

III. The Restoration of the Land of the Philistines (8:40)

- A. What is the significance of Gaza, Azotus, and Caesarea?
- i. Gaza and Azotus were 2 of the 5 principle cities of the Philistines.
 - ii. Caesarea was a modern city, but named after the emperor of their current oppressor. North end of Palestine.
- B. The Word left Jerusalem, conquered the northern Kingdom, the outcasts, the rest of the southern Kingdom, and the land of the Philistines. The Promised Land is complete.

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- Why do you think Luke used, “the city of Samaria” though it no longer actually existed by that name?
- In what ways does Simon represent idolatry and false worship? If you compare Philip and Simon what do you learn?
- What does the story of the eunuch coming to faith teach us about the use of Scripture in evangelism? What beside Scripture did the eunuch need? How did it come to him?
- How does Philip demonstrate the importance of being submissive to the Spirit's leading as well as of knowing Scripture?
- How do the truths we are learning in Acts about the restoration of the Kingdom through the proclamation of the Gospel and the Spirit's outpouring effect how we read the Old Testament?
- Why should the truths of Acts 8 give us confidence in the power of the Word of God in confronting the false gods and false belief systems of our day?
- The prophets spoke of the full restoration of the Kingdom to Israel. Do things promises await another day? Or did God intend to fulfill them in another way (other than geo-political)? How does the book of Acts speak to these issues?

Restoration of the Promised Land to the Messianic Kingdom

Jerry Cisar — August 10, 2014

Text: Acts 8:5-40

Introduction: Acts and the Restoration of the Kingdom

- A. Acts 1 and the Agenda of Acts.
- i. The kingdom of God is what they had been waiting for (Luke 1, 2), thought had come until Jesus was crucified (Luke 24), and now (Acts 1) are now waiting for again.
 - ii. The promise was that the Holy Spirit would be poured out to restore Israel. (Isaiah 32:15)
- B. *“In Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* (Acts 1:8)

I. Restoration of the Northern Kingdom (8:5-26)

- A. The City of Samaria
- i. V5 *“the city of Samaria”* or *“a city of Samaria”*
 - ii. The historic capitol of the northern kingdom.
- B. Jesus or Simon
- i. Philip proclaimed Christ – the Messiah. (8:5)
 - ii. Simon proclaimed himself. (8:9)

The Gospel is transforming idol worship into worship of the true God.

- iii. Simon was a sorcerer, or a magician.

 - iv. Simon found something more powerful than Himself, so he too “believes” and is baptized.
- C. Peter and John head to Samaria
- D. Simon wants magical powers still. (8:18-25)
- i. Deuteronomy 29:18-19

 - ii. Peter and John return preaching the Gospel in many Samaritan villages—the northern kingdom.
- E. Why is there a delay in the reception of the Spirit?
- i. Ephesians 1:13-14
 - Acts 10:47

 - ii. Matthew records that Peter has been given the keys of the Kingdom. Luke demonstrates it. (Acts 2, 8, 10)

 - iii. Were they saved after they believed and were baptized?

II. Restoration of Outcasts, the Wilderness, and Judea (8:26-39)

- A. The road that goes through the wilderness to Gaza.
- i. Symbolism of the desert or wilderness.
 - ii. This road goes through **Hebron**.
- B. An Ethiopian Eunuch
- i. Eunuchs were outcasts in Israel.
 - a) Deuteronomy 23:1

 - b) Isaiah 56:3-5, 8

 - c) What does it mean that he is an “Ethiopian”:
 - Gentile of African descent who is a God-fearer.
 - Proselyte to Judaism—now considered Jewish.
 - A formerly exiled Jew whose family had been taken in captivity and has landed in Ethiopia.

 - ii. The Kandake—the queen mother of the king of Ethiopia.

LXE Psalm 87:3-4 Glorious things have been spoken of thee, O city of God. ...behold also the Philistines, and Tyre, and the people of the Ethiopians: these were born there.

C. Isaiah 53:7-8 “Who was Isaiah talking about?”

D. What can prevent my being baptized?”

- i. *Is there anything that prevents me, a eunuch, from being restored into the Kingdom.*

- ii. Acts 10:47