

“Jerusalem Meets Rome and Finds Babylon: A Study in Church Purity”

Fall 2022-Spring 2023

October 12, 2022

Who can Be in the Church – Ethnic Bias – Acts 8, 10

I. Philip in Samaria

A. The Samaritans in the Scripture

1. The Creation of the Problem – 1 Kgs 17:24-33

2. Under the Ministry of Christ

- a. Mt 10:5-6 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. "But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
- b. Lu 9:51-53 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.
- c. Jesus Meeting the Samaritan Woman at the well – Jo 4
 - i. Jo 4:9 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.
 - ii. Jo 4:27 And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"

B. Philip

1. One of the seven table servers in Acts 6:5

2. The description of those table servers – Acts 6:3b of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom,

3. Apparently fled during the persecution that came upon the church in Jerusalem – Act 8:4-5

4. Considered an evangelist – Ac 21:8

C. Philip's Message and the Samaritan's Response

1. Philip's Message

a. preached Christ to them – vs 5

b. did miracles – vs 6-7

2. The Samaritan's Response – vs 6, 8, 12

a. the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken

b. there was great joy in that city.

c. they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. – vs 12

3. Simon the sub-story – vs 9-13,
 - a. who previously practiced sorcery in the city
 - b. The People's thought of Simon
 - i. and astonished the people of Samaria, - vs 9, 11
 - ii. claiming that he was someone great, - vs 9-10
 - iii. they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, - vs 10-11
 - c. Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized
 - d. he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

D. The Apostles Response – vs 14-25

1. They Sent Peter and John – vs 14-17, 25
 - a. They prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.
 - i. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them.
 - ii. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
 - b. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
 - c. So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.
2. Simon the sub-story Cont. – vs 18-25
 - a. Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given,
 - i. he offered them money,
 - ii. "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."
 - b. Peter's Response
 - i. "Your money perish with you, because
 - you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!
 - "You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.
 - ii. "Repent therefore of this your wickedness,
 - and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.
 - "For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity."
 - c. Simon's Reaction Peter's Pronouncement – vs 24 - "Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me."

E. God's Leading of Philip to Another Cross-Cultural Ministry – vs 26-

1. His Directions - Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, - vs 26-27, 29
 - a. "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."
 - b. This is desert.
 - c. So, he arose and went.
 - d. "Go near and overtake this chariot."
2. God's next Assignment – vs 27-38a

- a. The Ethiopian Eunuch on His way home
 - i. of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians
 - ii. who had charge of all her treasury,
 - iii. a Jewish Proselyte - and had come to Jerusalem to worship,
- b. The Mechanism to speak about Jesus – vs 28-31
 - i. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.
 - ii. So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah,
 - "Do you understand what you are reading?"
 - "How can I, unless someone guides me?"
 - he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.
- c. Where to start - vs 32-34
 - i. The place in the Scripture which he read was this – Isa 53:7-8
 - ii. The Eunuch's question - of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?"
- d. The Open Door – vs 35-38, 39c
 - i. Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.
 - ii. Preaching Jesus included more than the 4 spiritual laws – vs 36
 - they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"
 - "If you believe with all your heart, you may."
 - And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
 - iii. So he commanded the chariot to stand still.
 - And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.
 - so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.
- e. Philip's next Assignment – vs 39-40
 - i. the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away
 - ii. Philip was found at Azotus – Ashdod of the Philistines
 - iii. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea. – about 67 miles

II. Peter and the First Gentiles

A. Cornelius and the Importance of the Preaching of the Gospel – Ac 10:1-8

1. Intro to Cornelius – vs 1-2
2. His Vision – vs 3-6
3. Sending his servants for Peter – vs 7-8

B. God Preparing Peter for His next Assignment – vs 9-18

1. Peter Praying at Lunchtime – vs 9-10
2. Peter's vision – vs 10c-16

- a. an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners descending to him and let down to the earth.

- i. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air
- ii. a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."
- iii. But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean."
- iv. And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common."

b. This was done three times.

3. Enlightenment doesn't mean we automatically understand it – vs 17a

4. The Call to Come – vs 17b-18

C. Peter Meeting Cornelius – vs 19-33

1. Divine Direction and Reassurance – vs 19-20

2. Introduction: Why have you come – vs 21

3. Here under Divine instruction for you – vs 22

4. Hospitality and Help – vs 23

5. Arriving to find Cornelius and Company – vs 24

6. That Awkward Moment with Correction – vs 25-26

7. Thinking about one, meeting many – vs 27

8. Why I am here; Why am I here? – vs 28-29

9. Let me tell you what happened – vs 30-33

D. The Preaching of the Gospel – vs 34-43

1. Realized Truth – vs 34-35

a. "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.

i. OT - De 10:17; 2Ch 19:7; Job 34:19

ii. NT - Ro 2:11; Eph 6:9; Col 3:25; 1Pe 1:17

iii. Personal approach - Ga 2:6; 6:3

b. "But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. - Ac 10:1Co 12:13; Ga 3:28; Eph 2:13,18; 3:6

2. God's word to Israel – vs 36-

a. preaching peace through Jesus Christ--He is Lord of all—

i. proclaimed throughout all Judea

ii. began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached

iii. The Gospel

- That Christ - "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. "And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem,
- Died for our sins - whom they killed by hanging on a tree.
- Rose again - "Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, "not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

- b. "And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."

E. Proof of God's Acceptance of the Gentiles

1. A Sign for unbelievers – vs 44, 46; 1 Co 14:22
 - a. The Coming of the Spirit upon the Gentiles – vs 44
 - b. How did they know – vs 46 - they heard them speak with tongues
2. Who were the Unbelievers – vs 45
 - a. those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter
 - b. because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.
3. Peter's Question for the Jews
 - a. "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" – Ac 11:17; 15:8-9
 - b. And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.
4. Continued Discipleship – vs 48b - Then they asked him to stay a few days.