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Acts 8

Jan 14, 2024

### Saul Persecutes the Church

**1And Saul was consenting unto his death. 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.**

The idea that one person or a group would do something horrible to another person or group and the offending person or group would take pleasure in it seems abnormal. But persecution of one group by another was commonplace during these times.

Paul wrote this several years after this event in Acts, to the Romans:

***Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.***

John revealing prophesy of the end of the Church age.

***John 16:2 2They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.***

We will find that Paul not only consented to Stephen and other believer's deaths and imprisonments but took great pleasure in them and those who carried out the murders and imprisonments.

It is quite astounding to me that Paul himself was told these words and wrote them as directed from God to the Christians in Rome. It was an indictment against Paul for the world to see. I think the reason God did this was to show us that as bad a sin as we have committed His Grace and Mercy are sufficient. The Blood of Jesus is sufficient to cover the most egregious sins except that one sin God calls the "unpardonable sin".

***Matthew 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.***

All of us including Paul need for God to Create in us a New Heart: This Psalm was written by King David after committing adultery with Bathsheba and was confronted by the Prophet Nathan.

***Psalms 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.***

***2Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.***

***3For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.***

**4Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.**

**5Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

**6Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.**

**7Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

**8Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.**

**9Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.**

**10Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.**

**11Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.**

**12Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.**

**13Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.**

**14Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.**

**15O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

**16For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.**

**17The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.**

**18Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.**

**19Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.**

**2And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.**

We are not told specifically but the inference is that there was a division in the Jewish community as to dealing with this new Christian sect or Followers of Jesus. It is likely that these “devout” men were not fanatical Jews like Saul but loved God and honored a fellow Jew; Stephen, that was mistreated in their eyes.

The idea of “great lamentation over him”, meaning Stephen, tell us he was a beloved member of the Jewish Community, even though they knew he was a follower and disciple of Jesus Christ.

**3As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.**

Saul was of another ilk, whether demon possessed or simply overcome with a desire to follow the law to the extreme as he was taught and saw it at the time. It put him at odds with God as we will see later. Saul’s actions earned him a reputation amongst the

most devout of the Jewish leaders. He was a trusted hunter of the new Christ following group, tenacious in his hunting a persecuting Believers. His name was well known among the Believers.

### **Philip in Samaria**

**4Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.**

As we found earlier in Jesus' ministry, he said that his disciples would teach the Good News in Samaria, but not at first. The focus was on Israel as God's chosen. After the rejection by Judaism did the door open for the gentiles.

***Matthew 10: 5These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: 6But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.***

This of course changed at the Jewish rejection of the Messiah. It was no surprise to God that they rejected His Son. He already knew and the plan was to invite all humanity into the kingdom of God.

God indeed needed the disciples to move further away from Jerusalem to bring the Good News to a hungry gentile world. The persecution of Saul was a catalyst for the disciples to venture further away from Jerusalem.

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

This is Philip one of the seven chosen along with Stephen that put to ministering to those in Samaria. Throughout the New Testament Samaria is a region, not a city. The idea is that the word “a” is absent. So according to the Textus Receptus and Received Text it would read Phillip went down to “a” city in Samaria.

Philip carried out God’s mission throughout Samaria and was later visited by Paul after Paul had been saved.

*Acts 21:8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.*

**Simon the Sorcerer**

**(Deuteronomy 18:9-14)**

**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:

Few things in life that catch on economically will not be stolen or counterfeited by someone in order to make wealth or fame. Such was the same with Simon who is not Simon Peter. Satan embeds in the human mind all types of evils of fame and fortune. Can such a person so deceived and working in concert with Satan ever be saved?

**10To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.**

When a Satanic deception gets underway and becomes the latest greatest thing, mankind's nature is to follow. Follow anything that looks and sounds good with little regard as to its veracity and Truth.

**11And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.**

Here is an example of an English word that when investigated has two meanings, really quite different.

In the case of Acts 8:14 the word "sorceries" according to Strong's Concordance:

Transliteration: mageia

Phonetic Spelling: (mag-i'-ah)

Definition: magic

Usage: magic.

