



Gateway To Life Bible Studies

"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)

LESSON 4

Please read ACTS 7-8

Stephen is one of the most amazing characters in the Bible. The fact that he was full of grace and power led him through a great, but short, ministry. We have a remarkable story of one day in his life – his last one. Stephen stood at the parting of the ways in the story in Acts. He was part of the transition from Peter to Paul.

1. How far back did Stephen begin the history of the Hebrews? 7:2
2. To what point in history did he jump to next? 7:8
3. What was the outcome of Joseph's being left in a pit to die? 7:11-13
4. What was the result of Jesus being left in a tomb? Romans 1:4-5
5. How did God preserve the Messianic seed? Acts 7:19-21
6. Instead of leading Israel, initially, what did Moses do? 7:29
7. How did God appear to Moses in the wilderness? 7:30

8. What purpose did God have for Moses' life? 7:35
9. What was Israel's spiritual condition in the wilderness? 7:41
10. What had been the attitude of Israel in those days? 7:51
11. Who had brought a similar charge against Israel? Matthew 23:37-38

Stephen used the Old Testament references with amazing skill. Through careful weaving in territory that his audience was very familiar with, he proved that the Christ they murdered was the One the prophets had foretold. He summed up their history, revealing the hardness of their hearts; their spiritual deafness and continuous resistance to the Holy Spirit ... right down to the very audience he was addressing.

12. Who was the One whom they crucified? Acts 7:52
13. What encouragement was given to Stephen at this point? 7:55
14. What does it mean to "cover their ears" and why do people still do that? 7:57 and see John 3:19-20.
15. Who soon took Stephen's place as a major witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Acts 9:19-20

Acts 7:58 is the first mention of Saul. He was apparently a delighted spectator. He probably never forgot the prayer and testimony of Stephen.

16. What were Stephen's last words about his murderers? Acts 7:60
17. With whom may Stephen be compared? Luke 23:34

Acts 8

18. What did these Christian laymen do? 8:4

19. What accompanied the preaching of Philip? 8:6

20. What rival did Philip have? 8:9

There is much doubt about the authenticity of Simon's conversion. There is no sign of repentance. There is no confession of sin. But there is the statement that he continued with Philip and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Apparently Simon wanted the secret of Philip's power. His only concern was not for his own soul but for the ability to get close to Philip and learn the secret of his ability to heal the sick and perform miracles.

21. What special message was needed by Christians in Samaria? 8:14-15

As Samaritans, Gentiles, and believers from the Old Covenant were added to the church, the unity of the church was established. No longer could one nation (Israel) be God's witness people, but the church made up of Jews, Gentiles, half-breed Samaritans, and OT saints who became NT believers (19:1-7). To demonstrate the unity, it was imperative that there be some replication in each instance of what had occurred at Pentecost with the believing Jews, such as the presence of the apostles and the coming of the Spirit manifestly indicated through speaking in the languages of Pentecost (2:5-12).

22. What seems to indicate that Simon's belief was only a head knowledge? Acts 8:18 -21. .

23. There is a knowledge that may be right and still not save. There is a knowledge that saves. What is that knowledge? Romans 10:9

24. In the midst of a successful ministry, what was Philip told to do? Acts 8:26

25. What indicates that the Ethiopian was a seeker of truth? 8:28

The word join in verse 29 means "glue thyself to him." To get next to a man or woman and warm up to them is the first step in personal evangelism.

26. What Scripture passage is good for personal evangelism according to this text? 8:

27. What confession of faith did the eunuch make? 8:37

28. Brought together by an angel, how were these two men parted? 8:39

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#1. As you read through Acts 7-8, please note the things that were happening within the lives of believers that, in your opinion, were building up and maturing the group of believers in this time of history. The first one is given as an example:

1.	Believers were scattered due to the persecution and they preached the Gospel everywhere they went.	8:1b
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

#2. As you read through Acts 7-8, please note the things that were happening outside, in and to the lives of unbelievers that, in your opinion, were contributing to the expansion of the church. The first one is given as an example:

1.	Stephen preached to the Sanhedrin and they executed him	7:2ff
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
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8.		

- #3. Share with your group one area of personal growth that you see in Question #1 that you long to see expressed better in your life.
- #4. Based upon the entire history recorded in Acts 7-8, what are some of the essential elements that contribute to the expansion of the Church?
- #5. Please take time to pray for one another, for both personal aspirations as noted in #3 and for our Church that the elements you noted in #4 may be realized by God's grace and power.

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