

Assignments on Acts 8

Read Acts 8 then answer these questions:

1. What problem did the church have? What was its effect? Who was **not** scattered – 8:1?
2. What final information are we given about Stephen's death – 8:2? (Think: Is it wrong to sorrow when Christians die? Explain.)
3. Describe Saul's involvement in the persecution – 8:3.
4. What did the scattered Christians do? Who was involved in this work – 8:4 (cf. v1)?
5. **Application:** What can we learn from this about the importance of preaching?
6. Who preached in Samaria and where have we already read about this man – 8:5?
7. Read Acts 1:8. What new stage has the spread of the gospel reached according to Acts 8:1-5. (Think: What was unique about the Samaritans compared to other people?)
8. What attitude did the people have toward the gospel – 8:6-8?
9. List some of the miracles Philip did.
10. **Define** sorcery. List **passages** that discuss it or other aspects of the occult.
11. What methods did Simon use? What effect did they have on the people – 8:9-11?
12. **Application:** Name some lessons we learn about sorcery from this passage.

13. What did Philip preach – 8:12 (cf. v5)? (Think: What can we learn about the view that we should not teach people about the church until after they have been baptized?)

14. Describe the response to Philip's preaching (8:12). Compare to Mark 16:15,16.

15. **Application:** According to v12, who were baptized? When were they baptized? What does this teach us about infant baptism?

16. How did Simon react to the miracles – 8:13? (Think: Would he have been saved?)

17. What does this show about the powers Simon himself had formerly exercised?

18. **Application:** What can we learn about modern “miracle workers” who say they cannot do miracles when unbelievers or false teachers are present?

19. Who came from Jerusalem and what was their purpose – 8:14-17?

20. **Case Study:** Some people claim that all saved people must have Holy Spirit baptism and miracles in their lives. Were the Samaritans saved before the apostles came? Did the people have the Holy Spirit and miracles before they came? What conclusion does this prove?

21. List other **passages** that discuss apostles' laying hands on people and/or imparting spiritual gifts.

22. **Application:** Did Philip give the Holy Spirit to the Samaritans? Do we have apostles today? What does this prove about whether people can receive miraculous powers today?

23. What request did Simon make – 8:18,19?

24. List phrases that show Simon was guilty of sin or would be lost if he was not forgiven – 8:20-24.

25. **Case Study:** Some people claim a child of God cannot so sin as to be lost. Explain how the case of Simon answers this view. List 2 other **passages** showing a child of God can so sin as to be lost.

26. What did Simon have to do to be forgiven – 8:22?

27. List **passages** showing what children of God who sin should do to be forgiven.

28. What did the apostles do as they returned to Jerusalem – 8:25?

29. Where was Philip told to go next, and how was he told – 8:26? (Think: In what sense was this area “desert”? Find it on a **map**.)

30. What was the occupation of the eunuch – 8:27? (Think: Find Ethiopia on a **map**. What can we learn from the fact Philip taught a man from there?)

31. Why was the eunuch traveling and what was he doing as he traveled – 8:27,28? (Think: What does this tell us about his character?)

32. What did the Spirit tell Philip to do – 8:29?

33. **Case Study:** Some churches teach that the Holy Spirit directly tells people what to do to be saved apart from the teaching of the gospel. Note the directions given to Philip by an angel and by the Spirit (vv 26,29). How does this help us respond to this doctrine?

34. What question did Philip ask – 8:30? (Think: What does this show about good teaching?)

35. How did the eunuch respond? What does this show about his character – 8:31?

36. Describe the prophecy he was reading. Where was it found – 8:32,33?

37. What is the proper explanation for the meaning of this prophecy?

38. What question did the eunuch ask Philip about the prophecy – 8:34?

39. What did Philip preach about to the eunuch – 8:35? (Think: If we preach Christ, what do we preach – cf. 8:36,5,12; Col. 1:27,28?)

40. As they traveled, what did the eunuch want to do – 8:36?

41. Application: What can we learn about baptism from the eunuch's request?
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42. What did Philip tell the eunuch to do before he could be baptized – 8:37?

43. List other **passages** regarding the importance of confessing Christ in salvation.

44. How is the baptism of the eunuch described in 8:38,39?

45. Case Study: Some denominations sprinkle or pour for baptism. List other passages that help us on this subject, then explain what we can learn from the eunuch's case.

46. What conclusions can we reach about infant baptism from this passage?