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synagogue of the ^aLibertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, ^bdisputing with Stephen.

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Stephen recounts the history of Israel and names Moses as a prototype of Christ—He testifies of the apostasy in Israel—He sees Jesus on the right hand of God—Stephen's testimony is rejected, and he is stoned to death.

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and come into the land which I shall shew thee.

4 Then came he out of the land of the ^aChaldæans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.

5 And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he apromised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.

6 And God spake on this wise, That his seed should ^asojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into ^bbondage, and entreat *them* evil four hundred years.

7 And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place.

^acircumcision: and so *Abraham* begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac *begat* Jacob; and Jacob *begat* the twelve ^bpatriarchs.

9 And the patriarchs, moved with ^aenvy, sold ^bJoseph into Egypt: but God was with him,

10 And ^adelivered him out of all his ^bafflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

11 Now there came a adearth over all the land of Egypt and Chanaan, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance.

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was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto ^bPharaoh.

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15 So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers,

16 And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham ^abought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem.

17 But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,

18 Till another ^aking arose, which knew not Joseph.

19 The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.

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Speech

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6 1a TG Widows. c Acts 21:8. b TG Apathy; Welfare. 6a TG Church

c Acts 4:35.

- c Acts 21:8.
 6a TG Church Organization;
 Hands, Laying on of;
- 9a GR Freed-men.b TG Disputations.10a Isa. 54:17; Luke 21:15;

4*a* Gen. 11:31.

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NT Institute Manual

These men served under the direction of the Twelve with the specific task of caring for the poor and needy. It is not known what priesthood office the seven men held.

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6 1a TG Widows.

b TG Apathy; Welfare.

c Acts 4:35.

3a TG Honesty; Priesthood, Qualifying for.

h 1 Tim 3.7

c Acts 21:8.

6a TG Church Organization
Hands, Laying on of;
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Priesthood, Authority.

h TG Setting Apart

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Those who opposed Stephen were from one or more synagogues where Jews from foreign lands worshipped (see Acts 6:9). Libertines were former slaves who had gained their freedom. Cyrenians were Jews from Northern Africa, Alexandrians were Jews from the Egyptian city of Alexandria, and Cilicia was a Roman province of Asia Minor. From the accusations made against Stephen (see Acts 6:11–14) and his defense (see Acts 7), it appears that his opponents were angered by his teachings that the coming of Jesus Christ had redefined basic Jewish concepts regarding the land of Israel, the law of Moses, and the temple of Jerusalem.

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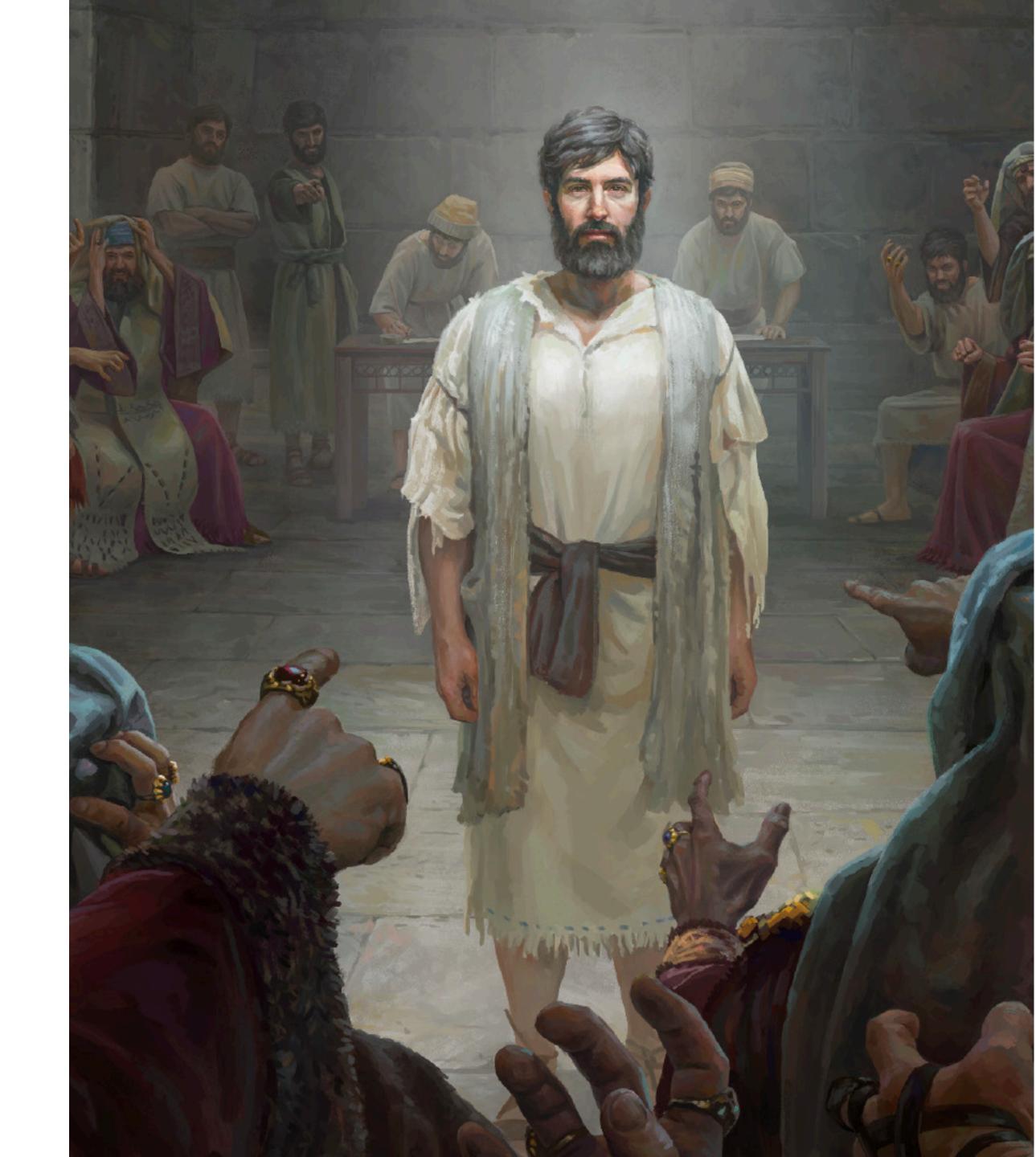
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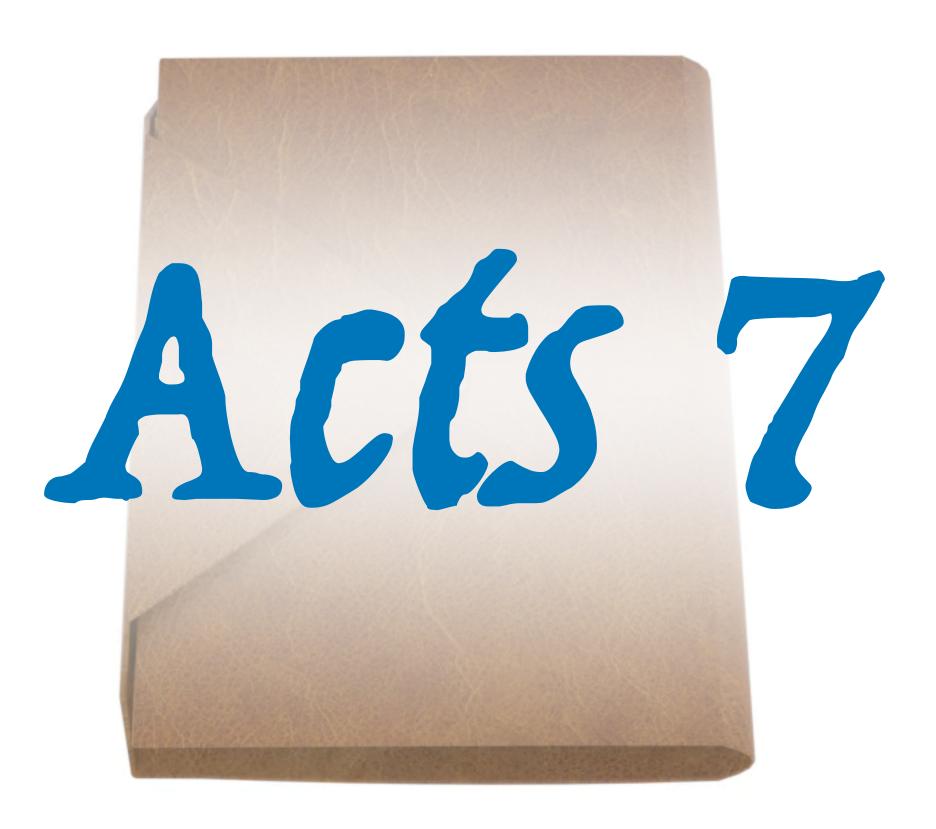
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By opposing Stephen and his testimony, the Jewish leaders were also opposing God, who had given an obvious sign showing His approval of Stephen. In the life of Stephen we see a reenactment of parts of the life of Moses, notably his transfiguration (Exodus 34:29–30) and rejection as one of God's authorized servants (see Acts 7:35–39). Stephen's experience also echoes the transfiguration of the Savior (see Luke 9:28–31), further underscoring Stephen's charge that opposition to Moses and opposition to Jesus Christ were historic patterns in Israel's resistance to God (see Acts 7:35–39, 51–52, 57–60).



