

The Acts of the Apostles

Lesson 9: Beyond Jerusalem

Acts 8:1-40

The Book of Acts is presented in three parts:



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Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.



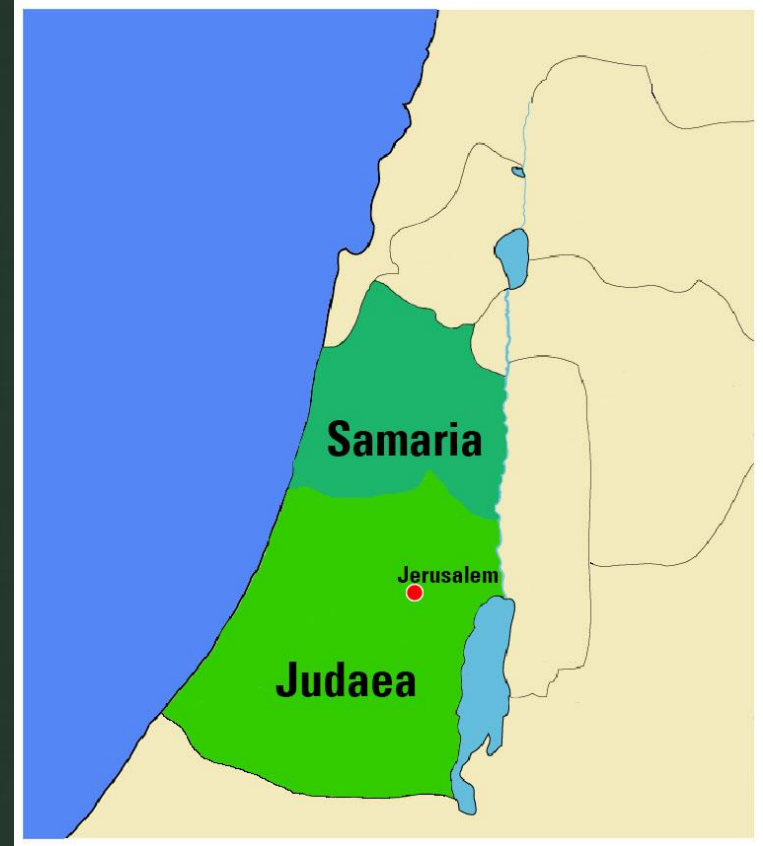
The Book of Acts is presented in three parts:

We have completed Part One:
The witness in Jerusalem (Ch 1 to 7)



The Book of Acts is presented in three parts:

We now begin Part Two:
The witness in Judaea and Samaria
(Ch 8 to 12)



The Structure of the Book of Acts

Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Region

Jerusalem

Judaea and Samaria

Nations beyond

Chapters

1 to 7

8 to 12

13 to 28

People

The Jews

The Samaritans

The Gentiles

Church Leaders

Peter

Peter and Saul

Paul

Timespan

5 years (AD 30-35)

13 years (AD 35-48)

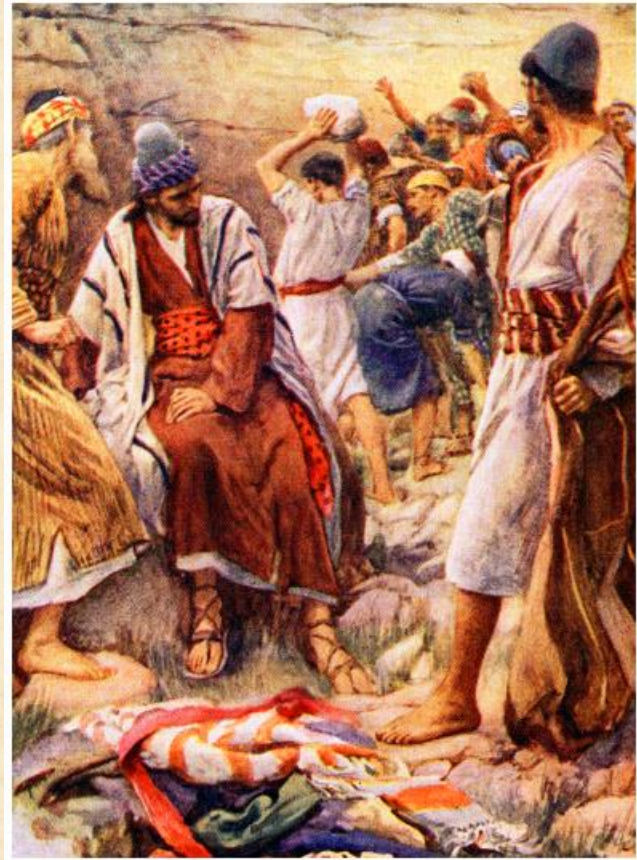
14 years (AD 48-62)

Chapter 8:

After the death of Stephen,
Saul of Tarsus increased his efforts to
persecute the followers of Jesus Christ.

Acts 8:1a

And Saul was consenting unto his
[Stephen's] death.



Acts 8:1a

And Saul was consenting unto his death.

He believed that Stephen was guilty of blasphemy and therefore should be stoned to death, as the Law demanded.

