

Acts 8: 2-25

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The results of preaching the Gospel (v. 9–25).

1. How did the early believers react to Stephen's martyrdom? (8:2)

Acts 8: 2

2 Some devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him.

1. *Some devout men buried Stephen.*
2. They made loud lamentation over him

- A. The devout men must have been some of Stephen's friends and fellow worshippers.
- B. They were deeply disturbed over his death, making "loud lamentation" over him.
- C. His witness was publicly honored.
- D. He died what might be called a hero's death.

2. Who took a leading role in attacking the early church? (8:3)

Acts 8: 3

3 But Saul *began* ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

1. Saul.

a. Saul began ravaging the church.

Saul made havoc of the church; that is, he tried to devastate it, destroy it, ruin it and wipe it out.

b. Saul went house after house dragging off men and women.

He stormed the homes of believers, breaking open the doors, fiercely seeking every believer in every house.

c. Saul would put both men and women in prison.

Paul told Agrippa -

Acts 26: 9-11

9 “So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

10 “And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them.

11 “And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.

3. What were the Christians doing who had been scattered throughout Judea and Samaria? (8:4)

Acts 8: 4

4 Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.

They were proclaiming the word of Christ.

1. The believers were scattered: dispersed, scattered about just as seed is sown or scattered throughout a field.
2. The scattered believers did not hide in secrecy and fearful silence.
3. They preached the Word wherever they went. “Preaching the word” means to evangelize, to declare, to proclaim, to preach the Word of God, the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

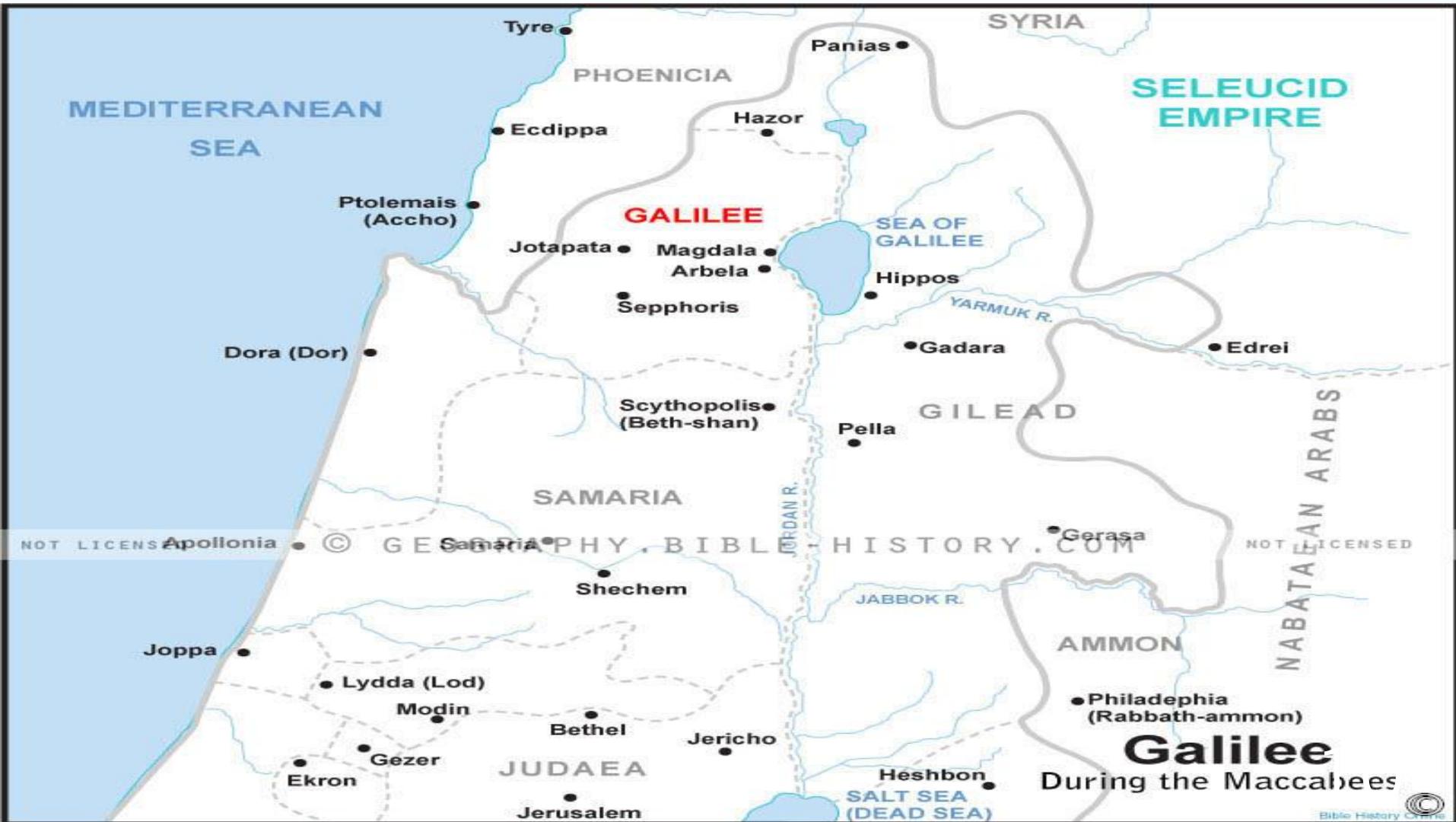
4. Where did Philip go? (8:5)

Acts 8: 5

5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria
and *began* proclaiming Christ to them.