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26 And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye awrong one to another?

27 But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a aruler and a judge over us?

28 Wilt thou kill me, as thou diddest the Egyptian yesterday?

29 Then ^afled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two bsons.

30 And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an ^aangel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.

31 When Moses saw it, he wondered at the asight: and as he drew near to behold it, the bvoice of the Lord came unto him,

32 Saying, I am the ^aGod of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold.

33 Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground.

34 I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt.

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Acts 21:8. TG Church Organization; Hands, Laying on of;

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4a Gen. 11:31. 5*a* TG Promised Lands. 6a Gen. 26:3.

TG Drought; Famine. 12a Gen. 42:1.

b Ex. 2:2. 21*a* Ex. 2:10.

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25*b* TG Deliver.

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32*a* Ex. 3:15.

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Stephen's speech to the Jewish council focused on great pillars of Jewish identity:

- (1) the land of Israel (verses 2-36)
- (2) the law of Moses (verses 37-43)
- (3) the tabernacle or temple (verses 44-50)

Stephen gave the historical background for how the Lord had given each of these three blessings to Israel and showed how ancient Israel had rejected them. Stephen concluded with a denunciation of his accusers, declaring that they were like their forefathers (see verses 51–53).

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Stephen argued that his accusers had rejected the Savior, just as some Jews in ancient Israel had rejected Moses. He said to his accusers: Your fathers "have slain [the prophets] which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers" (Acts 7:52), thereby declaring that some of the Jewish leaders were responsible for the betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The Jews in Stephen's day were aware of the promise that the Lord would send them a prophet like unto Moses (see Deuteronomy 18:15; Acts 3:22–23; 3 Nephi 20:23; the commentary for Acts 7:37).

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37 ¶ This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A ^aprophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

38 This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively aoracles to give unto us:

39 To whom our fathers would not ^aobey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt,

40 Saying unto Aaron, Make us ^agods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

41 And they made a ^acalf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.

42 Then God turned, and ^agave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness?

43 Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.

44 Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the afashion that he had seen.

45 Which also our fathers that came after brought in with ^aJesus

into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;

46 Who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob.

47 But Solomon built him an house. 48 Howbeit the most High ^adwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,

49 Heaven is my athrone, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?

50 Hath not my hand amade all these things?

51 ¶ Ye astiffnecked and buncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always ^cresist the ^dHoly Ghost: as your efathers did, so do ye.

52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers apersecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

53 Who have received the law by the disposition of ^aangels, and have not ^bkept it.

54 ¶ When they heard these things, they were acut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

55 But he, being full of the ^aHoly Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the ^bglory of ^cGod,

and ^dJesus ^estanding on the ^fright hand of God,

56 And said, Behold, I asee the heavens bopened, and the Son of man standing on the right ^dhand of ^eGod.

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their ^aclothes at a ^byoung man's feet, whose name was Saul.

59 And they astoned bStephen, ^ccalling upon ^dGod, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my espirit.

60 And he kneeled down, and ^acried with a loud voice, ^bLord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

CHAPTER 8

Saul persecutes the Church—Philip's ministry in Samaria is described—Philip performs miracles and baptizes men and women—Peter and John come to Samaria and confer the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands—Simon seeks to buy this gift and is rebuked by Peter—Philip preaches about Christ and baptizes an Ethiopian eunuch.

AND Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great ^apersecution against the ^bchurch which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad

58a Acts 22:20.

- 48a Acts 17:24.
- 49a TG Kingdom of God, in Heaven.
- 50 a TG Jesus Christ, Creator.
- 51 a TG Stiffnecked.
 - *b* Jer. 6:10;
 - Rom. 2:29 (28–29).
 - c TG Rebellion. d Neh. 9:30.
- e Mal. 3:7;
- Matt. 23:32; Hel. 13:25 (25–29).
- 52a TG Apostasy of Israel; Prophets, Rejection of.

- Glory of.
- c TG Godhead. d D&C 137:3.
- e TG Jesus Christ, Appearances, Postmortal.
- f Heb. 1:3. TG Jesus Christ, Relationships with
- the Father. 56a TG God, Presence of; God, Privilege of Seeing.

b Ezek. 1:1;

59 a TG Persecution.

years of age.

- b TG Martyrdom.
- c JST Acts 7:59 . . . and he, calling upon God, said . . .

God the Father, Elohim.

b The Greek word used

identifies a man who

is younger than forty

- d 3 Ne. 19:22 (18–36).
- е тG Man, a Spirit Child of Heavenly Father;

into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;

46 Who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob.

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Saul persecutes the Church—Philip's ministry in Samaria is described—Phi-

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Sometimes Acts 7:48 is used by critics of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to find fault with the practice of building temples. But Stephen did not imply that Israel had been wrong to build the tabernacle or the temple; after all, God had commanded the Jerusalem temple to be built. Stephen meant that God was not confined to the physical structure of the temple, as some people believed in ancient times (see 1 Kings 8:27). Elder Bruce R. McConkie taught, "The great Creator, by whom all things are, dwelleth not in temples made by the hands of his creatures; but he is worshiped by them in his temples, which holy houses he visits occasionally, and in which sacred spots his Spirit may always be found by the faithful" (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 2:76).

