

## Notes on Acts 8

### Acts 8:1-4 – The Aftermath of Stephen’s Death

- Persecution: A great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem (cf. Acts 7:52)
- Dispersion: They were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria (except the apostles!) (Acts 1:8)
- Proclamation: Those who scattered went about preaching the word!

**Genesis 50:20** “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

**Acts 2:23–24** “This Jesus... you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.”

### Acts 8:4-8 – Philip evangelizes the Samaritans

Philip – probably not one of the apostles, but see Acts 6:5 and 21:8

Evangelist – NIV/ESV “preached the word”

Why to the Samaritans – Mutual hostility between the Jews and Samaritans, both ethnic and religious disagreements, despite some common ground, and don’t forget Acts 1:8!!

- Matthew 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans,”
- Luke 9:52–56 And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But he turned and rebuked them. And they went on to another village.
- The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), the ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19), the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4)

The crowds paid attention to him because of what he said and did

Miraculous signs: Jesus, the apostles, Stephen, Philip

### Acts 8:9-13 – “Conversion” of Simon Magus among the Samaritans

Magus/Magi – cf. Matt. 2:1, Acts 13:6, 8

Simon was the Important Guy people paid attention to because of his magic (8:11), but now they believe Philip’s good news about Jesus

Even Simon believed... and was baptized – and he sticks to Philip, amazed at the signs and wonders Philip performed

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Acts 8:14-17 – The Apostles hear what is happening in Samaria and come

Significance of Peter and John? See Luke 9:54

What does this mean? Acts 8:14 “for [the Holy Spirit] had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus”

Acts 8:18-24 – Simon tries to buy power

Simon’s desire for power, not grace

Peter calls Simon to repentance, but Simon asks Peter to pray for him instead?

The term “simony” and Simon’s after story

Acts 8:25 – The Apostles return home, but preach the Gospel along the way

Acts 8:26-40 – Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch

An Ethiopian eunuch...come to worship in Jerusalem

Heard him reading // Do you understand?

Isa. 53 – the suffering Servant – see Acts 3:13 (Luke 9:22; 17:25; 22:15; 24:26, 46)

Beginning with this Scripture, he told him the good news about Jesus – an episode reminiscent with the Road to Emmaus story (Luke 24:13-35, esp. vv. 27, 31)

Azotus (Ashdod) – a city formerly of the Philistines (like Gaza), on the Mediterranean coast

Philip preached the Gospel ... until he came to Caesarea (21:8)

Just as the apostles did in 8:25