

Chapter 8:1-40

“The Ministry of Philip”

Summary

- Takes place soon after the death of Stephen
- First events in Acts outside of Jerusalem
- Philip leads a revival in Samaria
- Philip leads an Ethiopian eunuch to the Lord

Outline

- I. The Persecution
 - A. The church is scattered - vs. 1
 - B. Stephen is memorialized - vs. 2
 - C. The wrath of Saul - vs. 3-4
- II. Philip and Simon the Sorcerer
 - A. The great revival in Samaria - vs. 5-8
 - B. Enter Simon - vs. 9-11
 - C. Simon joins with the Christians - vs. 12-13
 - D. Peter and John visit Samaria - vs. 14
 - E. The Samaritans receive the Holy Spirit - vs. 15-17
 - F. Simon seeks to purchase this power - vs. 18-19
 - G. Peter rebukes Simon for the offer - vs. 20-21
 - H. Simon needs to repent - vs. 22-23
 - I. Simon does, kind of - vs. 24
 - J. The continued work of evangelizing Samaria - vs. 25
- III. Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch
 - A. Philip commanded to go to the Gaza road - vs. 26
 - B. He meets an Ethiopian eunuch - vs. 27-28
 - C. Philip approaches - vs. 29-31
 - D. He was reading Isaiah 53:7,8 - vs. 32-33
 - E. Philip preaches Christ - vs. 34-35
 - F. The Eunuch wants to be baptized - vs. 36
 - G. The requirement of baptism - vs. 37
 - H. The Eunuch is baptized - vs. 38
 - I. The Spirit takes Philip - vs. 39
 - J. He preaches up the coast of Israel - vs. 40

Notes on Chapter 8

Notes on Places

- Samaria
 - City founded by Omri, king of Israel about 884 BC
 - Conquered by Assyrians in 722 BC
 - Rebuilt by Herod the Great in 27 BC
 - Samaritans had their own religion, partially based on Judaism
 - Ethnically they are descendants of the Northern Kingdom of Israel but have a mixed bloodline through intermarriage with Gentiles.
- Ethiopia
 - Ethiopia - possibly the kingdom of Kush, in modern Sudan, capital was Meroë
 - Candace - title, “queen mother” or “warrior queen”
 - Ruler - possibly queen Amantitere (reigned A.D. 22-41)

Notes on Individuals

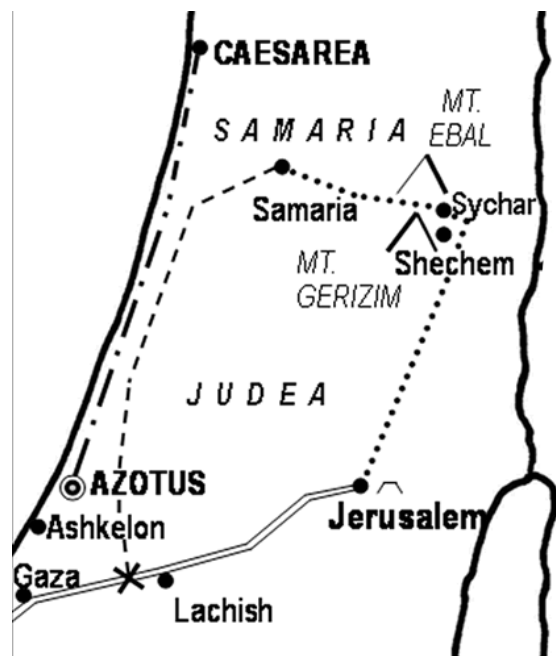
- Philip
 - One of the first deacons - Acts 6:5
 - Not to be confused with Philip the Apostle (John 1:43-47, 6:4-7, etc.)
 - Appears again in Acts 21:8
- Simon
 - Sorcerer or magus, possibly a fortune teller, astrologer, magician
 - Possibly a false messiah - vs. 9-10
 - Tradition credits him as a source of much heresy, including Gnosticism
 - Origin of *simony* - “The crime of buying or selling ecclesiastical preferment”
- The Ethiopian Eunuch
 - Not a lot of information and a lot of debate about him
 - He was probably African or Egyptian by blood
 - He was probably a Jewish proselyte
 - Tradition states that he established Christianity in Africa

Notes on Baptism

- Not for salvation - Romans 10:9,13; Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 16:30-31
- Public testimony of salvation
- Identifies us with Christ - Romans 6
- Part of Great Commission - Matthew 28:19-20

Notes on 8:15-16

- The Samaritans were probably saved but they had not received the additional, miraculous manifestation of the Holy Ghost (tongues, healing, etc.)



Map source - <http://www.generationword.com/notes/bible-information/acts-maps.html>