49 Heaven is my athrone, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?

50 Hath not my hand amade all

51 ¶ Ye astiffnecked and buncir-cumcised in heart and ears, ye do always cresist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers apersecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

53 Who have received the law by the disposition of ^aangels, and have not ^bkept *it*.

they were ^acut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth.

55 But he, being full of the ^aHoly Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven and saw the ^bglory of ^cGod

man's feet, whose name was Saul.

59 And they ^astoned ^bStephen, ^ccalling upon ^dGod, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my ^espirit.

^acried with a loud voice, ^bLord, lay not this sin to their ^ccharge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

CHAPTER 8

Saul persecutes the Church—Philip's ministry in Samaria is described—Philip performs miracles and baptizes men and women—Peter and John come to Samaria and confer the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands—Simon seeks to buy this gift and is rebuked by Peter—Philip preaches about Christ and baptizes an Ethiopian eunuch.

AND Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great ^apersecution against the ^bchurch which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad

50 Hath not my hand amade all these things?

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53 Who have received the law by the disposition of ^aangels, and have not ^bkept it

54 ¶ When they heard these things, they were ^acut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth.

55 But he, being full of the ^aHoly Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the ^bglory of ^cGod,

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48a Acts 17:24.

49*a* TG Kingdom of God, in Heaven.

Glory of.

c TG Godhead.

d D&C 137:3.

God the Father, Elohim.

58a Acts 22:20.

b The Greek word used

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56 And said, Behold, I asee the heavens bopened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their ^a clothes at a ^b young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

59 And they astoned bStephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

60 And he kneeled down, and ^acried with a loud voice, ^bLord, lay not this sin to their ^ccharge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

CHAPTER 8

Saul persecutes the Church—Philip's ministry in Samaria is described—Phi-

NT Institute Manual

Stephen was "full of the Holy Ghost" when he "saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God" (Acts 7:55). In this vision, each member of the Godhead was manifest as a separate Being. The Prophet Joseph Smith taught: "[Stephen] saw the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God. Any person that had seen the heavens opened knows that there are three personages in the heavens who hold the keys of power, and one presides over all" (in History of the Church, 5:426).

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56 And said, Behold, I asee the heavens bopened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

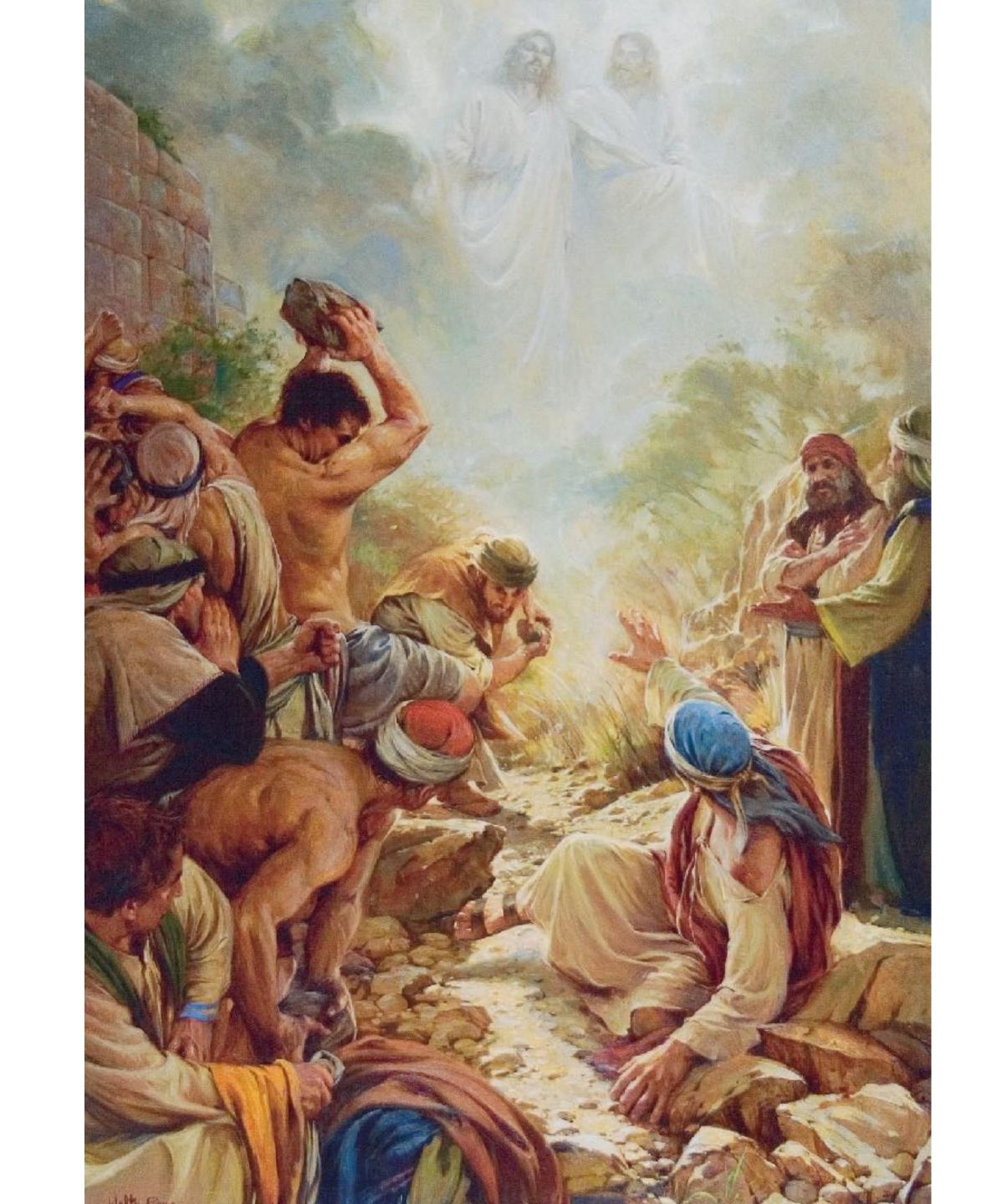
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CHAPTER 8

Saul persecutes the Church—Philip's ministry in Samaria is described—Phi-



New Testament Institute Manual

Stephen is generally considered to be the first Christian martyr. As he faced death, Stephen followed the Savior's example by forgiving his killers and placing his spirit in God's care (compare Acts 7:59-60 to Luke 23:34, 46). Luke may have included Saul in the account of Stephen's death in order to prepare the reader for the account of Saul's conversion (see Acts 8-9). Luke recorded the interesting detail that those who stoned Stephen "laid down their clothes" at the feet of Saul (Acts 7:58).





signs which were done.

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the aword of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

17 Then alaid they their hands on them, and they received the ^bHoly Ghost.

18 And when Simon saw that through alaying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

19 Saying, Give me also this ^apower, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the ^agift of God may be ^bpurchased with money.

21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not ^aright in the sight of God.

22 Repent therefore of this thy ^awickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the bthought of thine cheart may be forgiven thee.

