

“Persecution & Death Juxtaposed By Witness & Signs!”

Acts 8:1-8

“Now **Saul** was consenting to **Stephen’s death**. At that time, a great persecution arose against the Church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all **scattered** (*diaspora*) throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, **except the apostles**. And devout men carried **Stephen to his burial**, and made great lamentation over him. As for **Saul**, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. Therefore, those who were **scattered** (*diaspora*) **went everywhere Preaching the Word**. Then **Philip** went down to the **City of Samaria** and **Preached Christ** to them. And the **multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken** by **Philip**, **Hearing** and **Seeing** the **Miracles** (**Signs & Wonders**) which **Philip** did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; **and many** who were paralyzed, and lame **were healed**. And there was **Great Joy in that City of Samaria!**”

Acts 8:1-8 (NKJV)

Q

“What Was The Context By Which Saul Of Tarsus (A Jew From Roman/Greek Descent By Birth) Operated On Behalf Of All Of Judaism & The Sanhedrin Council In The Persecution Of The Church?”

A

**Saul Was A Gentile/Jew From Birth Like Many In The Hellenistic World.
This Combined Genealogy Allowed Him Access To Both
The Freedman Synagogue (Gentile/Jewish Converts) - Acts 6:8-14
& The Main Temple (Jewish Born Believers) - Acts 6:15**

Q

“Where Were The Freedmen From?”

A

“Then there arose some from what is called the *Synagogue of the Freedmen* (Former Slaves who were Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia (*Tarsus* and Asia Minor), *disputing* (*debating* and *arguing*) with *Stephen*.” **Acts 6:9**

Q

“What Was Saul’s Original Role For The Sanhedrin?”

A

Saul Was A “Jewish Praeco”

A Proclaimer Of The Trial Sentence Pronounced With Councilor Authority Of The Sanhedrin

“And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.” ...

“Now **Saul was consenting to **Stephen’s death**.” ... **Acts 7:58b & 8:1a****

Q

“What Became Saul’s Expanded Role For The Sanhedrin?”

A

Saul Was A “Jewish Procurator”

An Agent Representing The Jewish Council In Both Jewish & Roman Courts of Law

In The Countries Under Roman Civil Law & Rule

“At that time, a great persecution arose against the Church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all **scattered (*diaspora*) throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.”... “As for **Saul**, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison!” **Acts 8:1b & 3****

“Then *Saul*, still breathing threats and murder against the Disciples of the Lord, went to the High Priest and asked Letters (Warrants Of Authority & Legal Arrest & Extradition) from him to the Synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound in chains to Jerusalem.” Acts 9:1-2

Q

“Who Exactly At First Was Saul Persecuting & Dragging Off In Chains Both In Jerusalem In This Passage & Later In Damascus In The Next Chapter?”

A

Gentile Converts To Christianity Who Had Fled Jerusalem & Judea To Samaria & Damascus!

... “And they were all scattered (*diaspora*) throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.” ... Acts 8:1

Q

“What Was The Outcome Of This Persecution & Scattering From Jerusalem & Judea, To Samaria & Damascus?”

A

The Word Of God’s Good News Spread More Quickly Than If There Was No Persecution!

“Therefore, those who were scattered (*diaspora*) went everywhere Preaching the Word.”

Acts 8:4

Q

“Is Today’s Culture Scattered Also?”

A

Today, People Live Close To Each Other, But Are Scattered More Than Any Time In History, By False Misleading Information, Historical Revisionism, Untruths Abounding From News Media, Social Media, Government Officials, & Yes, A Lot Of Time From Churches & Pastors!

Q

“What Is The Only Hope For A Real Cure Against The Devils’ Endless Pandemic Of Lies?”

A

**To Offer A Vaccination Of Truth To Others That Can Cure All Their Fears, Worries, Anxieties, Depression, Guilt, & Shame!
So, Let Us Preach The Word – The Good News Of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ To Everyone – Everyday, Wherever We Go, & Whatever We Are Doing!**

Q

“How Did The Good News Spread To Others In Stephen & Phillip’s Day?”

A

The Obedience Of Jesus’s True Followers Like Stephen & Philip – Like You & Me, Who Lived Out A Daily Lifestyle Of Constant Evangelism!

“Then *Philip* went down to the *City of Samaria* and *Preached Christ* to them.” Acts 8:5

Q

“What Must Happen For People To Be Convicted, Repent, & Change Their Ways?”

A1

The Continuous Preaching & Teaching Of The Gospel Of Good News!

“Then *Philip* went down to the *City of Samaria* and *Preached Christ* to them.

And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by *Philip*”... Acts 8:5-6a

A2

The Preaching & Teaching Of The Gospel Of Good News

Is Always Accompanied By Faith & Power In The Form Of Miracles (Signs & Wonders)!

“And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, Hearing and Seeing the Miracles (Signs & Wonders) which Philip did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed, and lame were healed.”

Acts 8:6-7

Q

“What Was The Result Of All These Conversions To The Faith & All These Physical, Mental, & Spiritual Healings In The Name Of Jesus Christ?”

A

The Joy Of The Lord Was Given To Everyone By The Indwelling Presence Of God’s Holy Spirit!

“And there was Great Joy in that City of Samaria!” ... Acts 8:8

Even Though The Ancient Church Endured Much Persecution & Even Martyrdom For The Faith, It Also Saw Continual Witness To The Good News & Many New Converts Added To The Faith, Alongside Many Miracles Performed In The Powerful Name Of Jesus Christ!

TODAY

The Modern Church Must Make Itself Ready To Endure Persecution For The Faith, By Being Obedient To Our Mandate from Jesus, To Witness To His Good News, & To Bring Healing In His Name, Not Counting The Personal Or Corporate Price To Ourselves!

THEREFORE - LET US RISE NOW & PRAY TOGETHER!

“This Morning We Are Experiencing The Joy Of Our Lord! Let Us Share The Good News Of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ That Has Set Us Free And Can Set Others Free, Which Will Bring The Lord’s Joy To Those Who Are Broken & Lost! Let Us Pray For In Faith & Receive The Power To Perform Miracles, To Heal All Those Who Are Afflicted Physically, Mentally, & Spiritually! Let Us Share The Healing Power Of The Lord Living Within Us, Which Will Bring Restoration, Strength, & New Hope To All Those Who Are Sick! Let Us Share The Unending Joy Of The Lord With All Those Who Do Not Have Hope Or Joy, With All Those Who Have No Reason To Go On Living In This World, That They May Find The Joy Of The Resurrected Christ For Themselves!”

APPENDIX - Philip’s Evangelism Journeys