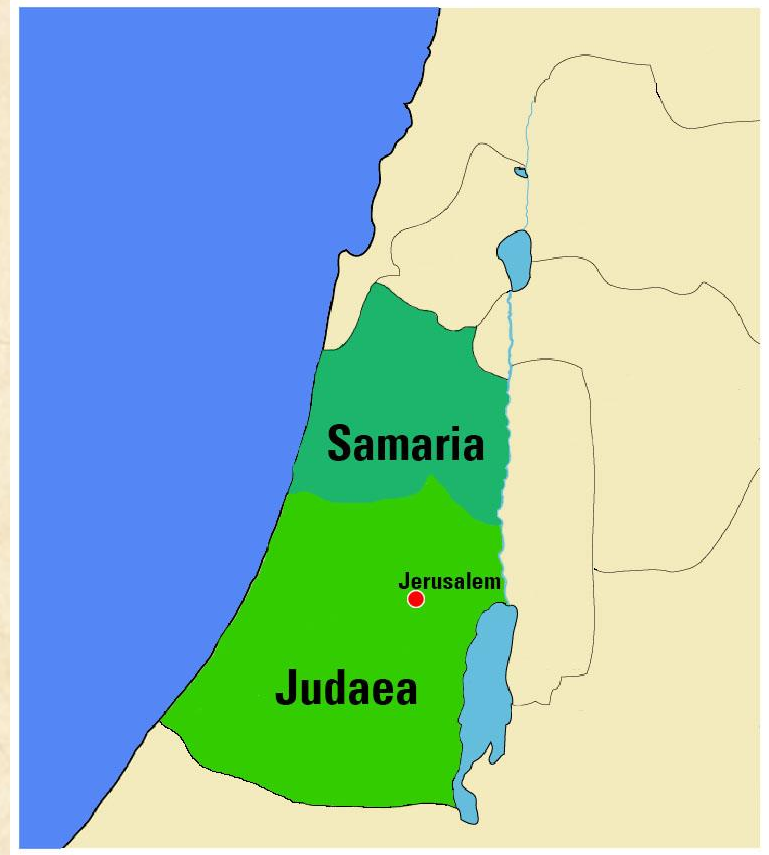
Leviticus 24:15b-16

- ¹⁵ ... Whosoever curseth his God shall bear his sin.
- ¹⁶ And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, *and* all the congregation shall certainly stone him:
as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name *of the LORD*, shall be put to death.



Acts 8:1b

And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem;
and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.



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In times past, God scattered the Jews because of their disobedience.



Acts 8:1b

And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

In times past, God scattered the Jews because of their disobedience.

Nehemiah 1:8

Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, *If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:*



Acts 8:1b

And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

But now, “Christ would use the rage of his enemies in the spreading forth and enlarging of his kingdom.”

(Geneva Bible Notes)



Acts 8:2

And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.



Acts 8:3

As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed *them* to prison.



Acts 8:3

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HAVOCK means widespread destruction; devastation. Disorder or chaos.

His own testimony shows
the fury of his pursuit:



Acts 26:9-11

- ⁹ I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- ¹⁰ Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against *them*.
- ¹¹ And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted *them* even unto strange cities.



Acts 8:4

Therefore they that were scattered
abroad _____.



Acts 8:4

Therefore they that were scattered
abroad _____.



- a. Never mentioned the name of Christ again.

Acts 8:4

Therefore they that were scattered
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- a. Never mentioned the name of Christ again.
- b. Demonstrated against the genocide, and for free speech and human rights.



Acts 8:4

Therefore they that were scattered
abroad _____.

- a. Never mentioned the name of Christ again.
- b. Demonstrated against the genocide, and for free speech and human rights.
- c. Retaliated against the priests and soldiers.



Acts 8:4

Therefore they that were scattered
abroad **went every where preaching
the word.**



Acts 8:4

Therefore they that were scattered abroad **went every where preaching the word.**



The believers who were scattered must have remembered the prayer of the apostles in Jerusalem:

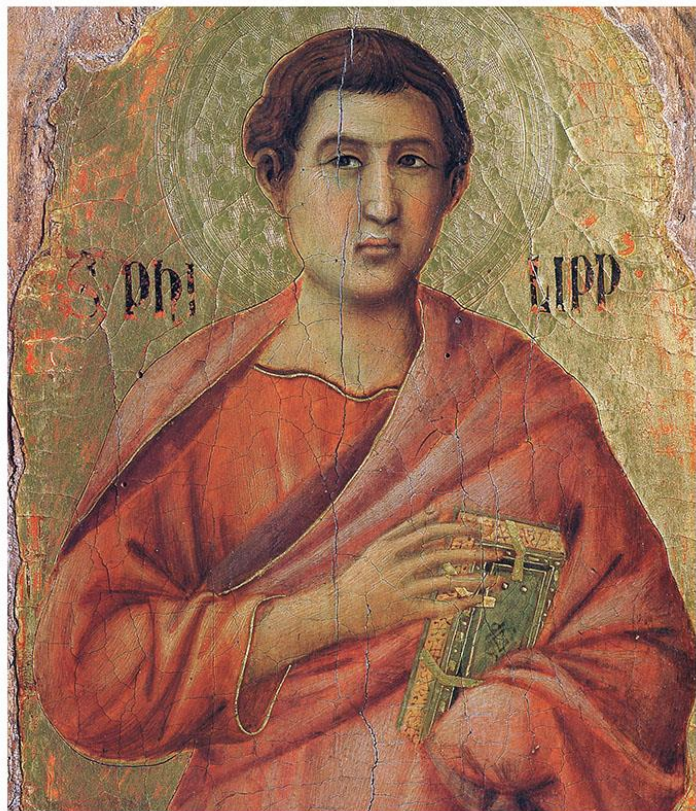
Acts 8:4

Therefore they that were scattered abroad **went every where preaching the word.**



Acts 4:29-30

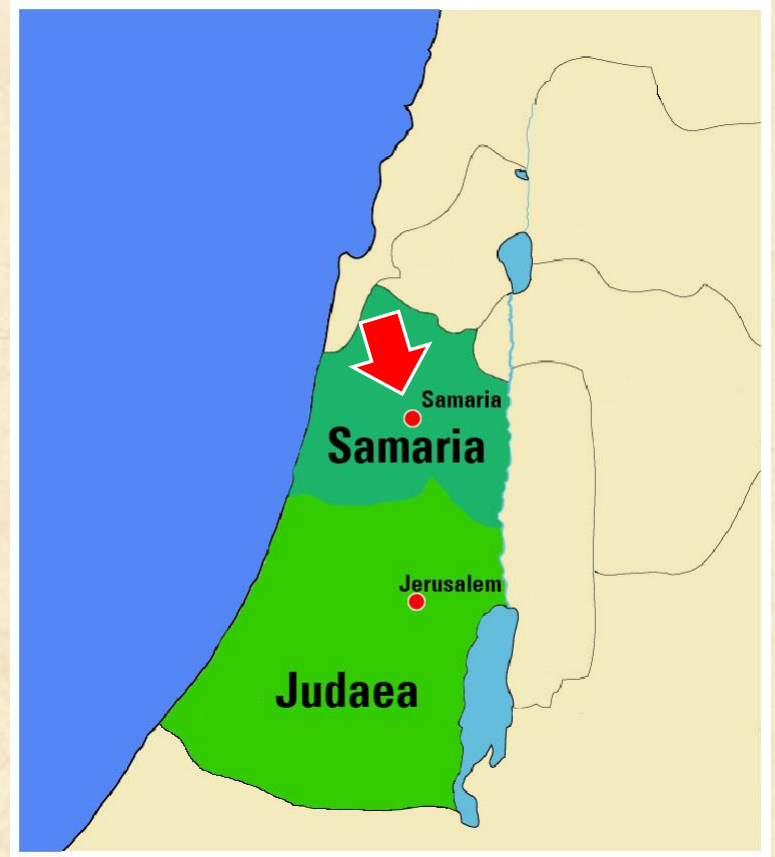
- ²⁹ And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,
- ³⁰ By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.



The focus of Acts now turns to Philip, one of the men ordained with Stephen in Chapter 6.

Acts 8:5

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

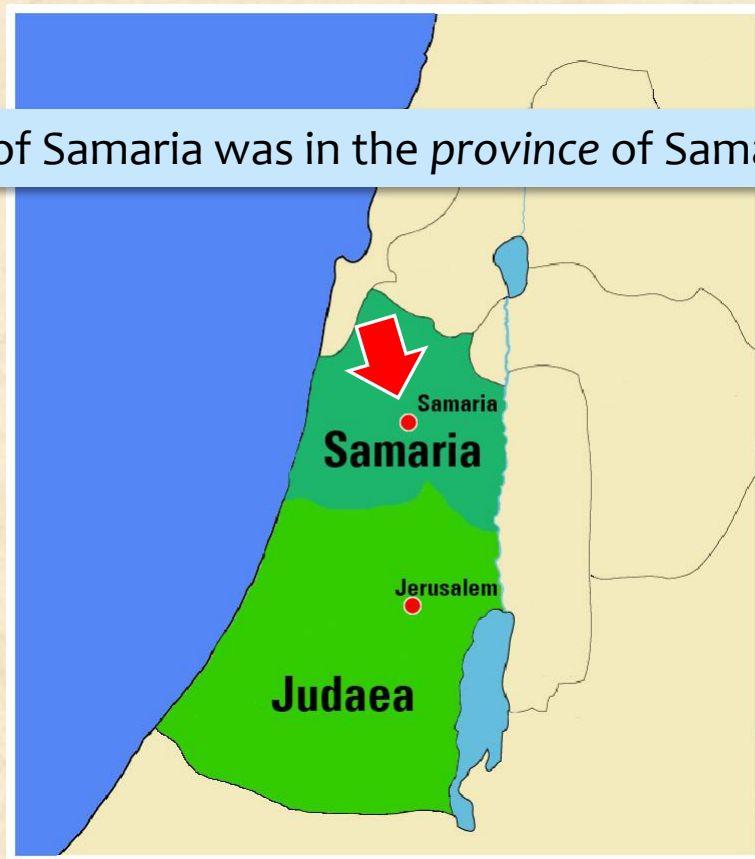


Acts 8:5

Then Philip went down to **the city of Samaria**, and preached Christ unto them.



