

Acts Revisited

Chapter 8:1-25

Persecution of the Jerusalem Church (1-4)

- Saul agreed with putting Stephen to death (1)
- A great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem (1)
- The church scattered
 - Throughout Judea and Samaria (1)
 - Except the Apostles (1)
- Burial of Stephen by some devout men (2)
- Saul began destroying the church like a wild animal (3)
 - Did a house by house search (3)
 - He would drag off men and women and put them in prison (3)
- The scattered Christians evangelized the word (4)

Ministry of Philip (5-40)

Philip in Samaria (5-13)

- Philip, one of the seven from Acts 6 (4)
- Went down (topographically) from Jerusalem to Samaria (4)
- Began proclaiming Christ to the Samaritans (4)
- The crowds were responding (5) – Preaching the gospel ALWAYS leads to a response!
- Philip, one who had the laying on of the Apostles hands, was performing signs (6)
 - Unclean spirits being driven out (7)
 - Paralyzed being healed (7)
 - Lame being healed (7)
- People were rejoicing because of the physical healings and the spiritual revival (8)
- Introduction of Simon the sorcerer (9)
 - Formally practicing magic – before Philip's arrival (9)
 - Astonishing the people (9)

- Claiming to be someone great (9)
- All classes of people were giving attention to him (10)
- This man is what is called the great power of God (10)
- Simon astonished them for a long time with his magic arts (11)
- The Samaritans believed the message of Philip (12)
 - The kingdom of God (12)
 - The name of Jesus Christ (12)
 - Immersion for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit (12)
 - Men and women were being immersed (12)
- Simon believed and was immersed (13)
 - Simon followed Philip (13)
 - Simon observed signs and great miracles taking place (13)
 - Simon was constantly amazed (13)
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Peter and John in Samaria (14-25)

- Apostles heard of the revival in Samaria (14)
- They, the Apostles, sent two Apostles, Peter and John (14)
 - Peter and John came down to Samaria (15)
 - Peter and John prayed – single act – that the Samaritan Christians might receive the Holy Spirit (15)
 - The Holy Spirit had not yet fallen upon any of the Samaritan Christians (16)
 - The Samaritan Christians had been immersed into the name of the Lord Jesus (16)
 - Peter and John began continually laying their hands on the Samaritan Christians (17)
 - The Samaritan Christians continually received the Holy Spirit (17)
- Simon the former Sorcerer **SAW** that the Spirit was bestowed by the laying on of the Apostles' hands (18)
- Simon offers Peter and John, the Apostles, money for the power to bestow the Spirit by the laying on of his hands (18)
- Simon requests to buy this gift (19)
- Peter tells Simon that he will perish with his silver because he wants to obtain this gift to pass on the gifts by the laying on of his hands (20)
- Peter tells Simon he has no part in this matter (21)
- Simon's heart is not right before God (21)
- Peter tells the Christian brother Simon, the former sorcerer:
 - To repent of this wickedness (22)
 - To pray that the Lord would forgive the intentions of your heart (22)
 - Simon has the gall of bitterness and the bondage of iniquity (23)
- Simon asks Peter and John to pray for him (24)
- Peter and John:
 - Solemnly testify (25)
 - Speak the Word of the Lord (25)

- Start back to Jerusalem (25)
- Preach the Gospel in many villages in Samaria (25)

Doctrines from Chapter 8:1-25

- Gospel was meant to go beyond Jerusalem
- Faithfulness is essential in the Christian's life, even if it means imprisonment or death
- Evangelism is everyone's job
- The message of the Gospel was the same to the Samaritans as it was to the Jews: belief in Christ and His kingdom and immersion
- Those who had the laying on of the Apostles' hands had the gift of miracles
- False illusions are possible
- God does not need our money
- A Christian can fall away
- Forgiveness of the Christian involves
 - Repenting of the wickedness
 - Prayer for forgiveness