23 For I perceive that thou art in the ^agall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

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3 As for Saul, he made ahavoc of

the church, entering into every

house, and haling men and women

4 Therefore they that were scat-

tered abroad went every where

5 Then Philip went down to the

6 And the people with one accord

gave heed unto those things which

Philip ^aspake, hearing and seeing

7 For aunclean spirits, crying with

loud voice, came out of many that

were possessed with them: and many

btaken with palsies, and that were

8 And there was great joy in that

9 But there was a certain man,

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11 And to him they had regard,

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58a Acts 22:20.

Philip

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^cgreat one:

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48a Acts 17:24.

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49a TG Kingdom of God, in Heaven.

into the possession of the Gentiles,

whom God drave out before the

face of our fathers, unto the days

46 Who found favour before God,

and desired to find a tabernacle for

47 But Solomon built him an house.

48 Howbeit the most High ^adwell-

49 Heaven is my athrone, and earth

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of David;

the God of Jacob.

as saith the prophet,

is the place of my rest?

your efathers did, so do ye.

trayers and murderers:

these things?

- 50 a TG Jesus Christ, Creator.
- 51 a TG Stiffnecked.
- *b* Jer. 6:10; Rom. 2:29 (28–29).
- c TG Rebellion. d Neh. 9:30.
- e Mal. 3:7; Matt. 23:32; Hel. 13:25 (25–29).
- 52a TG Apostasy of Israel; Prophets, Rejection of.

- Glory of. c TG Godhead.
- d D&C 137:3.
- e TG Jesus Christ, Appearances, Postmortal.
- Heb. 1:3. TG Jesus Christ, Relationships with
- the Father. 56a TG God, Presence of; God, Privilege of Seeing.
- b Ezek. 1:1;

- 59a TG Persecution. b TG Martyrdom. *c* JST Acts 7:59 . . . and
 - he, calling upon God, said . . . d 3 Ne. 19:22 (18–36).

 - е т Man, a Spirit Child of Heavenly Father;

God the Father, Elohim.

b The Greek word used

years of age.

identifies a man who

is younger than forty

2a TG Mourning.

- 3a Acts 22:4;
 - 1 Cor. 15:9; 1 Tim. 1:13; Mosiah 27:10 (9–11).
 - b Acts 22:19;
- 4 Ne. 1:30.
- 5a Acts 1:8. 6a TC Counsel

- c TG Baptism, Essential. 13a OR was amazed, astonished.

b TG Superstitions.

12a TG Missionary Work;

c 2 Ne. 26:29.

b TG Name.

Preaching.

14 a Acts 11.1 (1 18)

Selfishness; Unrighteous Dominion.

20 a TG God, Gifts of.

Power of;

- b TG Bribe.
- 21a D&C 49:2. 22a TG Wickedness.
- b TG Motivations. c 3 No 12.20

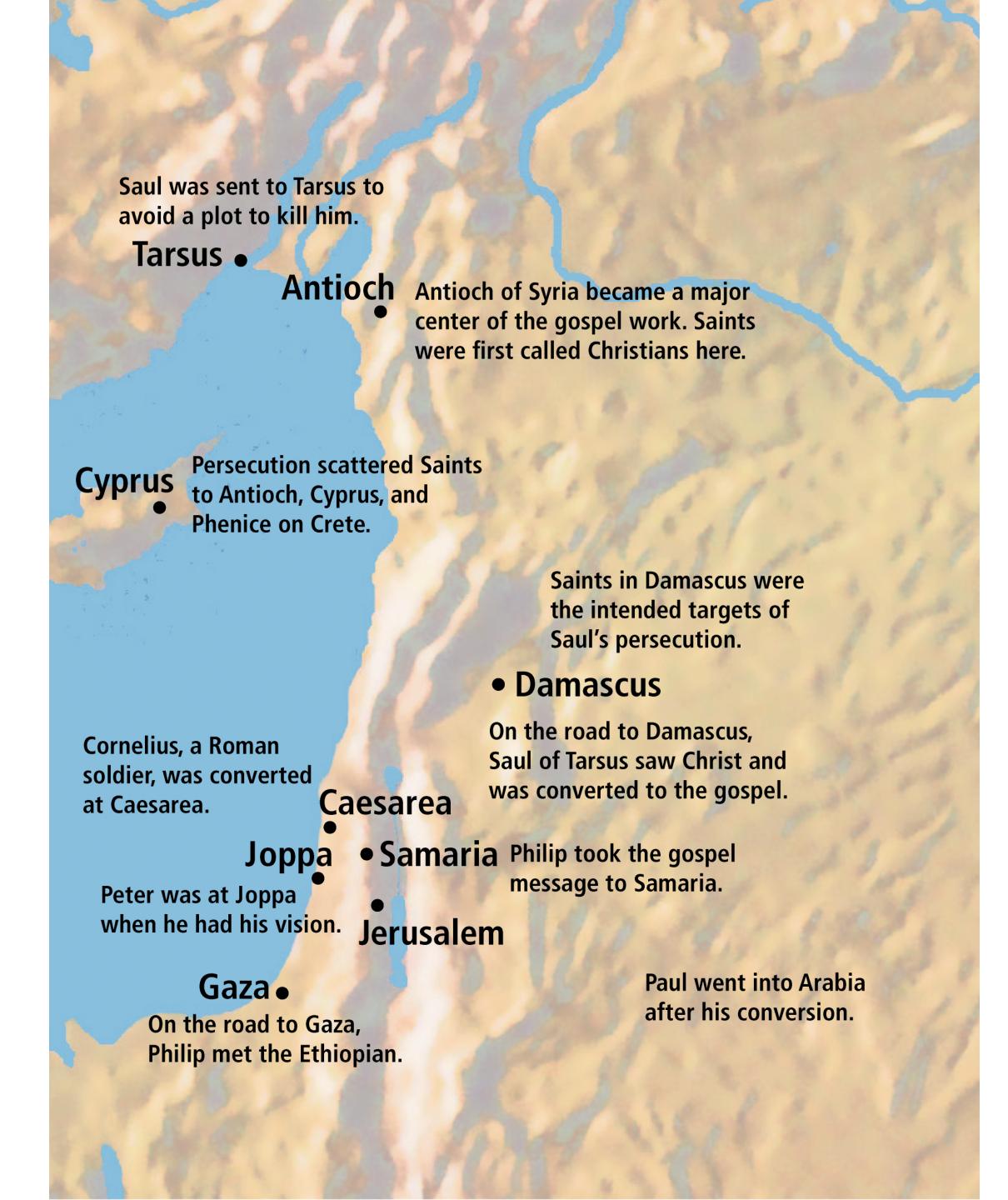
throughout the regions of Judæa of Jes CHAPTER 8 and Samaria, except the apostles. both ve not Saul persecutes the Church—Philip's 13 T 2 And devout men carried Stephen d they ministry in Samaria is described—Phito his burial, and made great alamalso: ed belip performs miracles and baptizes men entation over him. conti t One; and women—Peter and John come to 3 As for Saul, he made ahavoc of dered he be-Samaria and confer the gift of the Holy the church, entering into every signs Ghost by the laying on of hands—Simon house, and haling men and women 14 N aw by seeks to buy this gift and is rebuked by committed them to bprison. were d have Peter—Philip preaches about Christ and 4 Therefore they that were scatmari baptizes an Ethiopian eunuch. tered abroad went every where God, things, preaching the word. John: AND Saul was consenting unto his d they 15 V I men rinip went down to the death. And at that time there was eth. city of ^aSamaria, and preached dowr ^aHoly a great apersecution against the migh Christ unto them. ^bchurch which was at Jerusalem; y into 16 (6 And the people with one accord ^cGod, and they were all scattered abroad gave heed unto those things which none Philip ^aspake, hearing and seeing tized Glory of. God the Father, Elohim. the miracles which he did. 17 T TG Godhead. 58*a* Acts 22:20. 7 For aunclean spirits, crying with them D&C 137:3. b The Greek word used loud voice, came out of many that Ghos identifies a man who TG Jesus Christ, were possessed with them: and many is younger than forty Appearances, Postmortal. years of age. btaken with palsies, and that were throu 59a TG Persecution. Heb. 1:3. lame, were ^chealed. hand

