Already had the symbol of water been embodied in an initiatory ordinance, in the baptism of the Jewish expectants of Messiah by the Baptist, not to speak of the baptism of Gentile proselytes before that; and in the Christian Church it was soon to become the great visible door of entrance into "the kingdom of God," the reality being the sole work of the Holy Ghost.” (Titus 3:5;)

Water Baptism & The New Birth

Let Scripture Explain Scripture

WATER BAPTISM

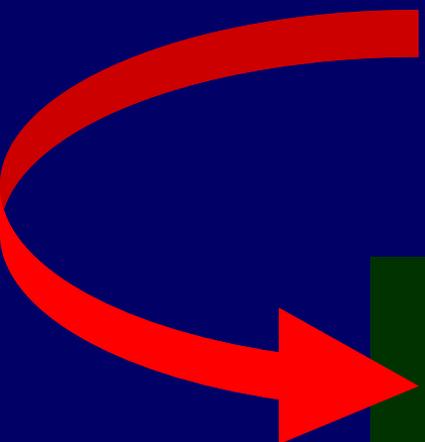
| John 3:5. | Titus 3:5. | Ephes. 5:26. |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| born of water. | washing of regeneration. | washing of water. |
| and the Spirit | and renewing of the Holy Spirit. | by the word. |

Acts 8:12-17; When were they saved?

They **HEARD** the **WORD** preached
and confirmed. – Acts 8:4-8, 12;

They **BELIEVED** the **GOSPEL**.

– Acts 8:12;



They were **baptized in the
name of Jesus Christ**. – Acts 8:12,16;

Thus they had received the word of God. –
Acts 8:14;

Peter and John prayed that they might
receive the Holy Spirit. – Acts 8:15;
For He had **fallen upon NONE of them!** –
Acts 8:16;

WATER BAPTISM and the NEW BIRTH!

Acts 8 shows that:- They were saved before they received the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit falling upon people is NOT what saves them!

They had received the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit when in faithful obedience they were baptised in water into Christ and were therefore born again.

Acts 2:38; Gal 3:26-27;

The statement:- v15-16 “prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit For He had not yet fallen upon any of them;” Refers to giving of miraculous gifts Through the laying on of the apostles hands confirming the message was from God

In Acts 10 – the Holy Spirit falling upon them was NOT for the purpose of saving them – but to demonstrate that God would accept them on the same basis as the Jew – by believing and obeying the gospel. Acts 10:47-48;

What PUT the Samaritans INTO Christ?

We enter into Christ through the GRACE of God revealed through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

We access the BLOOD of Christ by our faithful obedient response to that GRACE by our baptism in water into Christ.

Rev 1:5; Acts 22:16; Rom 6:3-6; 1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:26-27;

The Samaritans were saved and “in Christ” in Acts 8:12; Yet, they had only been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. (i.e. water baptism, Acts 10:47-48;)

They WERE SAVED but had received no miraculous GIFTS from the Holy Spirit! (Acts 8:15-17;)

Water baptism is the baptism of:-
Romans 6:3-6; Gal 3:27; and 1 Corinthians 12:13
which PUTS one INTO Christ!
and IN CHRIST we are now in a SAVED state.

Were the Samaritans SAVED from their past SINS in Acts 8:12;?

Acts 8:12-17; If saved then they were in Christ:-
If Saved they are cleansed of their sins Acts 2:38; 22:16;

Acts 10:47-48; "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord."

IF SAVED and SINS FORGIVEN:-

They were in Jesus Christ. Rom 6:3-6; Gal 3:26-27;
They were in the body of Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 12:13;
Baptism in the "name of Jesus" is baptism in water.
Acts 2:38; 10:47-48;

Paul's teaching on water baptism Gal 3:26-27!

The **BLOOD** of **CHRIST** accessed through
WATER BAPTISM PUTS us INTO CHRIST.

Galatians 3:26-27;

**For you are
all sons of God
through faith
in Christ Jesus.
For as many of you
as were baptized
into Christ
have put on Christ.**

You are – Present tense.
What? - Children of God.
How? - By faith,
for as many of you as
were baptized into Christ
have put on Christ.

Paul's teaching on water baptism Gal 3:26-27!

**Can someone be saved who is not in Christ,
or have not put on Christ?**

**Were the Samaritans children of God by faith
in Christ in Acts 8:12? They had believed and been
baptized but had not received the Holy Spirit.**

**They had professed their faith followed
by water baptism that put them into Christ.**

**IF THEY WERE then WE CAN BE
IF WE FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE!**

Apostolic teaching on water baptism!

Col. 2:12-13; (NKJV)

“buried with Him in baptism,
in which you also were
raised with Him through
faith in the working of God,
who raised Him from the
dead. [13] And **you,** being
dead in your trespasses and
the uncircumcision of your
flesh, **He has made alive**
together with Him, **having**
forgiven you all trespasses.”

A Burial:-

With Jesus in baptism
In WHICH we are
raised with Jesus
Through FAITH.

When God works:-
God makes you alive
by **forgiving you**
of **your sins.**

Joshua 6;
2 Kings 5:14;
1 Pet 3:21;

The Religious Significance of Circumcision Under the First Covenant!

Interesting significance religiously to this rite

under the Old Testament:- Unger's Dictionary: "It secured to the one subjected to its rights of the covenant, participation in all its material and spiritual benefits; while, on the other hand he was bound to fulfill all covenant obligations." (p. 207).

It also had strong figurative implications:-

Symbol of **purity of heart.**

(Deut 10:16; 30:6; Lev 26:41; Jer 4:4; Ezek 44:7;)

The term also was indicative of one who had perfected an ability. (Exodus 6:12;)

The term is figurative of a readiness to hear and obey God's word. (Jeremiah 6:10;)

The Religious Significance of Circumcision Under the First Covenant!

Failed Attempts to Deny the Essentiality of Baptism

in our text:- Some religious groups will attempt to use the description of baptism as circumcision. (Colossians 2:11-12;)

To deny that baptism is essential to being saved based on (Romans 4:6-12;).

Such an effort is a clear-cut case of making a scripture a pretext for a position. Because two things have a parallel does not make the things entirely identical.

Baptism is compared to circumcision because at that point in the plan of salvation our sins cut away, i.e. forgiven. This is the parallel! Also the two things are not absolutely identical: circumcision was **“a sign of the covenant.”** (Romans 4:11;) Whereas **baptism is necessary to be born into God’s family.** (John 3:3-5;).

Acts 8:12; “Samaritans Believed & were Baptized!”



SAMARITANS: MOUNT GERIZIM

Acts 8:14-16; “Samaritans Believed were Baptized”!

**There was an obvious difference
between the fake miracles **Simon**
had performed and the real miracles
Philip performed.**

**We have noted that
when they saw the signs **Philip** performed
they paid attention to his words.**

**Now they have believed
and obeyed his words.**

**Even the magician has obeyed
and is astonished by Philip’s miracles.**

Acts 8:9-25; Simon the Magician!

**Simon the sorcerer was converted to the truth.
He then put his soul in jeopardy by sinning.
Simon later repented of his sin.**

**The story of Simon teaches us that
a saved person can jeopardize his own soul.**

**The Bible teaches that a person
can leave God's fellowship.**

(1 John 1:5-10;)

**The Bible teaches
a "fearful expectation of judgment"
will await those who sin willfully.**

(Heb 10:26-27;)

Acts 8:12-11; Simon the Magician!

14 “When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.”

15 “When Peter and John arrived, they prayed for the Samaritan believers to receive the Holy Spirit.”

16 “These people had been immersed by the authority of the Lord Jesus, but the Holy Spirit had not yet come down on any of them.”

Acts 8:14-25; Simon the Magician!

The apostles sent Peter and John to Samaria so that the people might **receive a gift from the Holy Spirit.**

(v 14-17;)

Simon offered Peter and John money for this ability.

(v 17-19;)

Peter rebuked Simon and told him to repent.