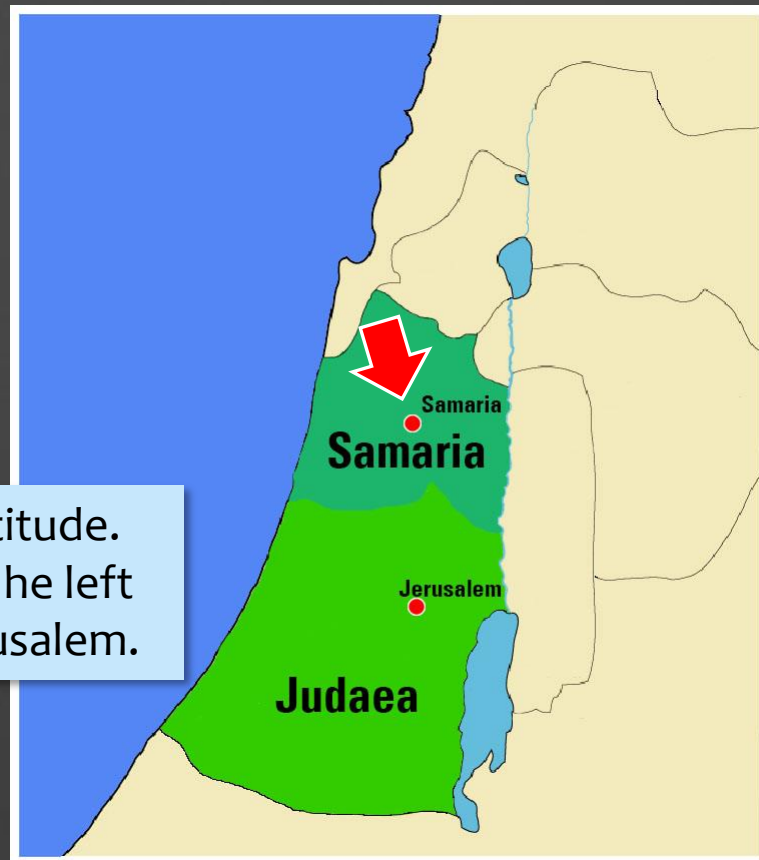
The city of Samaria was in the *province* of Samaria.



Acts 8:5

Then Philip **went down** to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

Samaria was north of Jerusalem, but at a lower altitude. No matter what direction a person traveled when he left Jerusalem, the Bible says he **went down** from Jerusalem.



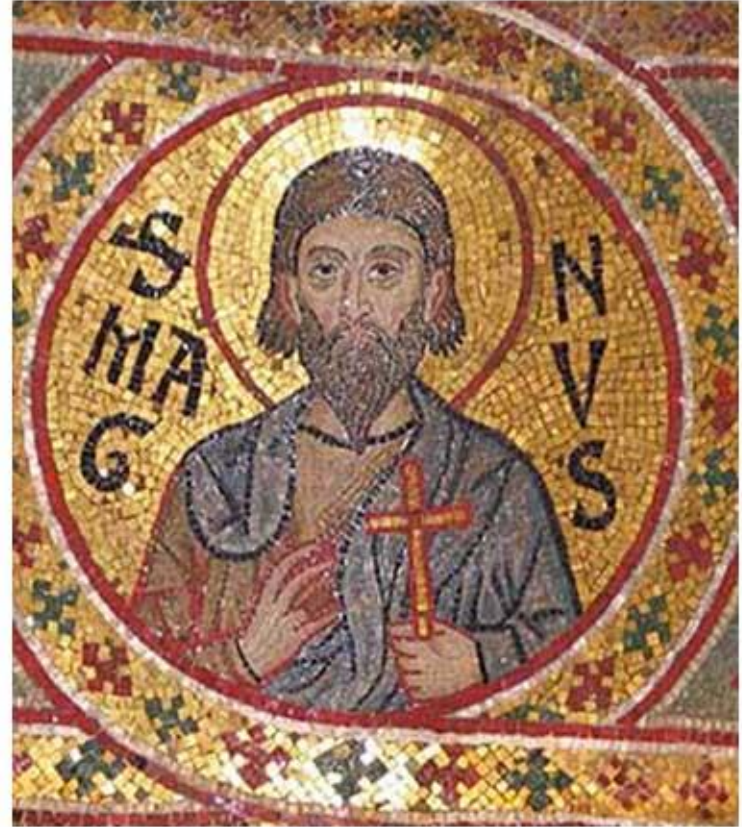
Acts 8:6-8

- 6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.
- 7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.
- 8 And there was great joy in that city.



Acts 8:9-11

- 9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:
- 10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.
- 11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.



Acts 8:12-13

- ¹² But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
- ¹³ Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.



Acts 8:14-16

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)



Acts 8:14-16

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Receiving **the power from on high** promised by Jesus should be the normal Christian experience.