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throughout the regions of Judæa and Samaria, except the apostles.

2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great ^alamentation over him.

3 As for Saul, he made ^ahavoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed *them* to ^bprison.

4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

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8 And there was great joy in that city.

9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used asorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power

God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

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17 Then ^alaid they their hands on them, and they received the ^bHoly Ghost.

18 And when Simon saw that through ^alaying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

19 Saying, Give me also this ^apower, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

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22 Deposit the surface of this three

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23 For I perceive that thou art in the ^agall of bitterness, and *in* the ^bbond of iniquity.

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y with y that many were of Jesus Christ, they were ^cbaptized, both men and women.

13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and ^awondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

14 Now which the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the aword of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

17 Then ^alaid they their hands on them, and they received the ^bHoly Ghost.

18 And when Simon saw that through ^alaying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he

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In fulfilling his responsibilities, Philip preached, baptized, cast out unclean spirits, and performed other miracles (see Acts 8). Philip appears to have ministered as a holder of the Aaronic Priesthood he had the authority to baptize but did not have the authority to give the gift of the Holy Ghost (see D&C 84:107-8). Those whom Philip baptized had to wait for the arrival of Peter and John, holders of the Melchizedek Priesthood, to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

25 WIIICII none of them; only they were paptized in the name of the I and Jesus d seeing 17 Then alaid they their hands on them, and they received the ^bHoly ing with Ghost. any that 18 And when Simon saw that nd many hat were through alaying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, y in that 19 Saying, Give me also this apower, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he in man, may receive the Holy Ghost. etime in 20 But Peter said unto him, Thy ery, and money perish with thee, because Samaria, thou hast thought that the ^agift of as some God may be burchased with money. ve heed, 21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not test, say-^aright in the sight of God. at power 22 Repent therefore of this thy awickedness, and pray God, if perregard, haps the bthought of thine cheart e he had may be forgiven thee. eries. ed Philip 23 For I perceive that thou art in the agall of bitterness, and in the ncerning ne ^bname bond of iniquity. b TG Superstitions. Power of;

24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me. 25 And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the

Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans. 20 And the angeror the Lord spake

unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to aworship,

28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. 29 Then the ^aSpirit said unto Phi-

chariot.

lip, Go near, and join thyself to this

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fied and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans

26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

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28 Was returning, and sitting in

his chariot read Esaias the prophet. 29 Then the ^aSpirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he

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his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

29 Then the ^aSpirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this

30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a alamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

35 Then Philip opened his mouth,

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31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him

32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a alamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

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26a TG Angels.

27*a* John 12:20.

29 a TG Holy Ghost, Gifts of.

32a TG Jesus Christ, Lamb of God; Jesus Christ, Trials of.

35α Gal. 3:14 (13–14).

37a TG Baptism, Qualifications for.

38*a* TG Baptism; Baptism, Immersion.

39a TG God, Spirit of.

40 a Acts 21:8.

9 1a Acts 26:10.

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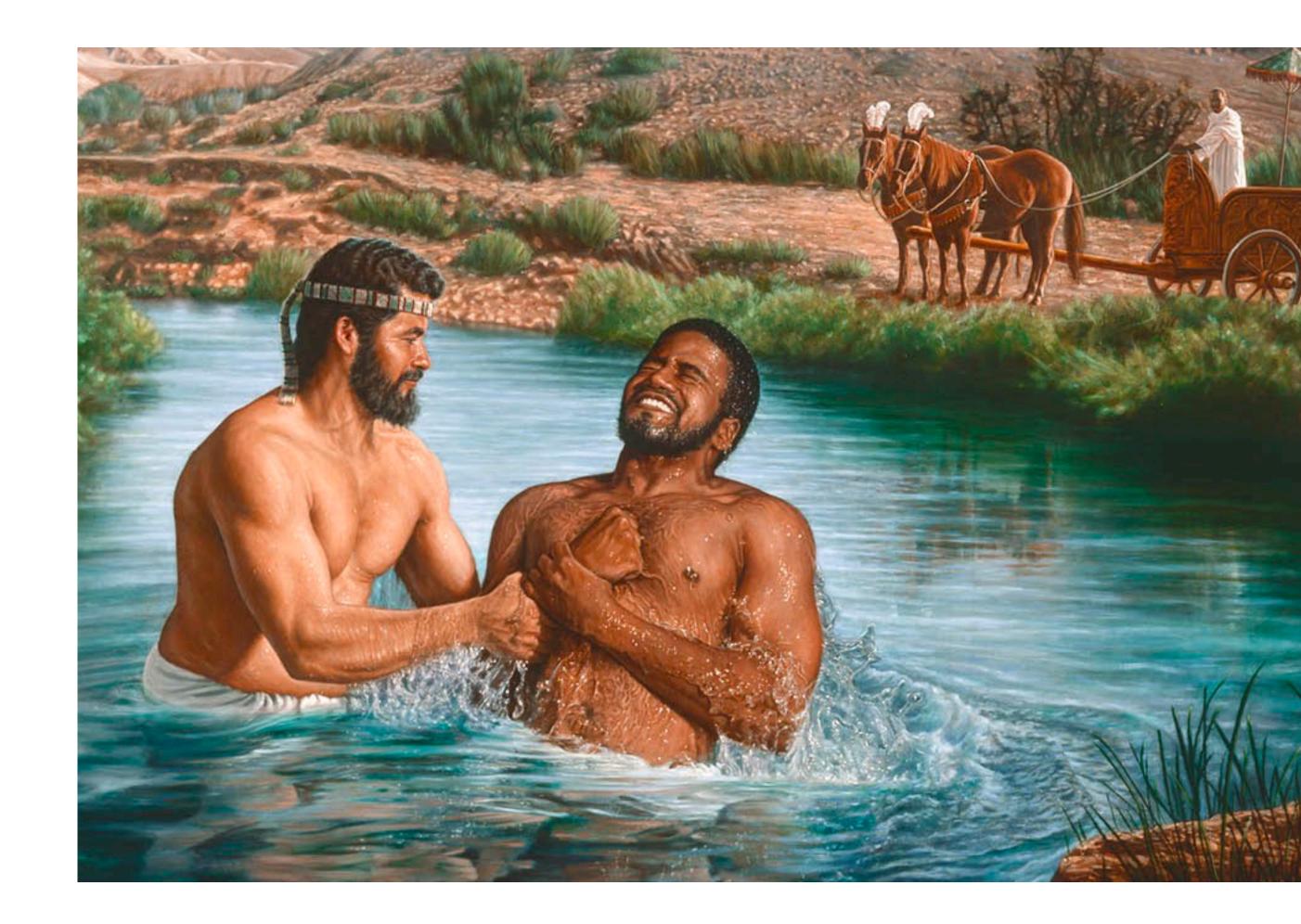
36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

37 And Philip said, If thou ^abelievest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he abaptized him.

39 And when they were come up out of the water, the ^aSpirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to ^aCæsarea.





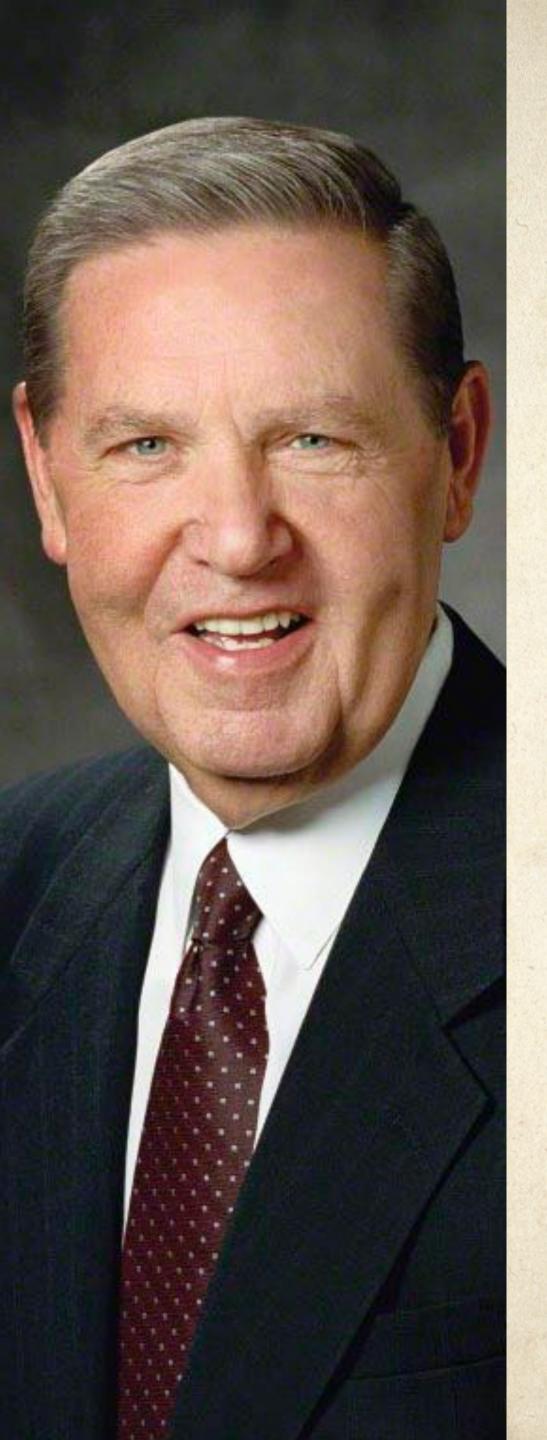
Elder Ulisses Soares

This account "is a reminder of the divine mandate we all have to seek to learn and to teach one another the gospel of Jesus Christ. ... We are sometimes like the Ethiopian —we need the help of a faithful and inspired teacher; and we are sometimes like Philip—we need to teach and strengthen others in their conversion"

("How Can I Understand?," Apr 2019 GC, Ensign or Liahona, May 2019, 6).

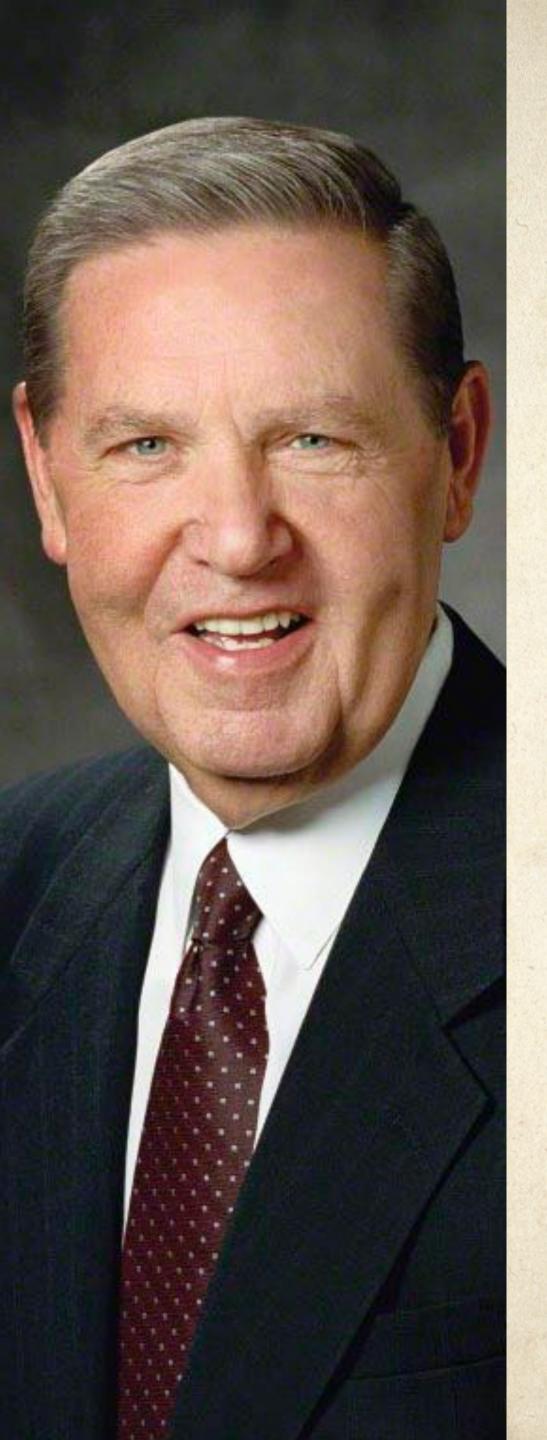
New Testament Student Institute Manual

When Philip traveled south of Jerusalem, as instructed by an angel, he met and baptized a man from Ethiopia (see Acts 8:26–39). Since Ethiopia, in present-day Africa, was not part of Judea, the conversion partially fulfilled the prophecy recorded in Acts 1:8 that the gospel would spread beyond Judea and Samaria, and it foreshadowed the dramatic missionary work about to commence among the Gentiles (from Acts 10 onward).



Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

"For each of us to 'come unto Christ' [D&C 20:59], to keep His commandments and follow His example back to the Father is surely the highest and holiest purpose of human existence. To help others do that as well—to teach, persuade, and prayerfully lead them to walk that path of redemption also—surely that must be the second most significant task in our lives. Perhaps that is why President David O. McKay once said, 'No greater responsibility can rest upon any man [or woman] than to be a teacher of God's children' [in Conference Report, Oct. 1916, 57].



Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

We are, in fact, all somewhat like the man of Ethiopia to whom Philip was sent. Like him, we may know enough to reach out for religion. We may invest ourselves in the scriptures. We may even give up our earthly treasures, but without sufficient instruction we may miss the meaning of all this and the requirements that still lie before us. So we cry with this man of great authority, 'How can [we understand,] except some [teacher] should guide [us]?"

("A Teacher Come from God," Apr. 1998 GC, Ensign, May 1998, 25).



Bible Dictionary, "Paul"

Saul was born in the Greek city Tarsus (see Acts 21:39) and had Roman citizenship (see Acts 16:37). He was a Jew from the lineage of Benjamin (see Romans 11:1) and was educated in Jerusalem by Gamaliel (see Acts 22:3), a well-known Pharisee and respected teacher of Jewish law (see Acts 5:34). Saul became a Pharisee (see Acts 23:6), and he spoke a "Hebrew tongue" (probably Aramaic) and Greek (see Acts 21:37, 40). He was later known by his Latin name, Paul (see Acts 13:9).

New Testament Student Institute Manual

On one occasion, the Prophet Joseph Smith described Paul's physical appearance: "He [the Apostle Paul] is about five feet high; very dark hair; dark complexion; dark skin; large Roman nose; sharp face; small black eyes, penetrating as eternity; round shoulders; a whining voice, except when elevated, and then it almost resembles the roaring of a lion. He was a good orator" (in "Extracts from William Clayton's Private Book," p. 4, Journals of L. John Nuttall, 1857–1904, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Brigham Young University; copy in Church History Library).

24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

25 And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to ^aworship,

28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

29 Then the ^aSpirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a ^alamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

35 Then Philip opened his mouth,

and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him ^a Jesus.

36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

37 And Philip said, If thou abelievest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he abaptized him.

39 And when they were come up out of the water, the ^aSpirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to ^aCæsarea.

CHAPTER 9

Jesus appears to Saul—Saul is a chosen vessel—Ananias restores Saul's sight—Saul is baptized and begins his ministry—Peter heals Æneas and raises Dorcas from death.

AND Saul, yet breathing out athreatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

2 And desired of him aletters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a alight from heaven:

4 And he ^afell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, ^bSaul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am ^a Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to bkick against the pricks.

6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, ^awhat wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

7 ^aAnd the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a bvoice, but seeing ono man.

8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

10 ¶ And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named ^aAnanias; and to him said the Lord in a byision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much aevil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

15 But the Lord said unto him, Go

thy way: for he is a achosen vessel unto me, to bear my cname before the ^dGentiles, and ^ekings, and the children of Israel:

16 For I will shew him how great things he must ^asuffer for my name's sake.

17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his ahands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that bappeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath ^csent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the dHoly Ghost.

18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received asight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

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5a TG Jesus Christ, Appearances, Postmortal. b D&C 121:38. 6a TG Conversion.

7a JST Acts 9:7 And they who were journeying with him saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him

b TG Jesus Christ, Appearances, Postmortal. 13 a Acts 26:10. 15*a* 1 Thes. 3:3.

b Acts 22:15; 26:16. c TG Name.

d Rom. 15:10 (8–21); 1 Tim. 2:7.

e Ps. 119:46; Matt. 10:18; 17a TG Administrations to the Sick; Hands, Laying on of.

b 1 Cor. 9:1.

c TG Called of God; Delegation of Responsibility.

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d TG Holy Ghost, Gift of.

18a TG Sight.

b TG Baptism, Essential. 21 a Gal. 1:13.

37a TG Baptism, 2a Acts 22:5. 26a TG Angels. who spake to him. 2 a TO Light [noun]

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ESV Study Bible: "the Greek is hodos, which means 'road, highway, way of life' meaning either the way of salvation or the true way of life in relation to God"

bible.com

"The earliest disciples were called followers of The Way, which is important because Christianity was never meant to be just another religion, but a Way. It's both a journey and the path you walk on. It's not static but in constant motion; it's not just one choice but a lifetime of choices."

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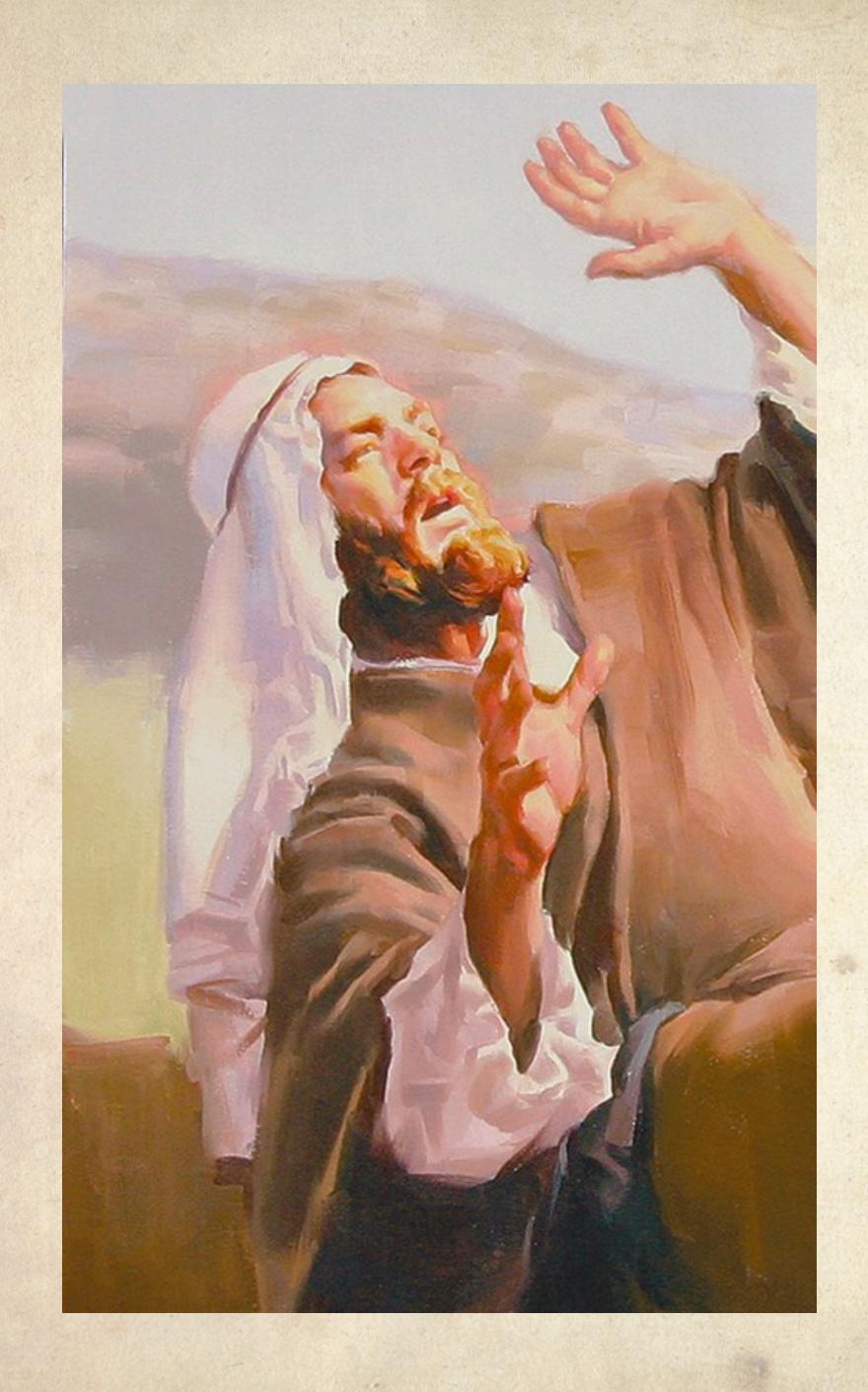
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2a Acts 22:5.



