WITNESSED

WITNESSING TO THE WORLD

Acts 8 (pg. 973-974)

1) DISPERSION OF THE CHURCH (1-8)

[1]Saul agreed with putting him to death.
On that day a severe persecution broke out
against the church in Jerusalem, and all except
the apostles were scattered throughout the land
of Judea and Samaria.
[2]Devout men buried Stephen and mourned
deeply over him. [3]Saul, however, was ravaging
the church. He would enter house after house,
drag off men and women, and put them in prison.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8

4So those who were scattered went on their way
preaching the word. 5Philip went down to a city
in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them.
6The crowds were all paying attention to what
Philip said, as they listened and saw the signs he
was performing. 7For unclean spirits, crying out
with a loud voice, came out of many who were
possessed, and many who were paralyzed and
lame were healed. 8So there was great joy in that
city.

Then he told them many things in parables, saying, "Consider the sower who went out to sow. As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seed fell on rocky ground where it didn't have much soil, and it grew up quickly since the soil wasn't deep. But when the sun came up, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it. Still other seed fell on good ground and produced fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times what was sown. Let anyone who has ears listen."

MATTHEW 13:3-9


0 10 20 30 mi
0 20 40 km
Sea of Galilee
Mediterranean Sea
Caesarea
Sebaste (Samaria)
Lydda
Azotus
Jerusalem
Gaza
To ETHIOPIA
Dead Sea

1) DISPERSION OF THE CHURCH (1-8)

2) THE SAMARITAN PENTECOST (9-25)

9 A man named Simon had previously practiced
sorcery in that city and amazed the Samaritan
people, while claiming to be somebody great.
10 They all paid attention to him, from the least of
them to the greatest, and they said, "This man is
called the Great Power of God." 11 They were
attentive to him because he had amazed them
with his sorceries for a long time.

And they said, “Come, let’s build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky. Let’s make a name for ourselves; otherwise, we will be scattered throughout the earth.”

GENESIS 11:4

12But when they believed Philip, as he proclaimed
the good news about the kingdom of God and the
name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were
baptized. 13Even Simon himself believed. And
after he was baptized, he followed Philip
everywhere and was amazed as he observed the
signs and great miracles that were being
performed.

14 When the apostles who were at Jerusalem
heard that Samaria had received the word of God,
they sent Peter and John to them. 15 After they
went down there, they prayed for them so that
the Samaritans might receive the Holy Spirit
because he had not yet come down on any of
them. 16 (They had only been baptized in the name
of the Lord Jesus.) 17 Then Peter and John laid
their hands on them, and they received the Holy
Spirit.

"God withheld the gift for his own revelatory and salvific purpose, not because of an inadequate response on the part of the Samaritans. The apostles needed to be there as reliable witnesses on behalf of the Jerusalem church, not to impart the Spirit because of their office…The delay in the sending of the Spirit put the Samaritans somewhat in the position of the Jewish disciples before Pentecost. They had a genuine faith in the risen Lord, but had not yet received the promised Holy Spirit."

DAVID G. PETERSON

18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given
through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he
offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this
power also so that anyone I lay hands on may
receive the Holy Spirit."

20 But Peter told him, “May your silver be
destroyed with you, because you thought you
could obtain the gift of God with money! 21 You
have no part or share in this matter, because your
heart is not right before God. 22 Therefore repent
of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord
that, if possible, your heart’s intent may be
forgiven. 23 For I see you are poisoned by
bitterness and bound by wickedness.”

You will rejoice before the Lord your God — you, your sons and daughters, your male and female slaves, and the Levite who is within your city gates, since he has **no portion or inheritance** among you.

DEUTERONOMY 12:12

Be sure there is no man, woman, clan, or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the Lord our God to go and worship the gods of those nations. Be sure there is no root among you bearing **poisonous and bitter** fruit. When someone hears the words of this oath, he may consider himself exempt, thinking, 'I will have peace even though I follow my own stubborn heart.' This will lead to the destruction of the well-watered land as well as the dry land. The Lord will not be willing to forgive him. Instead, his anger and jealousy will burn against that person, and every curse written in this scroll will descend on him. The Lord will blot out his name under heaven.

DEUT. 29:18-20

24 “Pray to the Lord for me,” Simon replied, “so that
nothing you have said may happen to me.”
25 So, after they had testified and spoken the word
of the Lord, they traveled back to Jerusalem,
preaching the gospel in many villages of the
Samaritans.

1) DISPERSION OF THE CHURCH (1-8)

2) THE SAMARITAN PENTECOST (9-25)

3) ALL ARE WELCOME (26-40)


0 10 20 30 mi
0 20 40 km
Sea of Galilee
Mediterranean Sea
Caesarea
Sebaste (Samaria)
Lydda
Azotus
Jerusalem
Gaza
To ETHIOPIA
Dead Sea

26 An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip: "Get up and
go south to the road that goes down from
Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is the desert road.) 27 So
he got up and went. There was an Ethiopian man,
a eunuch and high official of Candace, queen of
the Ethiopians, who was in charge of her entire
treasury. He had come to worship in Jerusalem
28 and was sitting in his chariot on his way home,
reading the prophet Isaiah aloud.
29 The Spirit told Philip, "Go and join that chariot."

No foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord
should say,
"The Lord will exclude me from his people,"
and the eunuch should not say,
"Look, I am a dried-up tree."
For the Lord says this:
"For the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
and choose what pleases me,
and hold firmly to my covenant,

ISAIAH 56:3-4

I will give them, in my house and within my walls,
a memorial and a name
better than sons and daughters.
I will give each of them an everlasting name
that will never be cut off.
As for the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to become his servants —
all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it
and who hold firmly to my covenant —

ISAIAH 56:5-6

I will bring them to my holy mountain
and let them rejoice in my house of prayer.
Their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be acceptable on my altar,
for my house will be called a house of prayer
for all nations.”

ISAIAH 56:7

30When Philip ran up to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you’re reading? ”
31“How can I,” he said, “unless someone guides me? ” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.
32Now the Scripture passage he was reading was this:

He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb is silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

34 The eunuch said to Philip, "I ask you, who is the
prophet saying this about — himself or someone
else? " 35 Philip proceeded to tell him the good
news about Jesus, beginning with that Scripture.
36 As they were traveling down the road, they
came to some water. The eunuch said, "Look,
there's water. What would keep me from being
baptized? "

The Scripture says, **Everyone who believes on him will not be put to shame**, since there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord of all richly blesses all who call on him. For **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**

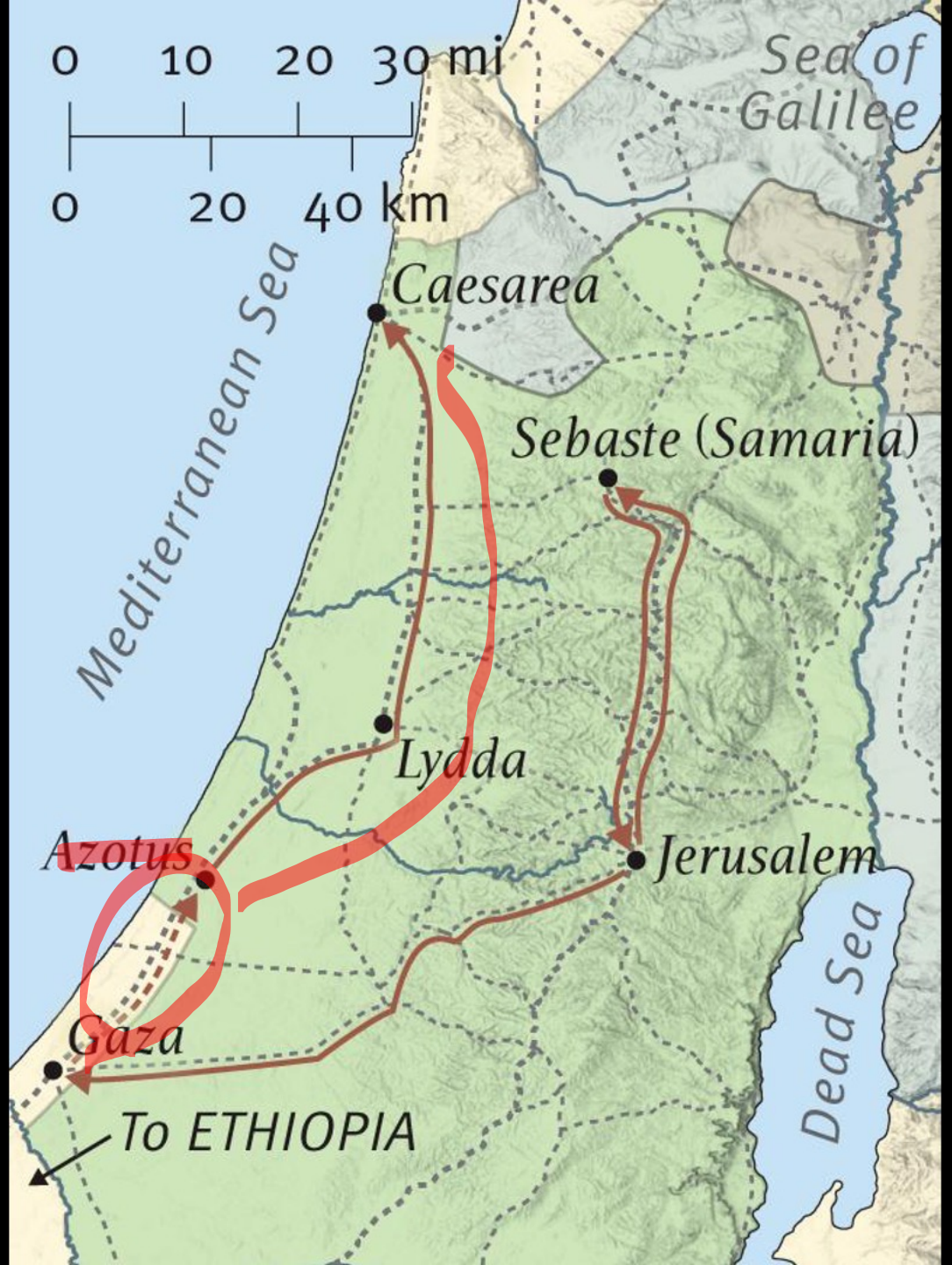
How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent?

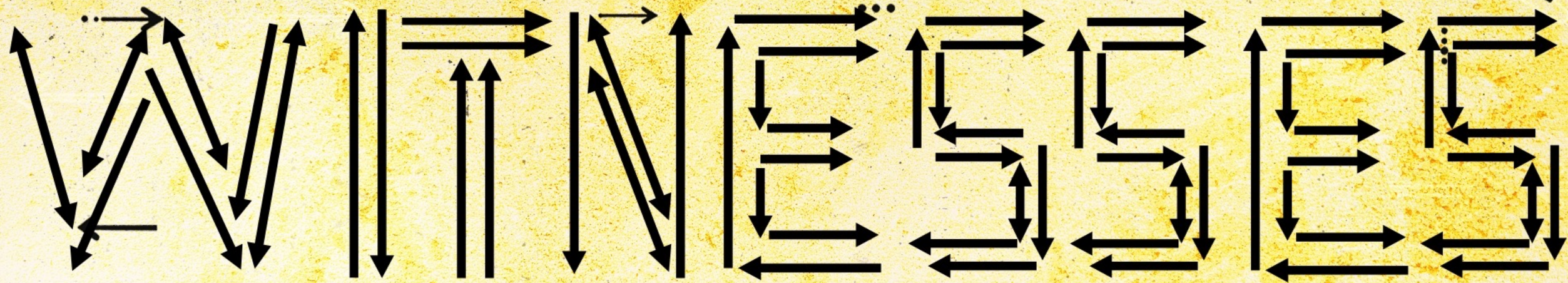
ROMANS 10:11-15

38 So he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip
and the eunuch went down into the water, and
he baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the
water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away,
and the eunuch did not see him any longer but
went on his way rejoicing. 40 Philip appeared in
Azotus, and he was traveling and preaching the
gospel in all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

“Don’t rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

LUKE 10:20


0 10 20 30 mi
0 20 40 km
Sea of Galilee
Mediterranean Sea
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WITNESSING TO THE WORLD

Acts 8