



## The Kingdom Begins To Spread Acts 8

### Introduction

Up to this point, the N.T. church has been confined to Jerusalem. Following Stephen's stoning, the early disciples began "branching out" into the outlying areas of Judea & Samaria (**cp. 1:8**). The events in this chapter remind us that when disciples busy themselves in the kingdom's work, not even the darkest of moments can engulf the light of the gospel shining through us (**Phil. 2:13, 15-16**).

### Saul's Persecution (8:1-4)

- 1) How is Saul described re: what just happened? (**v. 1a; cp. 7:54-60**)
- 2) What did Stephen's stoning lead to? (**v. 1b**) Typically, what would such a "scattering" do to a young organization? What actually happened? (**v. 4**) What providential lessons should we learn?
- 3) What does Luke mention in **v. 2**? How are Saul's further actions described in **v. 3**?

### The Gospel In Judea & Samaria (8:5-40)

#### Philip & The Apostles In Samaria (vv. 5-24)

- 4) How does this section begin the "next phase" of **Acts 1:8**? What is recorded about Philip? (**v. 5**) Who is Philip? (**cp. 6:5**)
- 5) How successful was Philip in his labors? (**vv. 6-7; cp. Mk. 16:19**) What impact did his efforts have on the city? (**v. 8**)

## The Two Treatises

### Lesson 32

- 6) Who is described in vv. 9-11? *Research question*: find out what you can about sorcery. What impact did Simon have on the city?
  
- 7) What was Samaria's response to the gospel? (v. 12) Who also was converted? (v. 13a) Describe his behavior? (v. 13b)
  
- 8) What "decision" was made in Jerusalem? (v. 14) Why were Peter & John sent? (vv. 15-17) *Thought question*: what does this passage establish re: salvation and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?
  
- 9) What did Simon think about Peter & John's actions? (vv. 18-19) *Thought question*: does this "illustrate" difficulties disciples (*especially new converts*) sometimes have with old lifestyles? (cp. Eph. 4:17-32; 5:8; Col. 2:20 – 3:17)
  
- 10) What was Peter's response to Simon? (vv. 20-23) Using Peter's own words, what is Simon's condition? *Thought question*: how does this passage address the oft-discussed issue of the impossibility of apostasy?

## The Two Treatises

### Lesson 32

11) What difference do you see between **Acts 8:22** & **Acts 2:38** re: what lost people are told to do to be saved? How did Simon respond to Peter? (v. 24)

12) What actions of Peter & John are recorded in v. 25?

#### **Philip In Judea (vv. 26-40)**

13) What instructions does Philip receive in v. 26? With who did he come in contact? (vv. 27-28)  
What was Philip told to do? (v. 29)

14) What was the eunuch doing? (vv. 30-33) What was he reading? What was his problem? (v. 34)  
What was Philip's reply? (v. 35)

15) What happens in vv. 36-38? What "inescapable conclusion" (*necessary inference*) must be drawn from this text? How does this relate back to v. 35?

16) What happened to Philip? (vv. 39a, 40) What happened to the eunuch? (v. 39b)