

Welcome  
Family  
&  
Friends

(Studies on the book of Acts)

# Under Persecution the Gospel Thrives (Acts 8) – Part 1

# Review of previous lesson:

- We saw how the people of God refused to listen to the prophet of God, Moses.
- We saw how the Israelites turned to idols, instead of the Living God.
- We discussed how the Ever-Present God has no need of a dwelling place.
- We saw how, just as with God's servant Moses, the people have rejected God's Son, Jesus the Christ!
- We discussed how Stephen answered the charges against him.
- We saw how the people reacted to Stephen's convicting message and how Stephen reacted to what they did to him.

## In this study:

- We will see how persecution arose against the church and how that persecution lead to the spread of the Gospel.
- We will see how Paul began to persecute the church.
- We will see how the Gospel reached Samaria.

# Persecution arises against the Church!

Acts 8:1 – 3

Acts 8:1 (ESV) (*1 And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.*)

*Acts 7:58 (ESV) (58 Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.)*

James 1:2 – 4 (ESV) (*2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*)



Acts 1:8 (ESV) (8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*")

*Acts 8:2 (ESV) (2 Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him.)*

Acts 8:3 (ESV) (3 *But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.*)

Acts 22:4 – 5 (ESV) (*4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, 5 as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.*)

Acts 26:9 – 11 (ESV) (9 “I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. 11 And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.)

1 Timothy 1:13 – 14 (ESV) (*13 though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.*)

# The Gospel goes into Samaria!

Acts 8:4 – 8

Acts 8:4 (ESV) (*4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.*)




Matthew 28:19 – 20 (ESV) (*19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*")

Mark 16:15 (ESV) *(15 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.)*

Acts 8:5 – 7 (ESV) (5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. 6 And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed.)

Acts 6:5 – 6 (ESV) (*5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.*)

Luke 9:51 – 55 (ESV) *(51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. 53 But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” 55 But he turned and rebuked them.)*

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consists of two diagonal stripes. The outer stripe is dark grey, and the inner stripe is a lighter shade of grey. They run from the bottom-left towards the top-right.

Acts 8:8 (ESV) (*8 So there was  
much joy in that city.*)

Acts 8:9 – 25

The Power of the  
Holy Spirit is not  
for sale!

Acts 8:9 – 11 (ESV) (9 *But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. 10 They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the power of God that is called Great.” 11 And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic.*)



*Acts 8:12 (ESV) (12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.)*

Romans 10:15 (ESV) (*15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”*)

2 Thessalonians 1:7 – 8 (ESV) (*7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*)

1 Corinthians 15:1 – 5 (ESV) (*1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.*)

the Gospel enacted

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4



Death



Resurrection

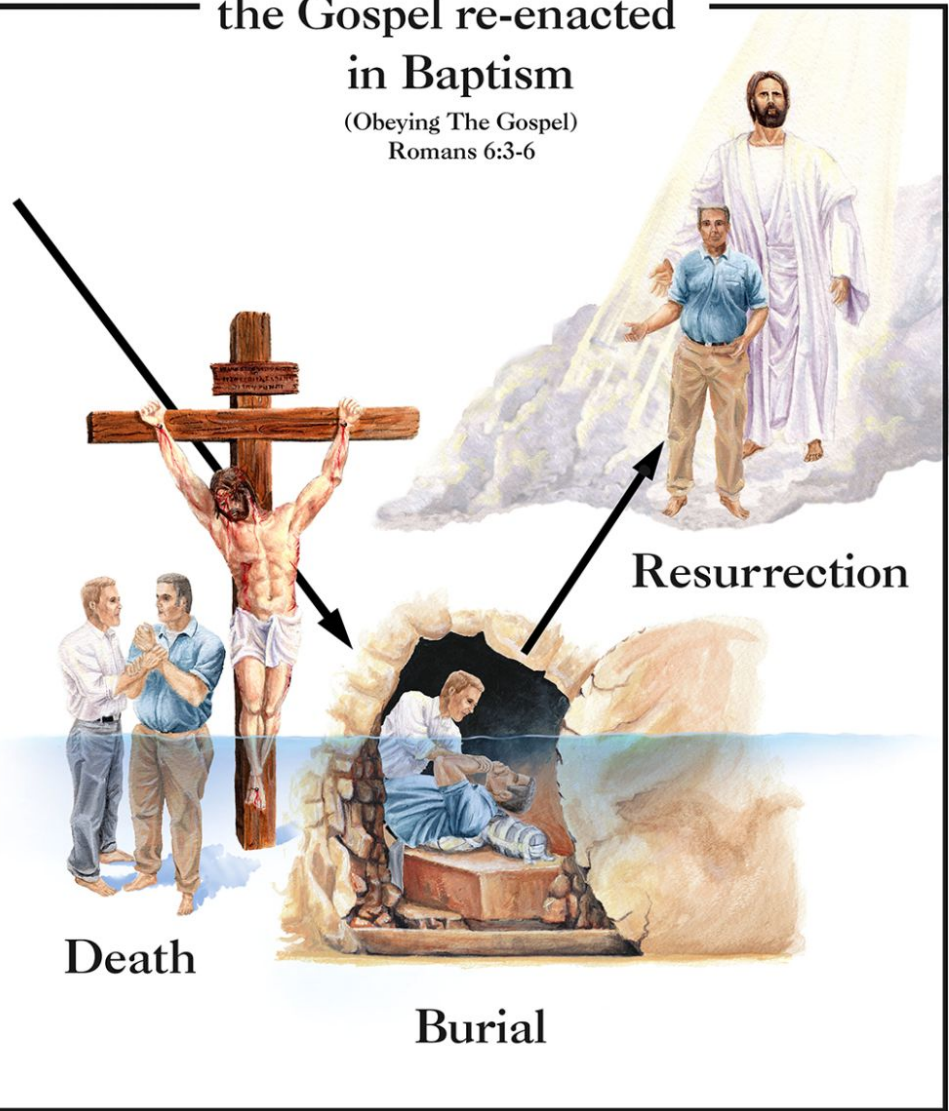


Burial

Romans 6:3 – 4 (ESV) (*3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*)

the Gospel re-enacted  
in Baptism

(Obeying The Gospel)  
Romans 6:3-6



In the next study, we  
will continue our look  
at chapter 8!