

Acts of the Apostles 8:26-40 _ Lesson 21

Philip and the Eunuch

1. Acts 8:21-25 – Simon in the Bond of Iniquity

- a. Acts 8 = The remnant is scattered, but not destroyed – see also Eze 11:13-21
- b. Simon is in the bond of iniquity according to the one who can bind and loose
- c. The apostles are following the pattern of Matt 7:20 and 1 John 3:7, 17, 24
- d. Simon is an example of the bitterness warned about in Heb 12:14-17

1. 8:26-27 – Philip Meets the Eunuch

- a. God sends Philip to the desert, and faith is found there (not in Jerusalem)
- b. 8:27 - Who is this man? Ethiopian (which is not a skin color) – Zeph 3:10
- c. He was a Jewish proselyte – Acts 8:27, Acts 11:19, Acts 15:4 - not a Gentile
- d. Eunuch's were typically men of high position, but not in Israel – Dan 1:3, Deu 23:1
- e. Treasurer of the queen – which reminds us of Sheba – Matt 12:38-42, 1Ki 10:1-13
- f. Acts 8 = two condemnations: strangers from the north, and a queen of the south
- g. Another Ethiopian eunuch saved by a remnant prophet – Jer 38:6+, 39:15-18
- h. The presence of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8 is a picture of the fall of Jerusalem

2. 8:28-35 – Isaiah 53

- a. “chariot” - This man is leaving Jerusalem, and God goes with him. (Eze 8-10)
- b. “understandest thou” – You cannot believe the Bible that you don't understand
- c. “how can I” – Jerusalem was blind, and now hindering others – Lk 11:52, Mt 23:13
- d. They read Isaiah 53:7-8, which is the not the gospel of the grace of God:
 - i. “my people” - Isaiah 52:9, 53:1, 6, 8 speaks of Israel
 - ii. Isaiah 53 is not the good news of the cross, mystery, or God's grace to all
 - iii. It is the account of an innocent man's sacrifice because of Israel's sins.
- e. Israel will be saved when they humble themselves and mourn – Zech 12:10-11

3. 8:36-39 – The Eunuch is Baptized

- a. Acts 8:37 is one of dozens of verses removed from other translations, why?
- b. Passages like this are used to justify water baptism as a testimony
- c. But there are no witnesses, no ceremony, no words... and the BoC is still secret
- d. Philip does not say it is optional – Mark 16:16, Ac 2:38

4. 8:40-9:2 – Rejoicing and Slaughter

- a. The eunuch will not be cut off, but the olive branches are - Isaiah 56:3-5
- b. God said nations would come to Israel's light, but it has been refused – Isa 60:3
- c. The city on a hill is in darkness – Matt 5:14, Lev 24:2, John 8:12,1 Jo 2:8-10
- d. The last time the Holy Ghost is mentioned in Jerusalem is in Acts 7:55
- e. The “light” is shining outside Jerusalem. The kingdom is not coming.