

SURVEY OF THE BIBLE

Acts: The Beginning of a New Kingdom

Philip's Preaching; Saul's Conversion

Quarter Four, Lesson Four

Focus Text: Acts 8. 1 – 9. 31

Other Readings: 1 Corinthians 15. 1 – 11; Ephesians 3. 7 – 13; 1 Timothy 1. 12 – 16

CONTENT

1. How severe was the persecution in Jerusalem, and how successful was it?
2. Why did Philip have such success in Samaria?
3. For what purpose did the apostles in Jerusalem send Peter and John to Samaria?
4. What was the sorcerer Simon's sin, and what did Peter tell him he should do about it?

Why did Peter tell Simon something different from what he told the Jews on Pentecost in Acts 2?
5. What evidence is there about the Ethiopian man's disposition toward God – before Philip taught him?
6. What does the Ethiopian man's request in 8. 37 indicate about the content of the "good news" Philip shared with him?
7. With what purpose was Saul traveling to Damascus when the Lord appeared to him?
8. What role did Ananias play in Saul's conversion? (Compare Paul's account in Acts 22. 1 – 18 for additional insight.)
9. Why did Saul leave Damascus?

Lesson continues. . . .

10. Who intervened on Saul's behalf so that he would be accepted by the saints in Jerusalem?

11. Why did Saul leave Jerusalem, and where did he go?

12. How is the state of the church described in 9. 31? What impact do you think persecution had in bringing the church to that state?

CONNECTIONS

1. In Acts 1. 7 – 8, just before he ascended to heaven, Jesus told the apostles that they would be his witnesses – where? According to today's lesson, how was the second phase of his prediction brought about?

2. In what ways does the story of the Ethiopian man's conversion seem to illustrate the explanation of faith in Romans 10. 12 – 17?

3. For what purpose, according to Galatians 1. 11 – 17, did God reveal his Son to Saul/Paul?

4. How does Paul describe himself in 1 Corinthians 15. 9?
in Ephesians 3. 8?
in 1 Timothy 1. 15?
Why would he describe himself in such terms?

5. Review the qualifications Peter mentioned in Acts 1 before Matthias was chosen to replace Judas as an apostle. How well does Saul fit that description?

PLACES

On the blank map of Palestine provided in this booklet, locate the region of Samaria and the cities of Gaza and Caesarea; on the larger map of the eastern Mediterranean, locate Damascus and Tarsus.