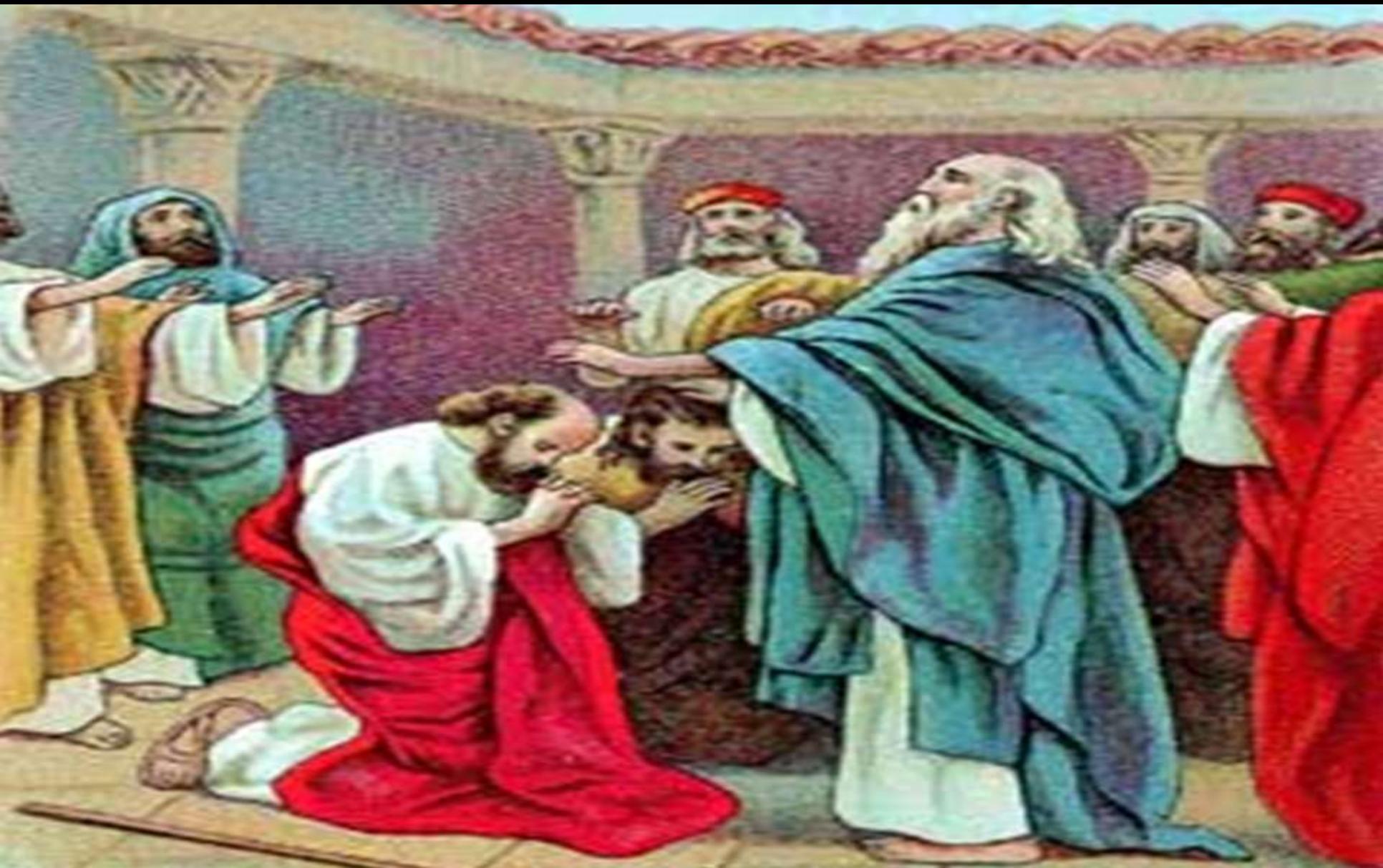
(v 20-23;)

Simon repented of his sin.

Peter and John returned to Jerusalem.

(v 24-25;)

**The “Coming” of the Holy Spirit
meaning the giving of a miraculous gift.**



The “Coming” of the Holy Spirit meaning the giving of a miraculous gift.

Being faithfully obedient to God in baptism brings forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit Himself as the Gift (singular – Acts 2:38-39;) and promise of God into the Christian’s life. Eph 1:13-14;

But our obedience to God in our baptism does not automatically bring the supernatural power, or gifts (listed in 1 Corinthians 12;) of the Holy Spirit to a person.

These gifts were usually passed to others by having an Apostle lay his hands on him or her.

This is why the two Apostles came down to Samaria and laid their hands on them.

**The “Coming” of the Holy Spirit
meaning the giving of a miraculous gift.**

The two exceptions to this practice are found in Acts 2:1-4; (on **the Apostles** themselves) and in Acts 10; (**Cornelius and his family.**)

In these two instances no human was involved in imparting **a miraculous gift.** The Holy Spirit Himself **directly** gave a miraculous gift .

In both these cases the purpose was the same NOT for salvation or a SIGN of being saved but as CONFIRMATION of the MESSAGE.



In similar manner it was at **Ephesus** that Paul baptized 12 disciples, then laid his hands on them, after which they could perform miraculous signs.

