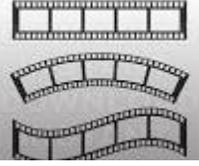


Acts 8 - Lesson 9



1. **Summary of Events:** Write down the location, specific witnesses and what happened in each scene of this chapter.

Scene	Passage	Location	Who are the witnesses?	What happened? What power was received and how were these people witnesses of Christ?
8.1	8:1-3			
8.2	8:4-8			
8.3	8:9-13			
8.4	8:14-25			
8.5	8:26-40			

How do these events relate to the overall theme of the book?

Acts 8

Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death.

And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ²Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. ³But Saul *began* ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

⁴Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. ⁵Philip went down to the city of Samaria and *began* proclaiming Christ to them. ⁶The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. ⁷For *in the case of* many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out *of them* shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸So there was much rejoicing in that city.

⁹Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; ¹⁰and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God." ¹¹And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts. ¹²But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. ¹³Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

¹⁴Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, ¹⁵who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷Then they *began* laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." ²⁰But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! ²¹You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. ²²Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and

pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.²³ For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the ^lbondage of iniquity.”²⁴ But Simon answered and said, “Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.”

²⁵ So, when they had solemnly testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they started back to Jerusalem, and were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

²⁶ But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, “Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert *road*.)²⁷ So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship,²⁸ and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.”³⁰ Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”³¹ And he said, “Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.³² Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this:

“HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT,
SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH.”³³ “IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY;
WHO WILL RELATE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH.”

³⁴ The eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please *tell me*, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?”³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.³⁶ As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?”³⁷ [And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”]³⁸ And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

4. Highlight/mark key words and write down what you learn about them and how they continue to express the theme of Acts.

HOLY SPIRIT-

POWER-

WITNESSES-

5. There are many interesting events happening in Acts 8. Write down any observations or questions you might have about what you have read.

6. Highlight all the cities mentioned in this chapter. Make a route for Philip's travels numbering the location in the order in which he traveled them:



7. How interesting it is that the Ethiopian was reading from the prophet Isaiah! What is said about Jesus 700 years before his birth in Isaiah 53? (Remember that LORD is a reference to Yahweh, God the Father).

Isaiah 53

Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground;
He has no *stately* form or majesty That we should look upon Him,
Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.

³ He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
And like one from whom men hide their face. He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

⁴ Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried;
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed.

⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth;
Like a lamb that is led to slaughter,
And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment He was taken away;
And as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living
For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due*?

⁹ His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death,
Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

¹⁰ But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief;
If He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring,
He will prolong *His* days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.

¹¹ As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it and* be satisfied;
By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many,
As He will bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong;

Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors;
Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.

8. Let's address the topic of **baptism** today. When the Ethiopian eunuch came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, he asked to be baptized (G 907). Use this website to define the word *baptize* from the following website: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/nas/baptizo.html>

Definition:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

9. Why do we believe in full water immersion? Read this excerpt from James Montgomery Boice which explains why our church does not believe in sprinkling.

“Not to be confused with Strong’s G911, *bapto*. The clearest example that shows the meaning of *baptizo* is a text from the Greek poet and physician Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. It is a recipe for making pickles and is helpful because it uses both words. Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be 'dipped' (*bapto*) into boiling water and then 'baptised' (*baptizo*) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution. But the first is temporary. The second, the act of baptising the vegetable, produces a permanent change. When used in the New Testament, this word more often refers to our union and identification with Christ than to our water baptism. e.g. Mark 16:16. 'He that believes and is baptized shall be saved'. Christ is saying that mere intellectual assent is not enough. There must be a union with him, a real change, like the vegetable to the pickle! Bible Study Magazine, James Montgomery Boice, May 1989.

What does water immersion symbolize according to Romans 6:3-6 and Colossians 2:12-13?

10. How can you APPLY what you learned? You can use the acronym EPICS to help us look for specific ways.

Examples to follow:

Promises to expect:

Identity reminders:

Commands to follow:

Sins to forsake: