

**SESSION 9: NOVEMBER 18**  
CALVARY METHODIST CHURCH  
ACTS CHAPTER 8 NOTES AND COMMENTARY

### **The Aftermath of Stephen's Death**

8 (a) Now Saul was consenting to his (Stephen's) death. *At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.*

3 (a) As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing *them* to prison.

### **Christ Is Preached in Samaria**

4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. 5 (b) Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. 6 And the (d) multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, (c) hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. 8 (d) And there was great joy in that city.

SIGNS **????** AND WONDERS **????** FOLLOW PHILIP. HE IS RECEIVING MANY CONVERTS IN SAMARIA.

PHILIP WAS NOT AN APOSTLE BUT A DEACON.

PREACHING (e) **????** OF **THE GOSPEL** RESURRECTION AND FAITH IN THE MESSIAH JESUS

### **The Sorcerer's Profession of Faith**

9 But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great (having special spiritual gifts), 10 to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God." 11 And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. 13 Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

### **The Sorcerer's Sin**

14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They (g) had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

20 But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! 21 You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right (the wrong spirit) in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if

perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. **23** For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity."

**24** Then Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me."

**25** So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

### **Philip's Call to Preached to an Ethiopian**

**26** Now (j) an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. **27** So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, **28** was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. **29** Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."

**30** So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand (led to ask the right question) what you are reading?"

**31** And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?"

And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. **32** The place in the Scripture which he read was this:

*"He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent,*

*So He opened not His mouth. **33** In His humiliation His justice was taken away,*

*And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth." (Isaiah 53:7-8)*

**34** So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?"

**35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.

**36** Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, *here is water.* What hinders me from being baptized?"

**37** Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." (a condition for baptism is stated here.)

And he answered and said, (The eunuch's profession of faith: Believes in his heart and confesses with his mouth - Romans 10:9-10) "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

**38** So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. **39**

Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. **40** But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea. (k)

- (a) We are introduced to the malevolent Saul. He is an active agent of persecution against the believers.
- (b) Philip is one of the two of the seven named deacons whose ministry is described in some detail. His credentials are very close to Stephen's. Other deacons of chapter 6 (*Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas*) were probably very similar in their faith and deeds.
- (c) What miracles followed the preaching of Philip. (What are some that we read of?)
- (d) What was the fruit of Philip's preaching?? Multitudes believed, Believers were expressing great joy.
- (e) What was the message Philip declared?  
The kingdom of God and the power of faith in the name of Jesus.
- (f) Simon a man of a certain reputation! What was his reputation?  
What power was working through him?  
Describe do you think was his motivation; a spiritual profile of his character >>  
He followed Philip's ministry closely.
- (g) The Samaritan revival include salvation and baptism  
but they had not received the gift of the Holy Spirit (Theologians speculate as to why no HS signs)
- (h) The apostles Peter and John laid hands on the faithful and the Holy Spirit fell upon them  
(what was manifested?) What did power did Simon want? What did this reveal about his inner heart condition?
- (i) What does Simon's request of Peter tell us?

**GOD INSTRUCTS PHILIP TO MINISTER TO ONE SPECIAL MAN:**

*Psalm 68: 31-32 Envoys will come out of Egypt; Ethiopia will quickly stretch out her hands to God.*

*32 Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth; Oh, sing praises to the Lord, Selah*

- (j1) - How was Philip instructed to minister to a certain Ethiopian?
- (j2) Notice it was not a prompting of the Holy Spirit who directs Philip's plans. Philip has just returned to Jerusalem with Peter and John after his success preaching in Samaria.
- (j3) How did the Holy Spirit set up and coordinate this meeting? The right man; the right timing, The right chariot in a parade of chariots; The right portion of Scripture was being read; The place with water for baptism was just at the convenient time and place.  
What supernatural departure did Philip experience? Azotus (Near Philistine cities of Ashdod)  
Azotus is 41 miles from his point of departure in Gaza.  
(today this is the region of the West Bank.)
- (k) What was the consequence of Philip being called by God to minister salvation to this man?  
We can compare this special God-directed meeting to the woman at the well in Samaria..