

Acts 8 - The Gospel

CHAPTER 8.

¹ By occasion of the persecution in Jerusalem, the church being planted in Samaria, ⁵ by Philip the deacon, ¹⁴ Peter and John come to confirm and enlarge the church. ⁹, ¹⁸ Of Simon the sorcerer. ³⁷ Philip baptizeth an Ethiopian eunuch.

AND ^m Saul was ⁿ consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and ^q they were all scattered abroad

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

Link Acts 8v12 with the following key Scriptures:

Gal 3:6-9 The gospel of the Kingdom was preached to Abraham.

Mark 16:15-16 Belief in the gospel leads to baptism and salvation.

Rom 1:16 The gospel is a dynamic power that can save us

John 1:12-13 Those that believe on Christ's name become Sons of God.

1 Cor 4:15 Through Christ, we are "begotten through the gospel"

James 1:18 We are begotten through God's "Word of Truth".

1 Pet 1:22-25 The Gospel is likened to an incorruptible seed that can give eternal life. Understanding the gospel changes the way we think. Obeying the truth must lead to a genuine love and care for others.

Isaiah 40:3-11 Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God are described as being the good tidings. God's Son is the perfect reflection of His character. This character will be extended to the world in the Kingdom age through Christ and the Saints. **Isaiah 40:6** is quoted in **1 Pet 1:24**.

v12 Key verse: The "gospel" means "good news".

Two aspects to the gospel message.

The Word of God and "the gospel" are spoken of interchangeably.

The gospel is "the hope of Israel". This gospel was preached to Israel in the wilderness and believed and acted upon by Abraham: **Acts 26:6,7; 28:20; Rom 4:1; Gal 3:29**.

Resurrection from the dead is our hope when we believe the true gospel: **1 Cor 15:20-26, 50-58; Isa 26:19; Jn 11:21-27**. Abraham believed in resurrection: **Heb 11:13-19**.

The Kingdom of God on earth is a fundamental part of the gospel preached by Jesus and the disciples: **Matt 4:23; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4v43; 9:2,6,11**. Jesus Christ will be King over the nation of Israel: **Luke 1:32,33**. This Kingdom is taught clearly by the prophets, eg. **Isa 2,35; Psa 72; Micah 4**.

Luke 8:4-15,21 The Word of God is what converts.

It is fundamental that we believe the true gospel:

1 Cor 15:1-2 Belief in the true gospel saves us. See also **Eph 1:12-13; 2 Tim 1:9-10**.

2 Cor 11:2-4 Paul warned of teachers in the ecclesia who would corrupt their minds with false Christianity. These would come and preach "another Jesus" and "another gospel". This falling away from the truth developed into a false system of Christianity, the Roman Catholic Church: **2 Thess 2:3-11**.

Gal 1:6-12 Paul warns against false teachers. A "gospel" that does not offer true hope is not good news.

Eph 4:4-7 "One faith, one baptism, one God..."

Mark 16:15-16 "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved..."

Rom 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth..."

¹² But when they believed Philip preaching ^o the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

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

²⁶ And ^l the angel of the Lord spake unto ^m Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south

v27-36 Philip preaches the gospel to the Ethiopian Eunuch

He was reading **Isaiah 53:6-7**. The life of Christ had a personal and emotional influence upon him.

He wanted to know **WHO** this was speaking about. He had a fellow feeling with Jesus Christ.

Philip would have continued by reading **Isaiah 54:1** and **56:3-5**.

Baptism is an outward demonstration of a believer's understanding of the gospel. Baptism essential for salvation: **1 Pet 3:21**.

Colour code: Blue (God & Jesus); Red (sin/devil/ judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (Israel & Return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation).

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²⁷ And he arose and went: and, behold, ^d a man of Ethiopia, ^e an eunuch ^f of great authority under Candace queen of the ^g Ethiopians, who had ^h the charge of all her treasure, and ⁱ had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

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

²⁹ Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

³⁰ And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, ⁿ Understandest thou what thou readeest?

³¹ And he said, How can I, except some man should ^o guide me? And ^q he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

³² The place of the scripture which he read was this, ^r He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

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

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 ^s began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

³⁶ And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth ^t hinder me to be baptized?