When used in the Bible, magic is always sourced from Satan or a human being with selfish motives. It is different than what we think of as “magic” today. What we see in Vegas shows or on TV is “illusionists”, not magic. Magic or witchcraft will have its source in demonic or selfish human motives. We saw demonic magic when Moses was dealing with Pharoah and his magicians.

God made special warnings about “magic” and or “witchcraft” as it is used in Galatians 5: If you were to go to the Greek you would see that witchcraft is not used but “sorceries”.

***Galatians 5: [16](#)This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. [17](#)For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. [18](#)But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. [19](#)Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, [20](#)Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, [21](#)Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. [22](#)But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23](#)Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. [24](#)And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.***

The term sorceries means, according to Strong's Concordance:

Transliteration: pharmakeia

Phonetic Spelling: (far-mak-i'-ah)



Definition: the use of medicine, drugs or spells  
Usage: magic, sorcery, enchantment.

One issue with the word “sorceries” as in “pharmakeia” is that it is talking about drugs or demonic enchantments. Witchcraft or magic is talking about satanic, demonic hosts behind the human effort of magic.

**12But 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.**

These folks had been persuaded by magic a demonic sourced spectacles that amazed them. God warns that during the Tribulation that such demonic signs and wonders will convince many of the false notion that the Anti-Christ is not evil but good.

The good news in this verse is that the Truth was seen by these people that were fooled and they ended up believing in the Truth that Philip shared as the Good News about Jesus and Him Crucified and Raised from the dead.

**13Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.**

The power of the Holy Spirit with a willing heart. Evil thwarted, God vindicated and Jesus Worshiped and testified about through baptism. But how about the flesh, it does not want to die easily?

Did Simon really get saved? He said all the right things, did the right thing through baptism as a testimony. But where is his heart?

**14Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15Who, 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.) 17Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.**

Why would these new believers need an apostle to lay hands on them to receive the Holy Ghost. Did we miss something in our own salvation of not receiving the Holy Ghost?

Again, due to understanding of these verses there is perhaps a small controversy. Mainly having to do with understanding the difference of 3 events; 1) being born again and receiving the Holy Spirit, 2) being baptized as an outward sign of obedience to Christ and declaring to the world that you are a Believer (testifying) and 3) being given specific gifts (IE: healing, teaching, tongues) from the Holy Spirit.

There is an additional issue of the early Church (big C) having been given special Holy Spirit gifts to encourage new believers in

the Power of the Blood and in the Power of the Name of Jesus, administered specifically by the Apostles to include Paul.

I cannot point to a specific scripture that says there is a difference in the three above. There are examples through the New Testament that show each of these as separate and under specific circumstances for God's purpose.

***Acts 19: 1And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.***

Herein lies a simple problem. These folks were baptized into or unto John's Baptism for repentance, not Jesus. Being baptized in the Name of Jesus is more accurate for the New Church Believer. However, Salvation does not come by baptism, it comes by Faith and Belief in Jesus Christ. Baptism is an act of obedience to the Lord.

When Paul corrects the words or understanding of baptism it is not unto Salvation but out of obedience. Through that obedience in the early Church, the gift of the Holy Spirit IE these Gifts were then bestowed on Believers as God so chose. The evidence of

two of these gifts was speaking in Tongues and Prophecy. As to speaking in tongues as at Pentecost;

**Acts 2:6** Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. **7** And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? **8** And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? **9** Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, **10** Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. **12** And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? **13** Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

This was in order to grow the Church that Jesus started the big Church. The best way to communicate the Good News is in the language of the listener.

**Acts 19:4** Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. **5** When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. **7** And all the men were about twelve.

In these verses of Acts 19 we can see all three of these events, but not as clearly spelled out as one might like.

First Paul finds disciples, meaning they were Born Again, Saved. We know they are believers because Paul asks them if they had received the Holy Spirit since becoming believers to paraphrase.

So, is Paul talking about the Holy Spirit coming on any who believe or is he talking about the Holy Spirit giving gifts as He sees fit to outfit the Church in these early stages?

They respond that they had not even heard of the Holy Spirit. So, can we assume that if a person has not heard of the Holy Spirit, then Believing is impossible? I don't think so.