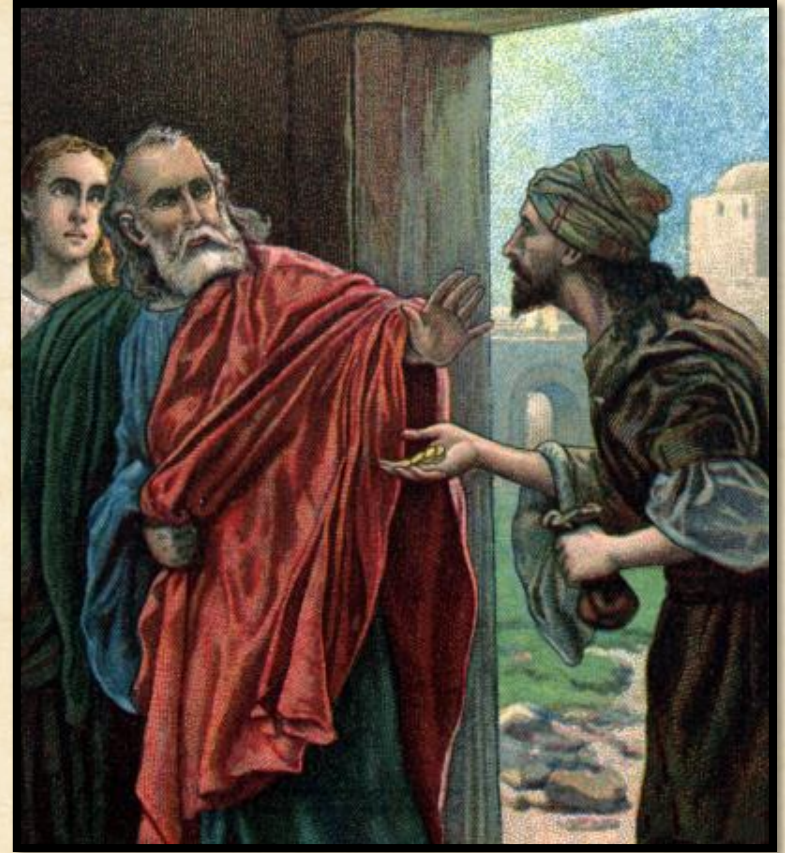
Acts 8:17-19

- 17 Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.
- 18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,
- 19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.



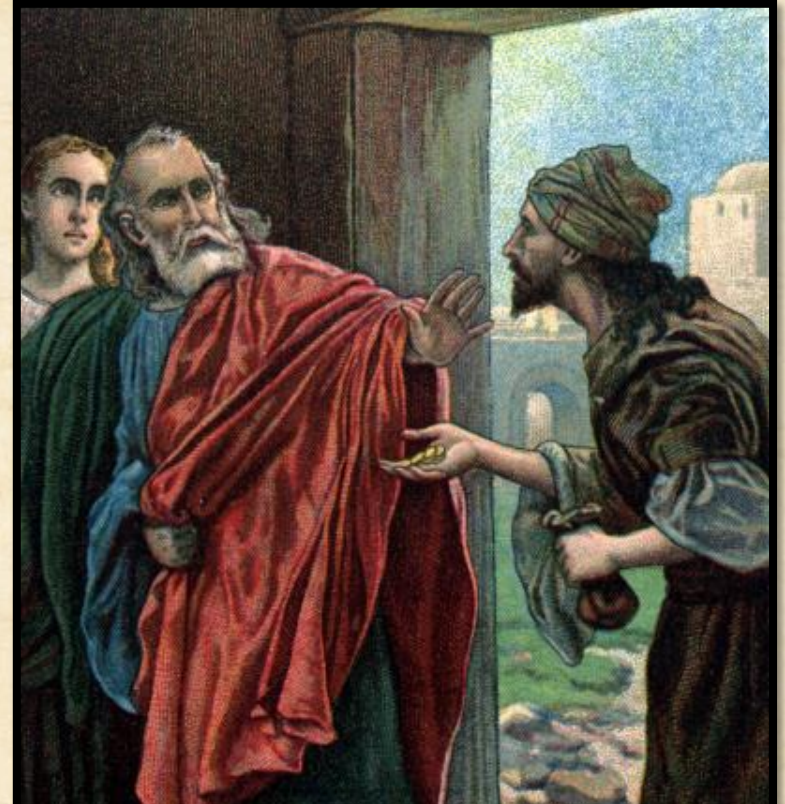
Acts 8:20-23

- ²⁰ But Peter said unto him,
Thy money perish with thee, because
thou hast thought that the gift of God
may be purchased with money.
- ²¹ Thou hast neither part nor lot in this
matter: for thy heart is not right in the
sight of God.
- ²² Repent therefore of this thy wickedness,
and pray God, if perhaps the thought of
thine heart may be forgiven thee.
- ²³ For I perceive that thou art in the gall of
bitterness, and *in* the bond of iniquity.



Acts 8:20-23

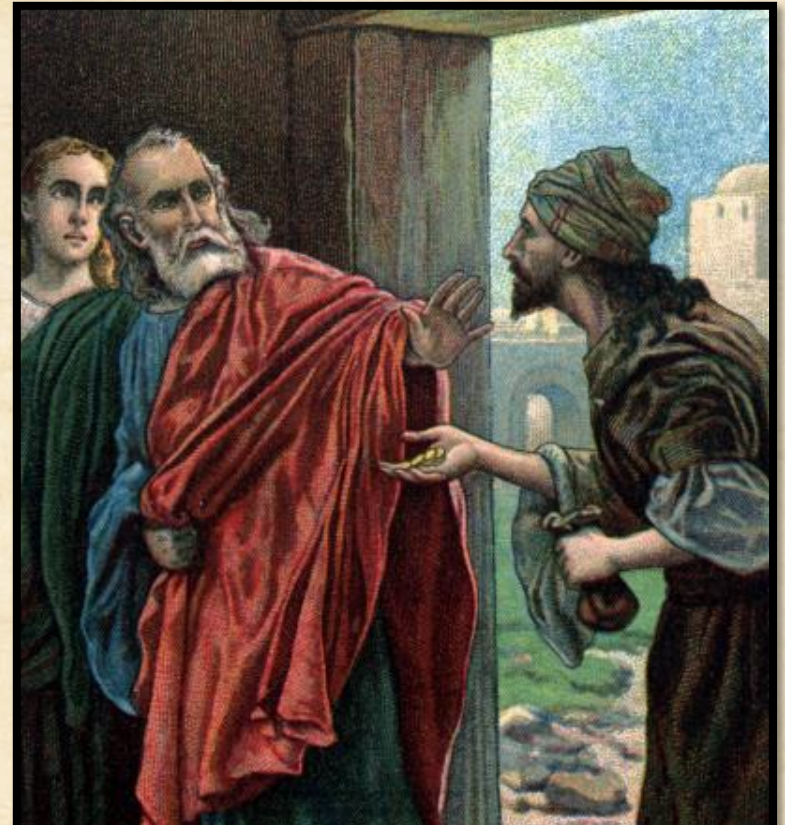
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Verse 13 says “Simon believed also” but he still had a long ways to go before he was walking in the way of Christ.

