

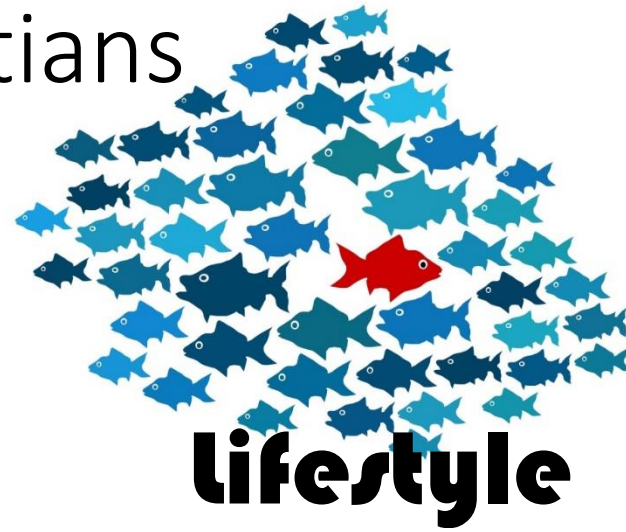
Equipped for Ministry

Acts 8-10

Newton Nuthu



Acts 8: Persecution of Christians



Matthew 5:11-12 *“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

WHO IS SAUL? Acts 8:1

- *(Philippians 3)*

- Circumcised on the 8th day-as per Jewish custom hence was privy to all the benefits that ethnicity & culture had to offer.

- **A Hebrew of Hebrews!**

- Not only was Paul of the nation of Israel, he was also of the Tribe of Benjamin. Benjamin was a favorite tribe among the Jews for several reasons:

- When the ten northern tribes had been scattered by the Assyrians, Benjamin voluntarily relocated and joined Judah.

- Jerusalem, was built on land from the tribe of Benjamin.

- It was also the tribe that the two sons of Rachel, Isaac's beloved wife, came from.

...Cont

- Born in Tarsus of Cilicia, belonged to the tribe of Benjamin.
- A Pharisee
- As for **Zeal**, (Violent) he was willing to enforce the Laws of Moses! TORAH
 - *He persecuted the Church. (Christians were Blasphemers, and they had to be stopped No matter What it took!))
- According to righteousness, He was FAULTLESS!
- He was a student of the best teachers of the Jewish Law-Gamaliel (Acts 5)
 - “I was thoroughly trained in the laws of our ancestors”
- **“A citizen of no ordinary City”! (Acts 21:39)**

Ref to Tarsus which was an important city, the capital of Cilicia, that exported “Goat-hair cloth” used to make Tents. It was distinguished for the culture of Greek philosophy and literature, so that at one time in its schools, and in the number of its learned men, it was the rival of Athens and Alexandria.

Profession

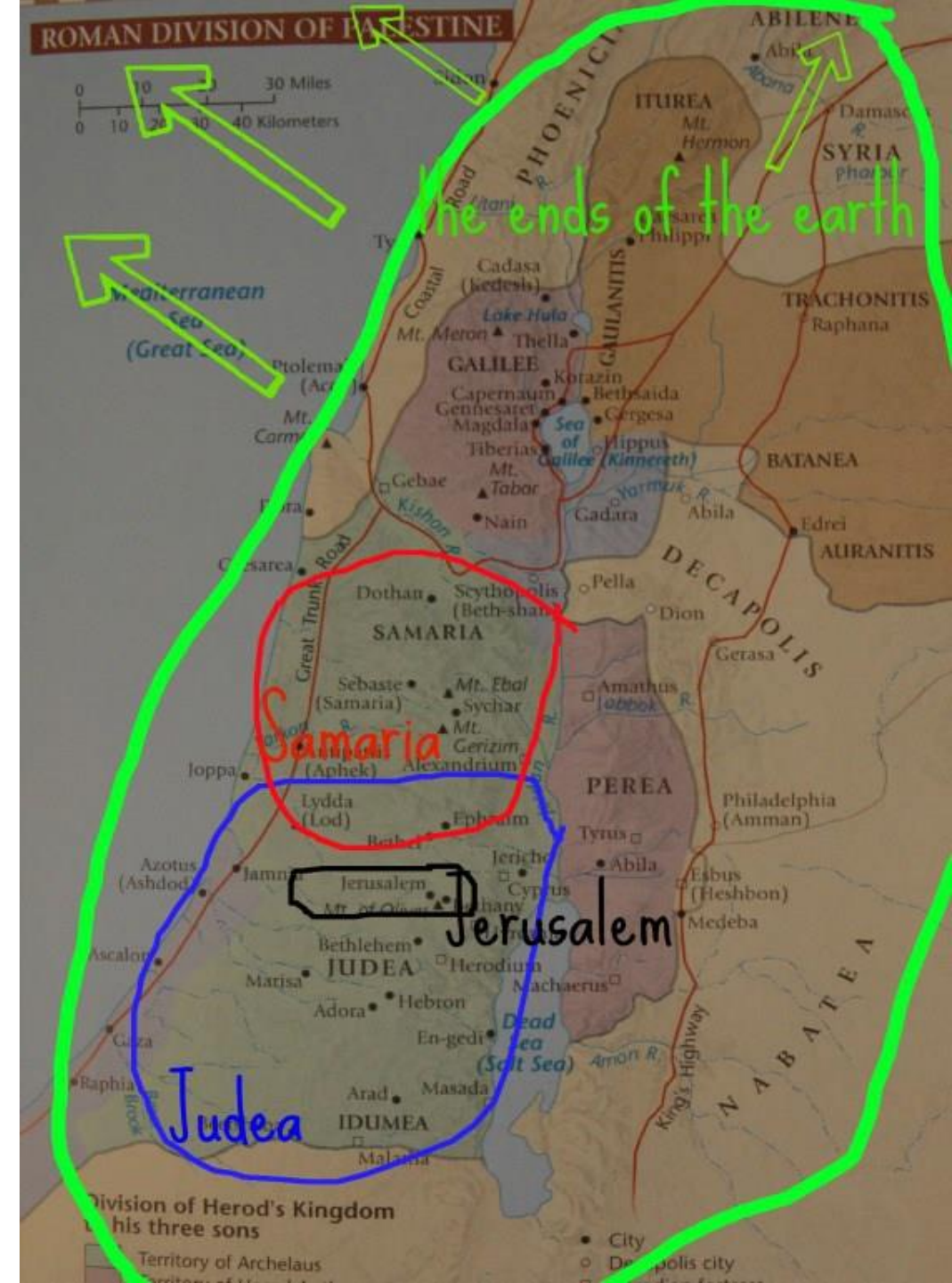
- Tent Maker, Apostle, Missionary, Preacher, and Writer.

“To All The Earth”

- The Persecution served as God’s Grand plan of spreading the Gospel “throughout Judea Samaria and to the Ends of the Earth”
- The period is 9-10 years after the church is established. Great growth has been realised in the Jerusalem Church of Christ
- The persecution ***“forced the Christians Out of their homes, and with It the Gospel”***
- God’s Word is **NOT** meant to remain with Me! Its not mine to keep, rather to share it with All & Sundry!

Acts 8: 1-

- Enter Saul! Almost main character in Acts
- Persecution did not stop the spread of the word, but facilitated.
- Philip in Samaria-city could have been Sychar-same city Jesus met Samaritan woman
- Philip. A Grecian Jew-could more easily go to Samaria
- **Vs 9-25**
- Simon the sorcerer-two lessons:
 - Only the laying on apostles hands could impart miraculous gifts of the H/Spirit
 - Wonders can also be done minus God's power!





The Ethiopian Eunuch Acts 8:26-40

PHILIP'S TRAVELS



- Philip travelled more than 100 miles to obey God
- Ethiopian Eunuch-a proselyte to the covenant of Israel
- CS Finance, Ethiopia!
- More likely he was reading the Septuagint-Greek translation of the OT. Isaiah 53:7-8. Aloud!
- Likely had come for the Feast of the Tabernacles, celebrated in October
- “How can I understand, unless someone explains it to me?”
- Why shouldn't I be baptised?



Phillip

1. Followed the Spirits Leading
2. Began the conversation from where the man was immersed (the book of Isaiah)
3. He explained how Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecies

The old testament is relevant-Jesus is found in both the pages of the OT & NT

VS 40

Phillip Suddenly being taken away, shows the urgency with which the Gentiles needed to hear the message

ACTS 9: 1- Saul's is converted

- 35 AD-Caiaphas was high priest. Gave written permission to Saul-Find them and bring them back to Jerusalem bound!
- The others referred to the Church as "The Way".
- The Damascus road experience
- The Lord spoke to Philip-Ethiopian Eunuch, Saul, Ananias
- Pray, *"Lead me to some soul (Saul) today, teach me Lord just what to say....."*
- Immediately started preaching in the synagogues....baptised in vs 18, preaching in verse 20. Amazing people in verse 21. Proving Jesus to be Christ in verse 22. Priests want him dead in verse 23! Too young?
- Went back to Jerusalem and spent 15 days, mostly with Peter (Gal 1:18)
- Peter's ministry: vs 32-43: healing of Aeneas, Raising of Tabitha (Dorcas). First person raised from death in the early church cf Jairus daughter (Mark 5:41)

Chapter 10-11: Christianity for the Jews and Gentiles

ACTS 2:1-

9 YEARS APART

ACTS 10:1-

JEWS ONLY

JERUSALEM



Outpouring of the Holy Spirit



Baptism for Salvation for the Jews

Cornelius, a devout, God-fearing Roman Centurion.
God sees our deeds done in love for others
Ceaserea, Headquarters for the Roman forces of Occupation, named after Augustus Ceaser.

GENTILES

CEASEREA



Outpouring of the Holy Spirit



Baptism for Salvation for the Gentiles

Acts 11:18
‘ So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life’

- Phillip (vs 29)
- Saul/Paul (vs 6)
- Ananias (vs 15)
- Peter (Acts 10:19-20)

These men demonstrated their Obedience to God it didn't matter where they were sent by the Holy Spirit! They were willing to **GO!**

” Go stand by that man/woman and listen to what she/he is saying”

“Go talk to that man who is lost helpless and harassed by the world and is thinking of committing suicide”

“Go spend time with that couple whose marriage is on the verge of divorce”

“Go and hear the still quite voice of that single mother desperately trying to make ends meet”

The voice of God is calling, the Holy Spirit is speaking to us telling us to...

GO! GO! GO!...TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH