### Acts

## Chapter 8

1Well at the time, Saul actually approved of murdering him.  
  
On that same day, a tremendous amount of persecution started to be directed towards the congregation in On that same day, a tremendous amount of persecution started to be directed towards the congregation in <span class="placename">JeruSalemOn that same day, a tremendous amount of persecution started to be directed towards the congregation in <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>; so everyone (except the Apostles) was scattered throughout the area of On that same day, a tremendous amount of persecution started to be directed towards the congregation in <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>; so everyone (except the Apostles) was scattered throughout the area of <span class="placename">JudeaOn that same day, a tremendous amount of persecution started to be directed towards the congregation in <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>; so everyone (except the Apostles) was scattered throughout the area of <span class="placename">Judea</span> and On that same day, a tremendous amount of persecution started to be directed towards the congregation in <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>; so everyone (except the Apostles) was scattered throughout the area of <span class="placename">Judea</span> and <span class="placename">SamariaOn that same day, a tremendous amount of persecution started to be directed towards the congregation in <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>; so everyone (except the Apostles) was scattered throughout the area of <span class="placename">Judea</span> and <span class="placename">Samaria</span>. 2However, some devoted men [took the time to] carry Stephen’s [body] out to be buried, and they wept bitterly over him.  
  
3[It was then that] Saul started wiping out the congregation [in JeruSalem]. He invaded one house after another, dragging out both the men and the women and sending them to jail.  
  
4Meanwhile, those who’d been scattered around just kept on preaching the good news of the word wherever they went.  
  
  
5[For example,] Philip had gone to a city in [For example,] Philip had gone to a city in <span class="placename">Samaria[For example,] Philip had gone to a city in <span class="placename">Samaria</span>, where he preached to the people about the Anointed One, 6and large crowds were paying attention to the things that he was saying… They listened to him closely and watched the signs that he performed. 7Many who were present had been bothered by unclean spirits who shouted loudly as they came out, and many others who were paralyzed or lame were cured.  
  
8As a result, there was a lot of joy in that city.  
  
  
9There was also a man there named Simon, who used to practice magic. He had amazed the people of There was also a man there named Simon, who used to practice magic. He had amazed the people of <span class="placename">SamariaThere was also a man there named Simon, who used to practice magic. He had amazed the people of <span class="placename">Samaria</span> and he called himself ‘[Simon] the Great.’ 10Why, everyone from the common people to the most powerful paid attention to him and said:  
  
 ‘This man who calls himself ‘The Great’ has the Power of God!’  
  
11So they followed him for a long time, because they were dazzled by his magic.  
  
12However, when Philip came preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God and about the name of Jesus the Anointed One, they started believing him; and as a result, many men and women got immersed. 13In fact, even Simon became a believer!  
  
Then after he was immersed, he stayed close to Philip and was amazed as he watched the signs and great powers.  
  
14Well, after the Apostles in Well, after the Apostles in <span class="placename">JeruSalemWell, after the Apostles in <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span> heard that Well, after the Apostles in <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span> heard that <span class="placename">SamariaWell, after the Apostles in <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span> heard that <span class="placename">Samaria</span> was starting to accept the word of God, they sent Peter and John there, 15and they prayed for [the believers] to receive Holy Breath, 16since it hadn’t come to any of them yet – even though they’d been immersed in the name of the Lord Jesus.  
  
17But when [Peter and John] laid their hands on them, they each started receiving Holy Breath. 18And when Simon saw that the Apostles could give the Breath by just touching people, he offered them money, saying:  
  
 19‘Give me the power so that anyone I lay my hands on can receive Holy Breath!’  
  
20But Peter said:  
  
 ‘May your silver be destroyed along with you!  
  
 ‘Since you think that you can buy the gift that God gives freely, 21you aren’t going to have any part in this, nor will you share in it… For God sees that your heart is crooked!  
  
 22‘So now, turn away from your badness and beg the Lord to forgive you for these thoughts that you have in your heart, 23because I see bitterness, hatred, and an unrighteous alliance in you.’  
  
24Then Simon said:  
  
 ‘Please beg the Lord on my behalf, so that none of the things that you said will happen to me!’  
  
25Well, after they’d given everyone who was there a thorough testimony, and spoke to them about the things that the Lord had told them, [the Apostles] returned to Well, after they’d given everyone who was there a thorough testimony, and spoke to them about the things that the Lord had told them, [the Apostles] returned to <span class="placename">JeruSalemWell, after they’d given everyone who was there a thorough testimony, and spoke to them about the things that the Lord had told them, [the Apostles] returned to <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>. But because of what they’d done, many other Samaritan villages also heard of the good news.  
  
  
  
26Then Jehovah’s&nbsp;messenger spoke to Philip and told him:  
  
 ‘Now, get up and go south to the road that runs through the desert from JeruSalem to Gaza.’  
  
27And when he got there, {Look!} he found an Ethiopian man who held the office of Eunuch of the Treasury under the Kandake, the Queen of the Ethiopians [possibly Amanitore], who had gone to JeruSalem to worship.  
  
28While the man was [on his way back home], he was sitting in his chariot reading aloud from the Prophet IsaiAh.  
  
29So the Breath [of God] then told Philip:  
  
 ‘Go and catch up with his chariot.’  
  
30So Philip started running alongside him.  
  
Then when he heard the man reading from the Prophet IsaiAh aloud, he asked him:  
  
 ‘Do you really understand what you’re reading?’  
  
31But [the eunuch] replied:  
  
 ‘How could I, unless I had someone to explain it to me?’  
  
So at that, he begged Philip to climb aboard and sit with him.  
  
32Well, the particular scripture he was reading at the time was this:  
  
 ‘He was brought like a sheep to the slaughter;  
 And as a lamb that is quiet before shearers,  
 He didn’t open his mouth…  
 33Then he was shamed and his justice was denied.  
 So who’ll tell the details to his generation  
 After his life is removed from the land?’  
 [a differently translated version of Isaiah 53:7-8a]  
  
34Then the Eunuch asked Philip:  
  
 ‘Just who was the Prophet saying this about? Was he talking about himself or someone else?’  
  
35So Philip proceeded to explain this scripture, telling him the good news about Jesus.  
  
36Now, as they were traveling along the road, they happened to be passing by some water. So the eunuch said to him:  
  
 ‘Look… Here’s some water! What’s to prevent me from getting immersed?’  
  
37And Philip said: ‘If you believe it with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said: ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ [spurious text]  
  
38So he commanded the chariot [driver] to stop, and then Philip took the eunuch down to the water and immersed him.  
  
39Well, after they came up out of the water, the Spirit of Jehovah then sent Philip quickly away, so the eunuch didn’t see him anymore… However he continued on his way rejoicing.  
  
40Meanwhile, Philip found that he was in Meanwhile, Philip found that he was in <span class="placename">AshDodMeanwhile, Philip found that he was in <span class="placename">AshDod</span>. So he traveled on throughout that area, preaching the good news in all the cities, until he got to Meanwhile, Philip found that he was in <span class="placename">AshDod</span>. So he traveled on throughout that area, preaching the good news in all the cities, until he got to <span class="placename">CaesareaMeanwhile, Philip found that he was in <span class="placename">AshDod</span>. So he traveled on throughout that area, preaching the good news in all the cities, until he got to <span class="placename">Caesarea</span>.