Acts 8:20-23

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bitterness, and *in* the bond of iniquity.



Forgiveness is not possible without true repentance.

Simony

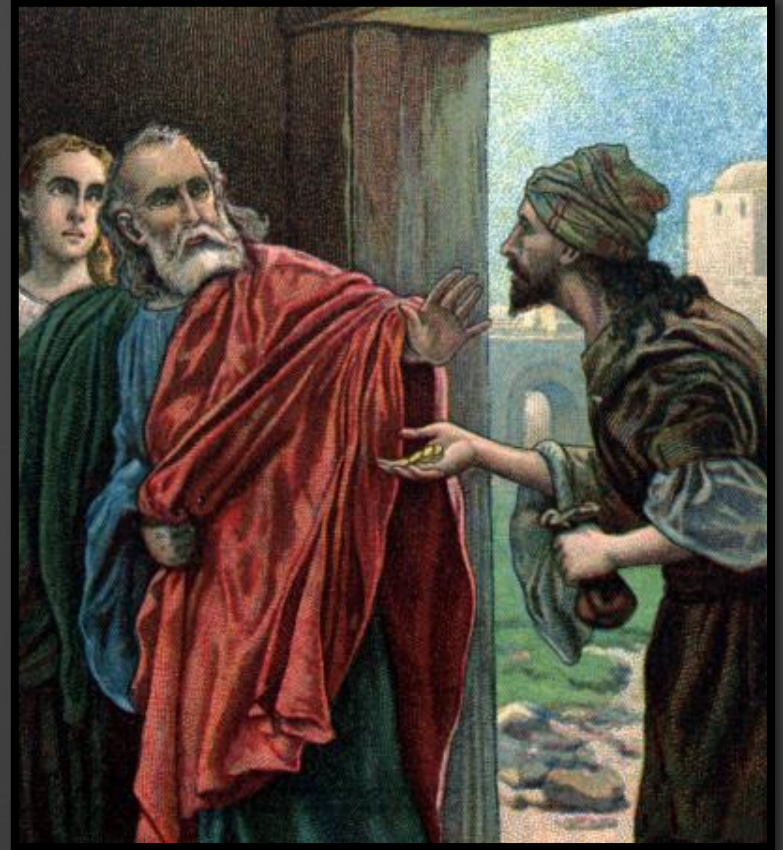


Because of this man, we have the term *Simony*.

1. the making of profit out of sacred things.
2. the buying or selling of ecclesiastical preferments, benefices, etc.

Acts 8:24

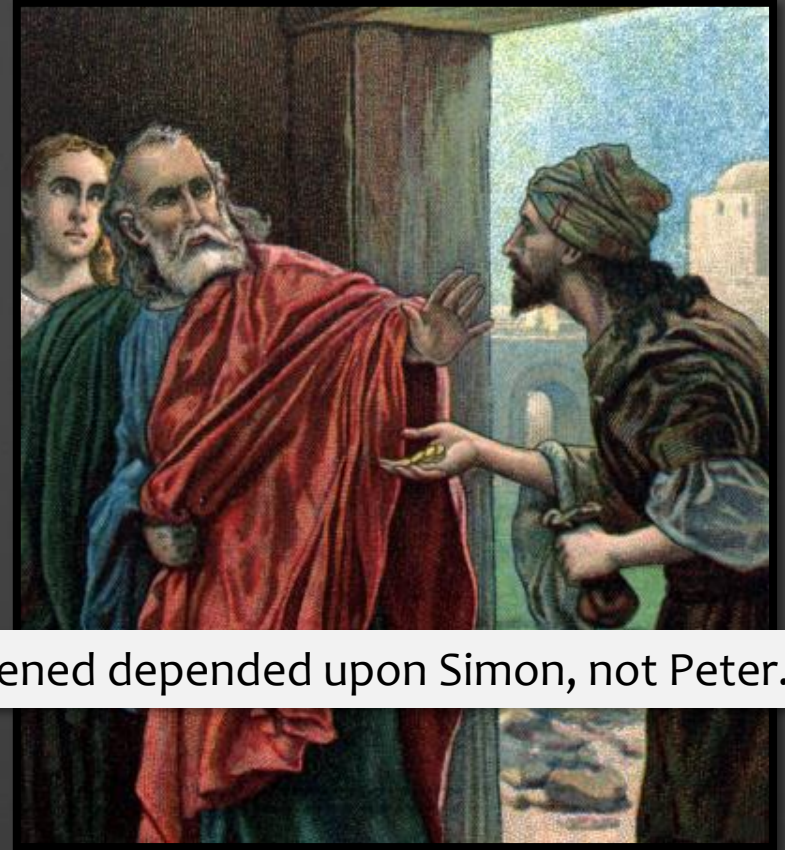
Then answered Simon, and said,
Pray ye to the Lord for me,
that none of these things which ye
have spoken come upon me.



Acts 8:24

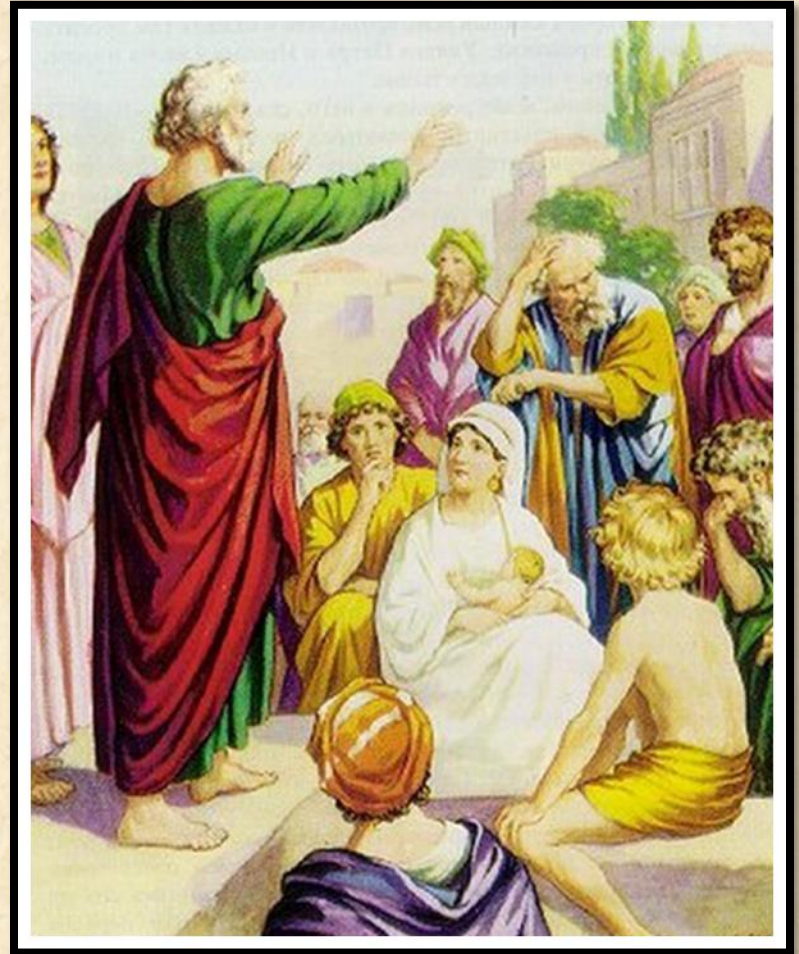
Then answered Simon, and said,
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have spoken come upon me.

Whether or not these things happened depended upon Simon, not Peter.



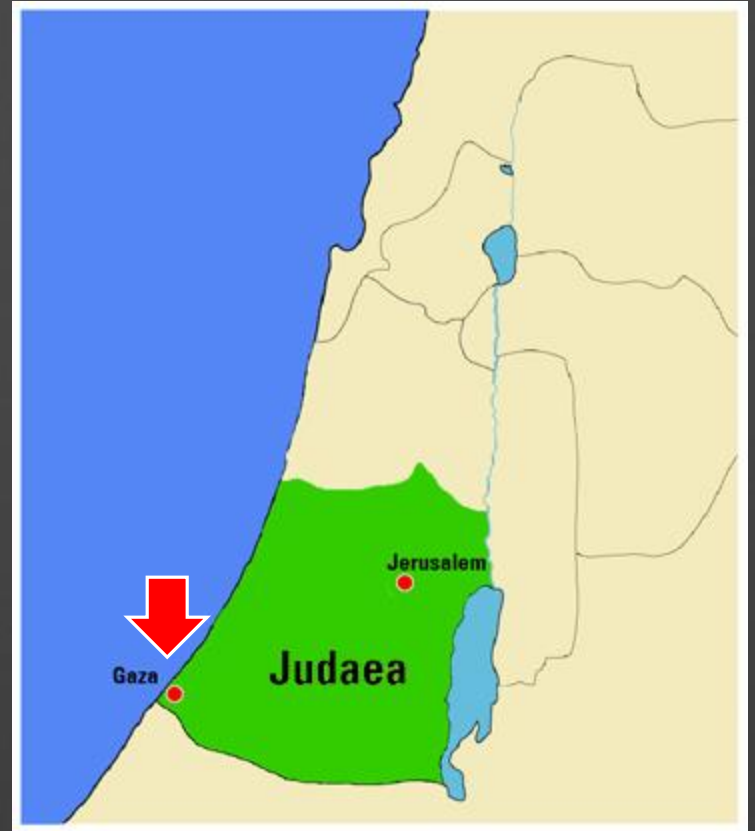
Acts 8:24

And they [Peter and John], when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.



Acts 8:26

And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying,
Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.





Acts 8:27-29

²⁷ And he arose and went:

and, behold,

a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

²⁸ Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

²⁹ Then the Spirit said unto Philip,
Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

Acts 8:30-31

³⁰ And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

³¹ And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.



Acts 8:32-33

- ³² The place of the scripture which he read was this,
He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:
- ³³ In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation?
for his life is taken from the earth.



Acts 8:32-33

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He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:
- ³³ In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation?
for his life is taken from the earth.



He was reading from Isaiah 53:

- ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.
- ⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.



Acts 8:34-35

- 34 And the eunuch answered Philip,
and said,
I pray thee, of whom speaketh
the prophet this?
of himself, or of some other man?
- 35 Then Philip opened his mouth,
and began at the same scripture,
and preached unto him Jesus.