**The “Coming” of the Holy Spirit
meaning the giving of a miraculous gift.**

**Their sins had been forgiven but they did not have
the power to perform signs and wonders until an
Apostle had laid his hands on them. Acts 6:6; 19:1-7;**

**Then the Spirit is said to have
“came upon” them,
meaning they received a miraculous gift.**

**In similar manner it was at Ephesus that Paul
baptized 12 disciples, then laid his hands on them,
after which they could perform miraculous signs.**

Gifts of the Spirit v the Gift of the Spirit.

**The Holy Spirit is given to those who obey Jesus.
(Acts 2:38 & 39; Romans 8:9;)**

**The Gift of the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit Himself
given to each person who
believes, repents and is baptized.
Called **the indwelling** in v39**

**The gifts of the Holy Spirit, (1 Corinthians 12:1-11;)
are **miraculous gifts** conferred through
the laying on of an Apostle's hands.**

**When the Apostles died
the miraculous gifts had fulfilled their purpose
and ended with them.
1 Cor 13:8;**

Acts 8:18-19; Simon the Magician!

18 “When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money 19 and said, “Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

Simon understood that only the Apostles had the power to give the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit by laying their hands on baptized disciples.

He wanted the same power to be able to give or, as perhaps he thought, to sell it to others.

Acts 8:19; Signs, Wonders, and Miracles!

**Signs, wonders, and miracles
are essential to the Christian faith.**

They proved that Jesus was sent from God.

**Acts 2:22; “... attested by God to you
by miracles, wonders, and signs which
God did through Him in your midst,”**

They confirmed the prophet's messages.

**Heb 2:4; God also bearing witness both with
signs and wonders, with various miracles, and
gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?**

Acts 8:19; Signs, Wonders, and Miracles!

It is also essential to understand that miraculous gifts based on the promises found in the New Testament have ended. They had fulfilled their purpose.

If they did not end, then:-

There are additional authorized messengers.

If they did not end, then:-

There are additional authenticated messages.

We need to “rightly divide the word” and try to understand all the words from God to man.

Acts 8:19; Signs, Wonders, and Miracles!

The claim of **continuing messages** from God is a great source of confusion and digression in the religious world today.

We need to put that claim in clear contrast to the Scriptures.

When we understand that the **gifts were to confirm the gospel message of the first century** and then understand that **many who claim the use of gifts today are preaching a different message!**

Then it becomes obvious that **whatever gifts are claimed they are not from God because they confirm a different message!**

Acts 8:14-16; Simon!

In Acts 10 when Cornelius receives the miraculous gift to speak in a language (probably Hebrew) it is not given by the Apostles but **directly by** the Holy Spirit.

This was **unusual** Peter had to think all the way **back to Pentecost** to find **a similar occurrence** because since Pentecost the miraculous gifts had been passed on by the Apostles hands.

It was a **unique gift of power** given by the Holy Spirit **to convince those Jewish Christians** with Peter, that the **Gentiles were now ACCEPTABLE to God** through the **blood of Christ** if they would **obey the message** that Peter was preaching to them.

Acts 8:19; Signs, Wonders, and Miracles!

The Scriptures (I Cor 13; and Eph 4;) teach the principle that there would be a time when signs, wonders, and miracles would end.

We need to Identify the ways (modes or means) by which people received miraculous gifts in the New Testament.

If miraculous abilities cannot be imparted in the same way for the same purpose today, Then they are not available today.

Acts 8:19; Signs, Wonders, and Miracles!

First Mode:- Laying on of an Apostle's Hands!

The first mode (or means) of imparting miraculous gifts we will look at is the laying on of an Apostle's hands.

We will look at occasions on which this occurred.

We will see an explicit statement from the Scriptures about this mode or method.

First Mode:- Laying on of an Apostle's Hands!

Example 1:- Twelve "disciples" at Ephesus!

Paul thought they were Christians and asked:

"... Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?" (Acts 19:2;)

When Paul learned they were not Christians, they were Immersed into Christ.

Then — only after they became Christians:- (Acts 19:6 KJV) ... Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; they got a gift they spoke with tongues, and prophesied to confirm message.

First Mode:- Laying on of an Apostle's Hands!

Example 2:- The Samaritans.

Among the Samaritans. (Acts 8:5-13;)

The evangelist Philip:- Worked miracles.

**Taught and baptized many
(including Simon, a magician.)**

**Simon was amazed at the miracles
and signs done by Philip. (Acts 8:13;)**

***Simon never asked Philip
for the ability to perform miracles.***

Acts 8:19; Signs, Wonders, and Miracles!