*Mark 1: **6**And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; **7**And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. **8**I indeed have baptized you with water: but **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.** (emphasis mine)*

The case is clear that when you ask Christ into your heart and repent, the Holy Spirit is given to each of us as a “down payment” a commitment that we now belong to Jesus for eternity.

**January 28. 2023**

**18And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, 19Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. 20But 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.

So, there is Simon's heart, it is tied to the love of money and power.

*1 Timothy 6: **6**But godliness with contentment is great gain. **7**For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. **8**And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. **9**But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. **10**For the **love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.** (Emphasis mine)*

In vs 13 we are told

***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.*

Who are we to dispute God's Word. God said Simon "believed also: and when he was baptized....."

The issue may be back sliding. Knowing the Truth of God yet the flesh not willing to surrender. To be saved you must Believe have Faith in Jesus Christ and what He did on the Cross and in the grave.

**22Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. 23For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and *in* the bond of iniquity.**

Peter is still speaking and is blunt here which is needed to wake Simon up and cause him to repent. It appears based on the next verse that Simon is on board with what Peter tells him about repenting.

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

It is interesting the way this is worded. As a believer we don't go to someone else to pray for us about our sin, we repent directly to God through our Lord and Savior Jesus. Simon asks Peter to pray to the Lord that what Peter told him would not come about. That sounds like someone that is searching for some assurance of salvation through an intercessor. It may partly in fact be one reason the Catholic Church in error calls Peter their first Pope and using priests as intermediaries. We know that is incorrect on many levels as Jesus is our only **intermediary, our intercessor** between us and God. No man of flesh from a human father and mother can hold that position. Only the incarnate Christ born of a virgin through the power of the Holy Spirit can intercede for us.

The Law determined Priesthoods! The New Covenant did away with the priesthood and replaced it with the Savior. There are some religions/cults that have clung to the priesthood even claiming some supernatural power from God in defiance of God's Word.

***Hebrews 7: [11](#)If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? [12](#)For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. (emphasis mine)***

It would be contrary to God to have opposing or competing methods of reaching out to Him. Under the Law the Jews had to use the Priesthood to apply for forgiveness of sin.

Under the New Covenant, the Law is fulfilled by Christ's sacrifice on the Cross. Now mankind can go directly to God using only Jesus as our intercessor. So when the Priesthood was changed to Jesus Christ and Him alone, the law had to change with it.

***[13](#)For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. [14](#)For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.***

Under the Law given to Moses by God the Priesthood came only from Aaron and the tribe of Levi.



**15And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, 16Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.**

The law was referred to as being made after “carnal commandment” referring to using man as a priest to intercede for sinners. God established a more Holy and Complete manner for man to find intercession and Salvation from sin; Jesus the Messiah.

**Hebrews 7: 23And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: 24But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. 25Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to **make intercession** for them.**  
(emphasis mine)

And there was only One who fits that requirement of High Priest, and Intercessor, Jesus the Messiah our eternal Savior and God.

**Romans 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh **intercession** for the saints according to the will of God.**  
(emphasis mine)

**Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also **maketh intercession for us.****  
(emphasis mine)

I saw a t-shirt and hat the other day that had a cross on it and it said below the cross; “I can’t but I know a guy!”

One huge mistake by the Catholic religion is that they believe that a man can be righteous in his own right, through sacraments IE works and act as the spokesman for Christ on earth, extending forgiveness through penance by the priests position in the church. God clearly states this:

***Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:***

***1 Timothy 1:5 For there is one God, and **one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; (emphasis mine)***

Do they or anyone really want to challenge God on that statement. We can and God encourages us to confess our sins to one another if we sin against our brother or sister, but the real confession in repentance needs to be to the one we truly offended. We offend God with our sin, all sin, and any sin offends our God and Savior.

Simon was the one that needed to pray to God and seek forgiveness for his own sins. Peter tells Simon in vs 22 to repent to God.

***22Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.***

Peter does not tell him; rely on me to intercede for you. Simon is the one that sinned, he needed to go to God as a sinner and seek

His forgiveness, he didn't need Peter. Peter wanted to make sure that Simon did not put any spiritual importance or authority on him, Peter a sinner in his own right, like us. It is God and God alone that is Creator and Savior.

