

**Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts
"Church Is Scattered"
Acts 8:1-25
Study 14**

Romans 11:33 How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

Acts 8 Describes The Expansion Of The Church:

The Key Verse in the Book of Acts: Acts 1:8

Acts 1-7 Witness To Jerusalem: My witnesses both in Jerusalem,

Acts 8-12 Witness To Judea And Samaria: and in all Judea and Samaria, Describe the "Period of Transition."

1. The Center of activity moves from Jerusalem to Antioch Syria.
2. The Message goes from the Jews to the Samaritans and then to the Gentiles.
3. Peter's prominence fades as Paul becomes the leader.
4. The "Gospel of the Kingdom" is replaced by the "Gospel of the Grace of God."

Thought Of The Passage: God Used Persecution To Scatter The Church In Order To Reach The Lost And To Expose Sin.

- 1. Verses 1-3 Persecution**
- 2. Verses 4-8 Preaching**
- 3. Verses 9-25 Pretending**

1. Verses 1-3 Persecution:

Acts 8:1 Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death.

Context: This is referring back to **Acts 6:8-7:60**, the arrest and murder of Stephen. **Acts 7:58**

Saul: "*desired*" or "*Proud*." His name after his conversion was changed to **Paul:** "*Small*" – and he wrote the major portion of the NT. Greatest thinker, deeply spiritual man.

He was born in Tarsus in Cilicia - **Acts 22:3** A Roman Citizen **Acts 16:37; 22:25-28**. "Hebrew of the Hebrews"
2 Corinthians 11:22; Philippians 3:5

The "*Son of a Pharisee*" **Acts 23:6** He became a devoted Pharisee.

Acts 26:4-5; Philippians 3:5 Saul was educated in Jerusalem under Gamaliel. **Acts 22:3**

Saul's zeal for the Law was displayed in his persecution. **Galatians 1:13-14; Philippians 3:6**

Paul described himself as "**violent aggressor.**" **Acts 26:11; 1 Timothy 1:13**

And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem; Satan continues to try to destroy the work of God. Now the Jerusalem Church.

and they were all scattered (dispersed), which means "*to scatter like seed.*"

throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, - This expansion of the church.

and they were all scattered except the apostles. With Exception of Apostles!

Acts 8:2 made loud lamentation over him. Stephen's death was not a legal execution. The Jews could not execute.

Acts 8:3 ravaging the church, "*a wild animal tearing its prey, on the hunt.*"

entering house after house; and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison. This would mean that they would be beat, loss of property.

men and women - Saul was not attempting to cripple the movement but eradicate Christianity with the individuals such as women. **Acts 11:19**

2. Verses 4-8 Preaching:

Acts 8:4 Therefore, - the result of the murder of Stephen was the scattering of the church, and an increase of persecution.

those who had been scattered - Luke is referring to the lay persons.

scattered - dispersed, which means "*To scatter like seed.*"

preaching the word. "*to preach the Gospel, to evangelize.*"

Acts 8:5 Philip went down - He was one of the Magnificent 7 helpers of the church. Called **Acts 6:5**, Philip is the only person called an Evangelist. **Acts 21:8**

to the city of Samaria About 7 miles North of Jerusalem. **and began proclaiming Christ to them.** *"to announce as a herald."*

Philip took the Gospel to Samaria, just as Christ had done in **John 4.**

Acts 8:6 The crowds with one accord **were giving attention to what was said**

as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. Philip not an apostle.

Acts 8:7 many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out -
The demonic activity

Acts 8:8 So there was much rejoicing in that city. Luke 19:6

3. Verses 9-25 Pretending:

Acts 8:9 Now (But) Satan is going to step in!

there was a certain man named Simon, - sometimes called "*Simon Magus.*" The word "*Magus*" taken from **someone "great;"** "*The great one, like a god.*"

magic - "*sorcery*" means "*magician, occult, and superstition.*" This is the imitation to Christianity. **2 Thessalonians 2:9-10**

and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great;

2 Corinthians 4:5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord,

Acts 8:10 and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him,

saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God."

The deception of thinking this man's power was attributed to God.

Matthew 7:15

**Acts 8:11-13 Even Simon himself believed; "professed belief."
James 2:19**

Simon believed the facts about Jesus but did not transfer his trust in Him. John 2:23-25

and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip; Stayed in the ministry of Philip. He was being taught, was in attendance with the Christians.

and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed. This man was ever amazed by God and Philip.

Acts 8:14-15

The Book of Acts is a Historical Narrative that contains both Descriptive and Prescriptive:

might receive the Holy Spirit. The Church was birthed On the Day of Pentecost Jews – **Acts 2** Samaritans - **Acts 8** Gentiles - **Acts 10** Ephesians **Acts 19**

Acts 8:16 For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; Samaritans had placed faith in God but they had not been placed in the church just like the Jews in **Acts 2**. This was the gentiles being accepted into the church.

Jesus had given Peter the **"keys of the kingdom of heaven."**
(Matt. 16:13-20),

Acts 8:17-18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, - It does not say what he saw! **Acts 2,10, 19**

he offered them money, - How this spirit of Simon is still in the church.

"Simony" which means *"the buying and selling of church offices or privileges."*

Acts 8:19 He wanted the power to enhance his sorcery.

Verse 20 Peter said, "Your silver perish with you":

"May your silver perish with you "*"You and your money are both going to destruction!"*

Verses 21-23 He was not Converted: Acts 8:21

Acts 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord

Verse 23 Simon was in the bond of iniquity: Acts 8:23

Simon was a Satanic counterfeit, a “child of the devil.” **Matthew 13:36-40**

Acts 8:24 He had no relationship to pray to God.

Acts 8:25 Here apostles go back to preaching.

Application:

1. There Is No Progress Without Sacrifice: Stephen’s Death Changed The Church.
2. The Gospel Message Alone Is Sufficient To Transform The Sinful Heart.
3. God Wants To Use Each One Of His Followers.
4. Simon Teaches Us The Danger Of How Close A Person Can Come To Salvation And Still Not Be Converted.