

Acts 8 Study Guide

Verses 1-4:

- 1) Along with V. 58 in Chapter 7, we encounter the man Saul here for the first time. What was his role in Stephen's death?
- 2) What do we know about Saul's persecution of the Church from these verses and elsewhere? Look further into what the New Testament teaches about persecution.
- 3) What does the reaction of the believers to Stephen's death tell us about their faith?
- 4) Compare the outcome of this persecution to Acts 1:8 and Matthew 23:37.

Verses 5-8:

- 5) Refresh your understanding of the schism between the Samaritans and the Jews.
- 6) How did the Samaritans respond to Philip's preaching and why?

Verses 9-24:

First, let's consider V. 14-17 and then return to the verses about Simon.

- 7) Why did the apostles in Jerusalem send Peter and John to Samaria?
- 8) Returning to V. 9-13 and 18-24: What is the background for this man Simon?
- 9) What did Simon hear and see from Philip, and how did he respond to it?
- 10) How did Peter describe Simon's error and deal with it? What can we learn for our times from this episode?

Verse 25:

- 11) Describe Peter and John's return trip to Jerusalem, according to this verse.

Verses 26-40:

- 12) Describe the experiences that Philip had in V. 26 and V. 29.
- 13) What can we find out about the man Philip was sent to in the desert?
- 14) What Scriptures was the Ethiopian reading? What does he ask Philip? How does Philip respond to his questions?
- 15) Philip's leave-taking from the Ethiopian is miraculous. What can we learn overall from this account?