“Then two Apostles (Peter and John) came to Samaria and laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit, i.e. gave the ability to work miracles.”

Acts 8:17;

They received something Simon could SEE.

(Acts 8:18;) “Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given” i.e. the ability to work miracles.

“Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:19;)

Acts 8:19; Signs, Wonders, and Miracles!

NOTE:- Simon approached the Apostles (not Philip) for the power to impart miraculous abilities.

“through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given.” (Acts 8:18;)

Simon’s clear conclusion that the power was transmitted by the Apostles’ hands!

Acts 8:19; Signs, Wonders, and Miracles!

Example 3:- Timothy:- The Apostle Paul had imparted a **“gift”** to Timothy.

“stir up the gift of God, which is in you by the putting on of my hands.” (2 Tim 1:6;)

The eldership (“presbytery”) was present.

“Neglect not the gift that is in you, which was given you by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.” (1 Tim 4:14;)

It was “by” Paul’s hands and “with” the hands of the eldership. The eldership was present and gave approval. But it was Paul’s hands were the means by which the miraculous abilities were imparted.

Acts 8:19; Signs, Wonders, and Miracles!

Summary of First Mode:-

The first mode (or method) of receiving miraculous abilities is by the laying on of an Apostle's hands.

There is not a single instance of miraculous abilities being imparted by a man (or woman) except by the laying on of the hands of an Apostle.

Acts 8:19; Signs, Wonders, and Miracles!

There are two (and **only two**) occasions recorded when the **miraculous abilities** were **imparted** **without the laying on of anyone's hands.**

These **two instances** demonstrate a **second mode (or method)** by which **miraculous gifts** were received.

Second Mode:- Gift of POWER from heaven!

Example 1: Apostles on Pentecost:- the Apostles ...

(Acts 2:1-4;) “were all together in one place.

And suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of the rushing of a mighty wind.”

“and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them tongues parting asunder, like as of fire; and it sat upon each one of them.”

And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit,** and **began to speak with other languages,** as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Second Mode:- Gift of POWER from heaven!

The Apostles received the ability to speak in languages. But, those abilities were not imparted by anyone's hands.

They came "from heaven" (Acts 2:2;) and "fell" (Acts 11:15) upon the Apostles.

**This was in fulfillment of a promise:-
"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes,
He will guide you into all the truth;
for He will not speak on His own initiative,
but whatever He hears, He will speak;
and He will disclose to you what is to come.**

Second Mode:- Gift of POWER from heaven!

"And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with POWER from on high."

Luke 24:49;

"you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Holy Spirit would come with power."

(Acts 1:5;)

That Peter said was fulfilled when Jesus:-

"having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."

This was baptism "with the Holy Spirit and power."

Second Mode:- Gift of POWER from heaven!

Example 2: Cornelius' household:-

While Peter was still preaching...

“the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.” (Acts 10:44;)

Peter observed that those Gentiles had:-

(Acts 10:47;) “received the Holy Spirit- a gift of power.

And, as a result they did:-

(Acts 10:46;) “speak with tongues and magnify God.”

Second Mode:- Gift of POWER from heaven!

**What happened at Cornelius' house
was a rare event:-**

**Peter had to think all the way back
to Pentecost to remember anything like this
that had happened before.**

**Peter said those of Cornelius' house had:-
(Acts 10:47;)
“received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”**

Second Mode:- Gift of POWER from heaven!

Later **Peter** said the **Holy Spirit** fell on them...
(Acts 11:15; “...as upon us at the beginning.”)

This was a **gift of power** “without human hands.”

Cornelius and His family did not receive **ALL** of the gifts that **Jesus** had promised the apostles but they did receive the **same gift** that drew peoples **attention to the message** as happened on **Acts 2**;

Peter continues “**God gave them...**”

(Acts 11:17;)

“...the **same gift** as **He** gave us when we believed on the **Lord Jesus Christ.**”

Second Mode:- Gift of POWER from heaven!

Summary of Second Mode:-

**Those Apostles on Pentecost, (AD 30)
and those of Cornelius' household, (AD 40)
received visible, miraculous abilities.**

just as did:-

**The twelve Ephesians upon whom
Paul laid his hands, and
Those of Samaria upon whom
Peter and John laid their hands.**

Second Mode:- Gift of POWER from heaven!

But the mode (or method) of imparting the gifts was completely different.

