



THE CHURCH GROWS WHEN SCATTERED

THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK

JULY 5, 2023





THE CHURCH GROWS WHEN SCATTERED

1. THE LESSON OF MASS EVANGELISM

- THE PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH LEADS TO ITS GROWTH AND EXPANSION

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SAULS MISSION OF DESTRUCTION

- Acts 8:1-3 (NIV84) – 1 And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. 2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. 3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

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PHILIP'S MINISTRY EVANGELIZING SAMARIA

- Acts 8:4-8 (NIV) – 4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. 7 With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.

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PETER AND JOHN FOLLOW-UP IN SAMARIA

- Acts 8:14-17 (NIV) – 14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.



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2. THE LESSON OF PERSONAL EVANGELISM

THIS NEXT SECTION OF ACTS 8 SHIFTS FROM THE FOCUS ON A REGIONS AND LARGER GROUPS OF PEOPLE -- TO MOVE TO A SETTING ON A MORE PERSONAL BASIS

THE MINISTRY OF PHILIP TO THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH

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PHILIP HEEDS THE HOLY SPIRIT'S TIMING

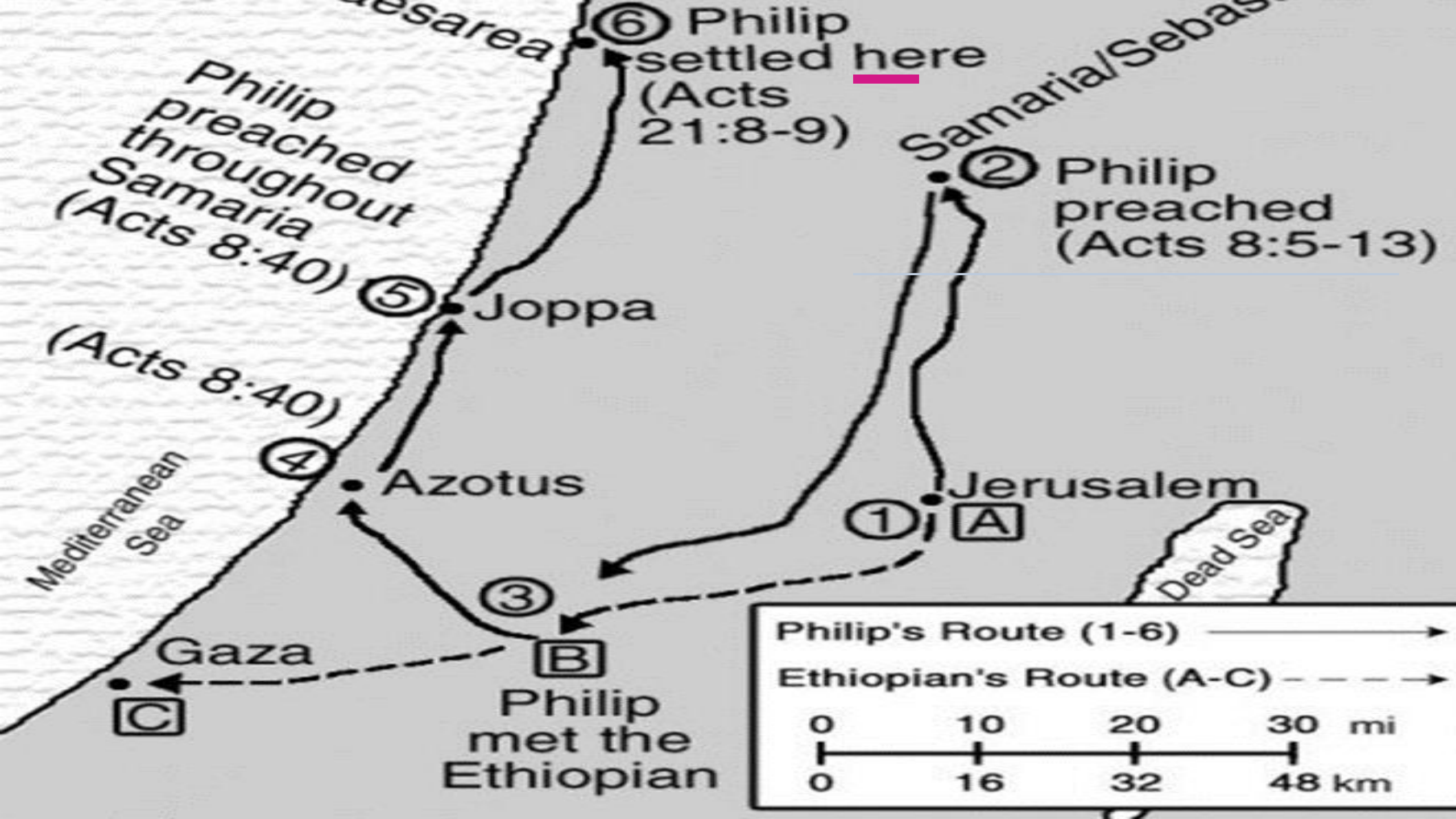
- Acts 8:26-29 (NIV) – 26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” 27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. 29 The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”



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PHILIP'S CONCERN FOR ONE IS CONCERN FOR THE LOST IN THE WORLD

- Acts 8:40 (NIV) – 40 Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.





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3. THE LESSON OF SEED FOR FUTURE HARVESTS

- GOD ALWAYS HAS A MEANS OF PRODUCING MORE SEED FOR FUTURE HARVEST

- SAUL: WOULD START AS AN ENEMY OF THE CHURCH HE WOULD END AS BEING THE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES

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SAUL IS CONVERTED

- Galatians 1:13-14 (NIV) – 13 For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. 14 I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

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- Philippians 3:4-6 (NIV) – 4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.
- 2 Corinthians 11:22 (NIV) – 22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I.

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- Acts 22:3 (NIV) – 3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.
- Acts 9:1 (NIV) – 1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest



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SAUL WAS REMOSEFUL

- Acts 9:9 (NIV) – 9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

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SAUL PRAYED

- Acts 9:11 (NIV) – 11 The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.

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SAUL CONNECTED WITH THE BODY OF CHRIST

- Acts 9:10-17 (NIV) – 10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord,” he answered. 11 The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.” 13 “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.” 15 But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.” 17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

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SAUL'S NEW LIFE

- Acts 9:20-22 (NIV) – 20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. 21 All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” 22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

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1. Following Stephen's death, who remained in Jerusalem after persecution broke out against the Church?

- The apostles
- All believers
- Only the Jewish believers
- Only the Greek believers

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2. While Stephen was being stoned, the men doing the stoning placed their cloaks at the feet of

- Caiaphas.
- Theophilus
- Gamaliel.
- Saul.

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3. After persecution broke out against the Church, Philip preached the gospel in

- Judea.
- Samaria.
- Tarsus.
- Ethiopia.

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4. When Peter and John arrived in Samaria, they
- prayed that the believers might receive the Holy Spirit.
 - baptized the believers in water.
 - partook of the Lord's Supper with the Samaritan believers.
 - did all of the above.

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5. When Philip met the Ethiopian eunuch on the road, the Ethiopian was

- on his way to Jerusalem.
- returning home from Jerusalem.
- on his way to Antioch.
- returning home from Samaria.



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6. A proselyte is one who
- converts from one religion to another.
 - teaches false doctrine.
 - believes in many gods.
 - adopts the culture and customs of another culture.

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7. After Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch, Philip
- walked back to Samaria.
 - was taken away by the Spirit.
 - rode with the eunuch to the nearest town.
 - tucked in his cloak and ran to Jerusalem.

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8. Paul was uniquely fitted for the missionary task that God had given because of his

- secular education.
- religious training under Gamaliel.
- tentmaking skills.
- background in all of the above.

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9. Paul was the apostle's

- Jewish name.
- Roman name.
- Christian name.
- Aramaic name.

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10. Saul's conversion is recorded in:

- Acts 6.
- Acts 7.
- Acts 8.
- Acts 9.