**22Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.**  
*(emphasis mine)*

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

As to "they", we know at least Peter and John had come down from Jerusalem.

As a side note, we know that Samaria is north of Jerusalem, but they use the term "come down" as Jerusalem sat on top of Mt Moriah so almost anything was down in elevation from there.

What Phillip accomplished opened Samaria to the Good News of Jesus the Messiah as was shown by Peter and John witnessing as they returned to Jerusalem.

### **Philip and the Ethiopian**

**26And 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.**

The directions given here on a page are quite sterile in that Phillip was told to go to a certain place, as if having an angel of the Lord is a common occurrence. Philip is simply obedient like so many of the early Believers; it's like God said go do this, so, I'll go do this. No fanfare just go do it. Philips response OK!

**27And 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, 28Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.**

First of all, what is a Eunuch?

***Matthew 19:12 For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.***

So, according to scripture there are 3 types of eunuchs; 1) born not having the ability to engage in physical relations, 2) made into eunuchs by castration either willingly or made to by a slave owner 3) those who took on the title of eunuch and devoted themselves to either religious endeavors or in a management role often involving a king or rulers harem.

Queen Candace of Ethiopia:

That is all we know about her Biblically. There is some speculation that based on the Eunuchs studying of the Bible, his proximity to Jerusalem and his desire to know of Godly things especially about Jesus that he was a “religious” man, a high-ranking member of the Ethiopian Government.

The speculation is that his position and relationship with the Queen allowed him to have time off to go to Jerusalem to study. What we can tell from these verses it that he becomes a believer. We can also surmise that he had heard about Jesus while in Jerusalem and that he was reading Isaiah. What in Isaiah would the eunuch learn about Jesus?

<b>Isaiah</b>	<b>Prophecy</b>	<b>Fulfillment</b>
6:9–10	Jesus would declare, “By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people’s heart is waxed gross.”	Matt. 13:14–15
7:14	Jesus would be born of a virgin and called Immanuel.	Matt. 1:22–23
8:11–15	Jesus would be like a temple to the righteous and a rock of offense to others.	Rom. 9:33; 1 Pet. 2:8
9:1–2	Jesus would be a light out of darkness	Matt. 4:14–16; Luke 2:32
9:1–2	Jesus would dwell in “Capernaum . . . beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.”	Matt. 4:13–15
9:6–7	Jesus would be born and would receive divine names and the throne and kingdom.	Matt. 1:21–23; Luke 1:32–33
11:1–5	Jesus would be full of understanding and power.	Matt. 3:16; John 3:34; Rom. 15:12
11:10	“There shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.”	Rom. 15:12
22:22	Messiah would hold the key of David and possess the power to open and shut.	Rev. 3:7
22:23	A nail in a sure place refers to the crucifixion.	Matt. 27:35

Isaiah	Prophecy	Fulfillment
25:6–12	“He will swallow up death in victory.”	1 Cor. 15:54
28:16	Jesus would become a sure foundation and cornerstone	Rom. 9:33; 1 Pet. 2:6
40:3	John would precede Jesus as “the voice crying in the wilderness.”	Matt. 3:3
49:6–12	Jesus would be a light to the gentiles.	Acts 13:47; 2 Cor. 6:2
50:6	Jesus would give His “back to the smiters” and hide not His “face from shame and spitting.”	Matt. 26:67; 27:26, 30
52:13	God will exalt Jesus.	Phil. 2:9
52:14	Jesus would be disfigured.	Matt. 26:67
53:1	“Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?”	John 12:38
53:3	Jesus would be despised and rejected.	Mark 15:3–4, 29; Luke 23:1–25
53:3–5	“He was wounded for our transgressions . . . and with his stripes we are healed.”	1 Cor. 15:3; 1 Pet. 2:24
53:6	“All we like sheep have gone astray.”	1 Pet. 2:25
53:7	Jesus would be silent before His accusers.	Mark 14:60–61, 15:4–5; John 1:29; 11:49–52
53:8	Jesus would be sacrificed for the sins of the people.	2 Cor. 5:14–15
53:5, 12	“He was numbered with the transgressors.”	Mark 15:27–28; John 12:37–38; Acts 8:28–35
53:9	“He made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death.”	Matt. 27:57, 59–60; Acts 10:43; 13:38–39; 1 Cor. 15:3
61:1–3	Christ would be anointed to preach good tidings and to open the prison.	Luke 4:17–19; Acts 10:38
63:9	Jesus would be afflicted.	Matt. 25:34–40