Acts 8:34-35

³⁶ And as they went on *their* way,
they came unto a certain water:

and the eunuch said,
See, *here is* water;
what doth hinder me to be baptized?

³⁷ And Philip said, If thou believest with all
thine heart, thou mayest.

And he answered and said,
I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of
God.



Acts 8:38

And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.





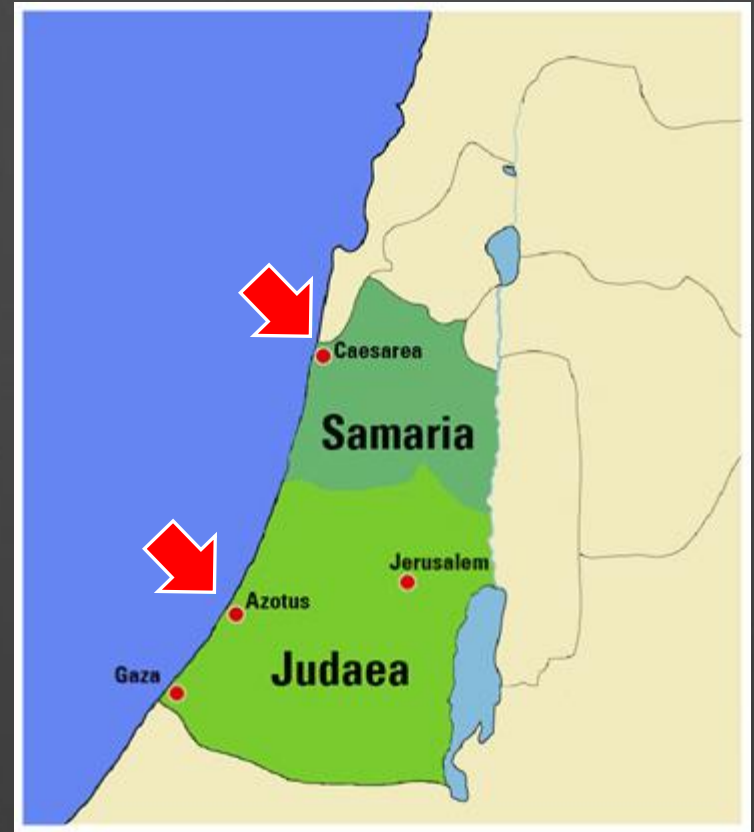
Acts 8:39

And when they were come up out of the water,
the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip,
that the eunuch saw him no more:

and he went on his way rejoicing.

Acts 8:40

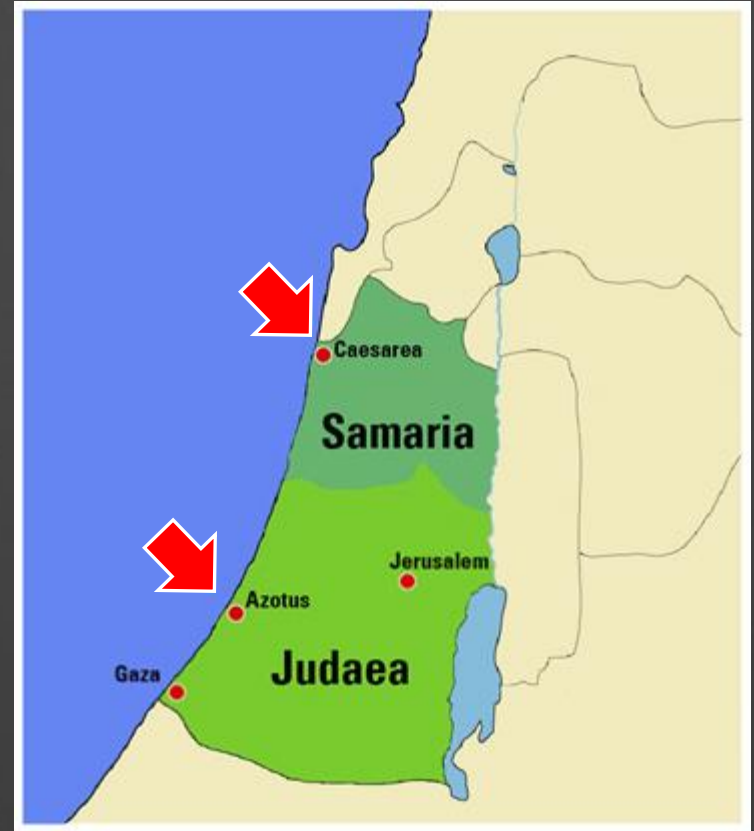
But Philip was found at Azotus:
and passing through he preached in
all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.



Acts 8:40

But Philip was found at Azotus:
and passing through he preached in
all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

End of Chapter 8





Next:
Jesus appears to Saul of Tarsus
on the Damascus road

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. Part Two of the Book of Acts tells of the witness in _____.
2. Why did Saul of Tarsus think it was right to put Stephen to death?
3. What happened as a result of the persecution in Jerusalem?
4. According to Acts 8:4, how did the disciples respond?
5. Who brought the gospel to Samaria?
6. According to Acts 8:6, why did the people listen to him?
7. According to Acts 8:11, why did the people listen to sorcerer?
8. Why did Peter and John come to Samaria?
9. According to Acts 8:20, why did Peter reprove Simon?
10. Where did Philip meet the man from Ethiopia and what was he doing when Philip came to him?

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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