Samaria

The Samaritans and Jews were bitter enemies. The Samaritans were a remnant of the Northern Kingdom intermarried with Syrians and other foreigners. They had established a rival center of worship separate from Jerusalem, with pagan elements.



5. What did the crowds do in response to Philip's teaching and miracles? (8:6)

Acts 8: 6

6 The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing.

The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip.

1. The people was of “one accord”: of one mind, spirit and purpose; in full cooperation; willing to *hear* the message and see the miracles.
2. The people must give “heed”, keep their minds and hearts upon the message.

6. What miraculous signs did Philip perform? (8:7)

Acts 8: 7

7 For *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.

1. Unclean spirits were coming out *of* many.
2. Many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed.

Lives are changed—miraculously.

- a. People who cannot help themselves were healed.
- b. People possessed with evil spirits were changed: the evil spirits were cast out.
- c. People with diseased and crippled bodies were healed.

The power of God was clearly witnessed.

7. Why did the people rejoice? (8:8)

Acts 8: 8

8 So there was much rejoicing in that city.

1. The powerful miracles and preaching of Philip resulted, as it had in Jerusalem, in the salvation of many Samaritans.
2. Some accepted the gospel, believing and reacting with much rejoicing.
3. Their joy came not just from physical deliverance from diseases, or spiritual deliverance from demons, but from complete deliverance from sin through the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

8. How did the Samaritans react to Simon's sorcery? (8:9-11)

Acts 8: 9-11

9 Now 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; **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.”

11 And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts.

The people of Samaria were giving Simon attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts.

1. The people had been enslaved by a false prophet, a religious imposter, Simon.
 - a. He used sorcery: magical arts, witchcraft, spirit mediums, astrology, charms, spells, divination or fortune-telling.
 - b. He bewitched people: amazed, astonished, and secured their following.
 - c. He claimed that he was “some great one.”
2. The people had been enslaved by a false religion: “all” gave heed; all followed his leadership and teaching; all “from the least to the greatest” confessed, “this man is the great power of God.”
3. The people had been enslaved for a long time. They had been held in bondage to the false prophet and false religion for a *long time*. But now, they had been freed by the power of Christ.

9. When Philip preached about Christ, what did the people do? (8:12)

Acts 8: 12

12 But 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.

1. They believed in the good news.
2. Both men and women were being baptized.

Philip preached two major subjects.

- a. He preached the kingdom of God.

Matt. 10: 7

7 “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

- b. He preached the name of Jesus Christ.

Rom. 10: 9-10

9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

10. What did Simon do when he heard the gospel? (8:13)

Acts 8: 13

13 Even 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.

Simon believed and was baptized.

11. Why did Peter and John leave Jerusalem and go to Samaria? (8:14)

Acts 8: 14

14 Now when the apostles in Jerusalem
heard that Samaria had received the
word of God, they sent them Peter and
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The apostles in Jerusalem heard that
Samaria had received the word of God, they
sent Peter and John.

12. What did Peter and John do when they arrived in Samaria? (8:15-17)

Acts 8: 15-17

15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

16 For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

17 Then they *began* laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

1. Peter and John prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

2. Peter and John *began* laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

1. The Samaritans had believed the gospel and been immersed. They were, then, according to the commission, and according to Peter's answer on Pentecost, pardoned, and in possession of that "gift of the Holy Spirit," which was promised on condition of repentance and immersion.
2. After they had been in possession of this gift, for a period sufficient for the news to reach Jerusalem, the whole body of the apostles united in sending to them Peter and John.
3. Before the arrival of Peter and John, none of them had received the *miraculous* gift of the Spirit.
4. Upon the imposition of hands by the two apostles, accompanied with prayers, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, conferring miraculous gifts.

13. What did Simon want to buy from Peter and John? (8:18-19)

Acts 8: 18-19

18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,

19 saying, **"Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."**

"Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

14. How did Peter answer Simon's request? (8:20-23)

Acts 8: 20-23

20 But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!

21 “You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

22 “Therefore 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 bondage of iniquity.”

1. “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!
2. You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.
3. Repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.
4. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity.”

15. What was Simon's attitude in response to Peter? (8:24)

Acts 8: 24

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.”

“Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.”

- 1. He was shaken and afraid. Simon refused to ask the Lord for forgiveness. Instead, he said to the apostles, “Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.”**
- 2. His only concern was to escape the temporal consequences of his sin.**
- 3. True repentance consists of more than mere sorrow for sin.**

Acts 8: 24 (NIV) & (CEV) & (NKJV)

**24 Then Simon answered, “Pray to the Lord
for me so that nothing you have said may
happen to me.”**

16. What did Peter and John do on their way back to Jerusalem? (v.25)

Acts 8: 25

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.

Peter and John solemnly testified and were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans on the way back to Jerusalem.