No laying on of hands was involved.

On Pentecost and at Cornelius' house, the abilities seem to “fall” from heaven. (Acts 10:44; 11:15;)

Jesus, is the one who baptized with the Holy Spirit. (Mark 1:8;), who was in heaven. (Acts 2:33, Col 3:1; I Pet. 3:22;)

There were two modes (or means) by which miraculous abilities were transmitted:-

The laying on of an Apostle's hands!

“Gift of power to confirm the message.”

**There are no Apostles today!
(none meet the qualifications)**

Acts 1:20-23; I Cor. 15:8-9;

There is no “baptism with the Holy Spirit” today” Paul says there is “one baptism” in Eph 4:5; written AD 62).

WATER BAPTISM

is the only baptism COMMANDED

by Jesus for MEN to carry out. Matt 28:18-20;

Acts 8:20-21; Simon the Magician!

20 Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!"

21 "You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God."

"I think Peter means that Simon could not be involved in anything having to do with the Holy Spirit because of his attitude."

Acts 8:22:24; “Repent and Pray”!

**22 “Repent of this wickedness
and pray to the Lord.**

**Perhaps he will forgive you
for having such a thought in your heart.”**

**23 “For I see that you are full of bitterness
and captive to sin.”**

**24 “Then Simon answered,
“Pray to the Lord for me so that
nothing you have said may happen to me.”**

Acts 8:23; “Full of Bitterness.”

**Peter gives us insight into
the condition of Simon’s heart.**

He had believed and been baptized.

He would not have to be baptized again.

He would be a disciple if he repented.

**He was bitter because he had lost his prestige
among the people. He thought that getting
the power to give or sell the Holy Spirit’s gifts
to whom ever he chose would help him
to regain his power and prestige.**



Acts 8:24; “Pray for Me!”

Acts 8:24; “Pray for Me!”

Peter must have described in ghastly detail what would happen to him if he did not repent.

I assume he had told him about the eternal punishment in the fires of hell that await those who reject the grace of God.

**It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of an angry God. (Hebrews 11:31;)
Simon asked Peter to intercede for him.**

Acts 8:9-25; Simon the Magician!

There are several principles we can learn from the story of Simon the Sorcerer:- **Only the Apostles can transfer the supernatural powers of the Holy Spirit.**

This also shows that **everyone who was baptized in water was not also baptized with the Holy Spirit.**

It also shows that **“RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT”** in this context means being given a special gift which could be a language or healing or anything mentioned in 1 Cor 12;

Acts 8:9-25; Simon the Magician!

We also learn here that the gifts of God cannot be purchased with money.

The story is told of a missionary to Japan who had shared the gospel with an old fisherman.

The fisherman would politely listen, but always refused the offer of the gospel, **insisting that his own works would merit his standing before God.**

Acts 8:9-25; Simon the Magician!

The missionary was at the fisherman's house and noticed upon the mantel a beautiful pearl.

When asked about it, the fisherman explained that his son had been a pearl diver and that, while obtaining this particular pearl, he had drowned.

**The missionary said, "This is certainly a wonderful pearl. You must allow me to purchase it."
He offered the fisherman five yen.**

Acts 8:9-25; Simon the Magician!

The fisherman refused. “You could not buy that pearl for five yen or for five million yen.

**That pearl cost me the life of my son.
It is priceless to me.”**

**The missionary quietly replied,
“Eternal life is the most precious thing of all.”**

**You cannot earn it or deserve it.
It is priceless; it cost God
the life of His own Son.”**

Acts 8:9-25; Simon the Magician!

We also learn here that the gifts of God cannot be purchased with money.

**Another thing we learn is that when
a baptized believer sins,
he does not need to be
re-baptized for the forgiveness of sins.**

**If he truly repents he needs to pray sincerely
and ask God for forgiveness.**

God will forgive him if he truly repents.

1 John 1:6-9;



Simon Dewey

Jesus and Samaritan woman at Jacob's well!

Acts 8:25; Continued spreading the gospel!

25 “When they had testified and proclaimed the word of the Lord, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.”

Do you think that Philips success in this area reflected the impact of Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well? (John 4;)

Had they also heard about **Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan?**

**Acts 8:9-25;
Simon the Magician!
Lesson 2 Slide 80**

Graeme Morrison

graemestudy@gmail.com

<https://www.graemebibleresources.com>

**Next in the series:-
Acts 8:26; to 40; Ethiopian Eunuch.**