

Acts 8: shape and keywords

And Saul approved of their killing him. At that time, a **great** persecution began against the assembly in **Jerusalem**, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. Devout men buried Stephen and made **great** lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the assembly by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison.

Now those who were scattered passed through place to place, **proclaiming the good news** of the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. The crowds with one accord **paid close attention** to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, for unclean spirits, crying with **great** shrieks, came out of many [or "many came out"]; and many others who were paralyzed or lame were cured. So there was great joy in that city.

Now a certain man named Simon had previously practiced magic in the city and **amazed** the people of Samaria, saying that he was someone **great**. All of them, from the least to the **greatest**, **paid close attention**, saying, "This is the power of God that is called **Great**." And **they paid close attention** to him because for a long time he had **amazed** them with his magic. But when they believed Philip, who **was proclaiming the good news** about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were **baptized**, both men and women. Even Simon himself believed. After being **baptized**, he was devoted to Philip and was **amazed** when he saw the signs and **great** works of power that took place.

Now when the apostles at **Jerusalem** heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive **Holy Spirit** (for as yet it had not fallen upon any of them; they had only been **baptized** into the name of the **Lord** Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received **Holy Spirit**. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give me also this authority so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the **Holy Spirit**." But Peter said to him, "To hell with your silver and you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money! You have no part or share in this word, for your heart is not straight standing before God. Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the **Lord** that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of injustice." Simon answered, "Pray for me to the **Lord**, that nothing of what you have said may happen to me."

Now after Peter and John had testified and spoken the word of the **Lord**, they returned to **Jerusalem**, **proclaiming the good news** to many villages of the Samaritans.

Movement of mission

Then an angel of the **Lord** said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south [or, go at noon]" to the road that goes down from **Jerusalem** to Gaza." (This is wilderness.) So he got up and went. And behold, a man, an Ethiopian **eunuch**, a power-player of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come into **Jerusalem** to worship and was turning back; seated in his chariot, he was **reading** the prophet Isaiah.

Spirit's command

Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him **reading** the prophet Isaiah.

Philip asks about understanding

He asked, "Can you read what you are **reading**?"

Eunuch's first question

He replied, "How am I empowered, unless someone shows me the way?" And he encouraged Philip to come up and sit beside him.

Scripture quoted

Now the passage of the scripture that he was **reading** was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him [or, "his condemnation was taken away"]. Who can fully tell of his generation? For his life is lifted off from the earth."

Eunuch's second question

The **eunuch** asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

Scripture interpreted

Then Philip opened his mouth and, starting with this scripture, **he proclaimed to him the good news** about Jesus.

Eunuch's third question

As they were going along the way, they came to some water; and the **eunuch** said, "Behold, water! What is to prevent me from being **baptized**?"

Eunuch shows understanding

He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the **eunuch**, went down into the water, and Philip **baptized** him.

Spirit's command

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the **Lord** snatched Philip away; the **eunuch** saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing.

Movement of mission

But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, **he proclaimed the good news** to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.