**29Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. 30And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? 31And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.**

All put in motion by God from two perspectives: the eunuch's and Phillip's. The eunuch needed a teacher and Phillip was looking for a student. We have the benefit of all the Gospels, the full knowledge of God was not completed as we have it. The Church was just growing. However, the Power of the Holy Spirit to teach is miraculous. We have been over this many times. There is nothing wrong with listening to a teacher as long as he stays True to the Word of God. But in the end, it is up to each of us study and show ourselves good students of the Word of God.

***2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***

**32The 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:**

**33In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.**

Phillip was alluding to Isaiah 53 in general: Prophecies about the coming Messiah.

***Isaiah 53:7He 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. 9And he made***

*his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.*

**10***Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

**11***He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*

**12***Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

**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.

Once you can see the evidence of these verses in Isaiah speaking directly of Jesus it opens so much of the Old Testament to understanding.

**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?

Pretty quick learner it appears. He was to understand what Phillip taught to connect the idea of Salvation associated with Baptism as an outward testimony of an inward event.



**37And 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.**

The KEY FOR ALL MAN KIND. “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Once you get there and understand that Salvation comes only through Jesus the Messiah, and you accept and declare to God you are a sinner and you are in need of a Savior, you are saved. Jesus did it all, our only effort in all of Salvation is to say YES!

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

Baptism is designed by God to allow a Believer to show an outward witness and commitment to an inward Spiritual decision.

**39And 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.**

Phillip was there, then he was not. The eunuch was lost then he was saved. The end result: Phillip went on to be used by the Lord for years as an evangelist, the eunuch went away saved and rejoicing. We not told of what the eunuch’s testimony if any were to follow and the impacts if he did. What we do know is this:

***Isaiah 55: 11So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall***

***accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.***

We have spoken of different dimensions or the ability in a Spiritual Dimension that God created and operates in. It is so foreign to our 3-dimensional world that when we read of things like this that happened to Phillip on at least 2 occasions. Jesus operated in this other dimension apparently at His Will. It is something we must acknowledge. It is also something we do not understand, it is simply part of God's Kingdom that one day we will understand.

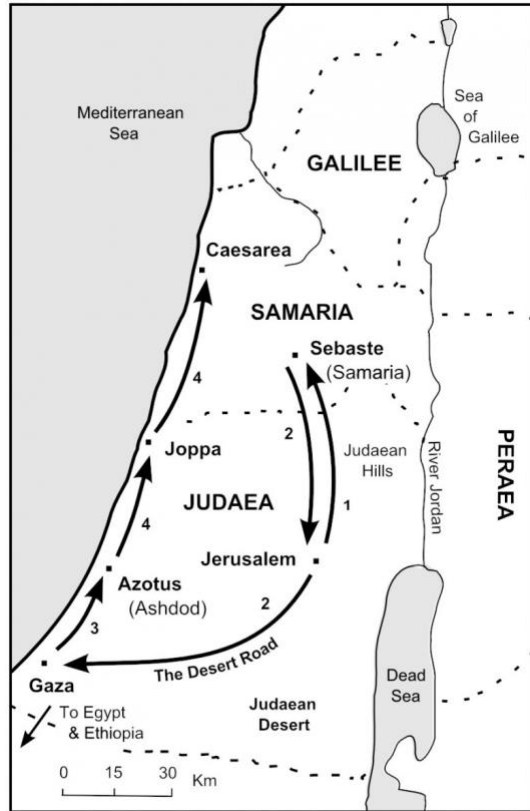
**40But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.**

I think we can see Phillip as God's man in Samaria and Caesarea as an evangelist.

We will see Phillip again later in Acts:

***Acts 21:8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.***

Caesarea is on the coast of Samaria, which is north of Judea and south of Galilee.



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