President Ezra Taft Benson

"A man can ask no more important question in his life than that which Paul asked: '... Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?' A man can take no greater action than to pursue a course that will bring to him the answer to that question and then to carry out that answer."

("Listen to a Prophet's Voice," Ensign, Jan. 1973, 57).

CHAPTER 9 to him, Jesus appears to Saul—Saul is a chohet Essen vessel—Ananias restores Saul's st thou sight—Saul is baptized and begins his ministry—Peter heals Æneas and raises except Dorcas from death. And he d come 3 Accounts of Paul's Conversion which (Acts 9:3-20; 22:4-21; 26:9-19) ed as a like a irer, so lgment

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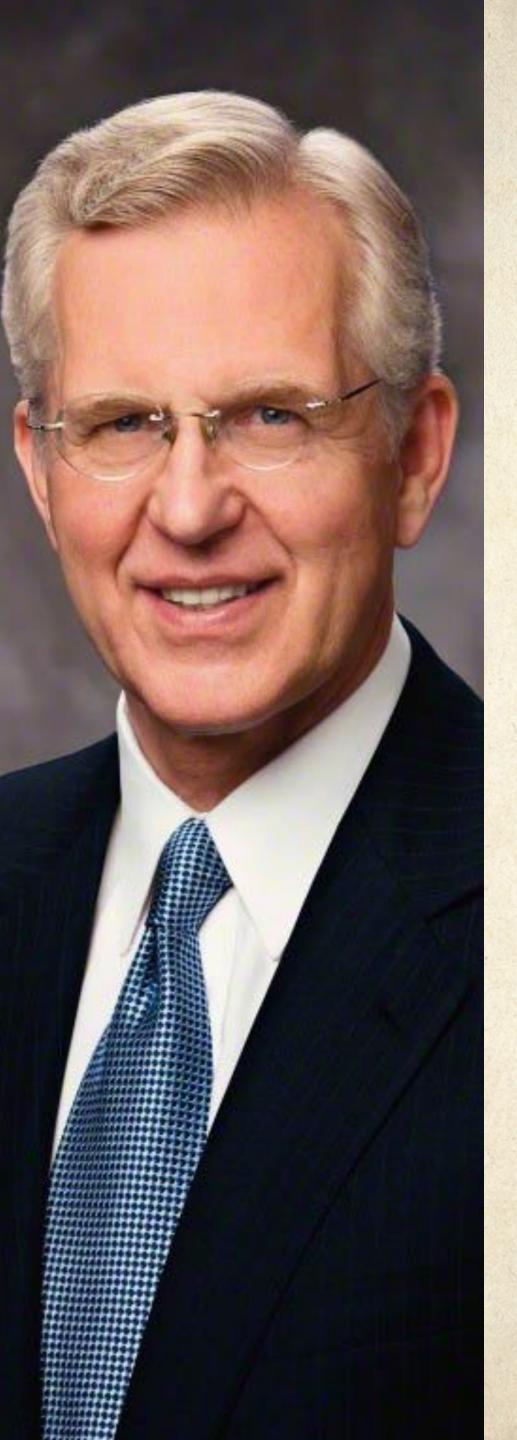
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2a Acts 22:5.



Elder D. Todd Christofferson

"You may ask, Why doesn't this mighty change happen more quickly with me? You should remember that the remarkable examples of King Benjamin's people, Alma, and some others in scripture are just that—remarkable and not typical. For most of us, the changes are more gradual and occur over time. Being born again, unlike our physical birth, is more a process than an event."

("Born Again," Apr. 2008 GC, Ensign or Liahona, May 2008, 78).

President David O. McKay

"Perhaps during those few days of comparative leisure, [Saul] began to wonder whether what he was doing was right or not. Perhaps the shining face of the dying Stephen and the martyr's last prayer began to sink more deeply into his soul than it had done before. Little children's cries for their parents whom Saul had bound began to pierce his soul more keenly, and make him feel miserably unhappy as he looked forward to more experiences of that kind in Damascus. Perhaps he wondered whether the work of the Lord, if he were really engaged in it, would make him feel so restless and bitter. He was soon to learn that only the work of the evil one produces those feelings, and that true service for the Lord, always brings peace and contentment" (Ancient Apostles, 2nd ed. [1921], 148).

NT Institute Manual

Ananias was likely the leader of the Church in Damascus, and he may have been one whom Saul had targeted for arrest. This would explain Ananias's initial reluctance to seek out Saul after the Lord commanded him to do so. Nevertheless, Ananias was obedient to the Lord, and he helped place Saul, a future Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, on the path of faith and forgiveness (see Acts 9:10-15).

9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did cat nor drink.

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President Thomas S. Monson

"When the Savior was to choose a missionary of zeal and power, He found him not among His advocates but amidst His adversaries. The experience of Damascus's way changed Saul. Of him the Lord declared, 'He is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel [Acts 9:15].' Saul the persecutor became Paul the proselyter." ("Choose You This Day," Oct. 2004 GC, Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2004, 69).

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(Acts 14:5-6, 19; 16:22-24; 21:30-33; and 2 Corinthians 11:23-27)

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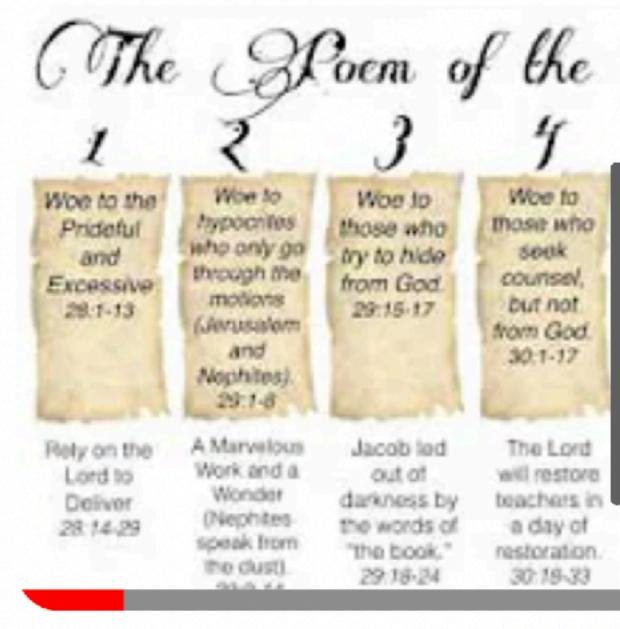
17a TG Administrations to the Sick; Hands, Laying on of.

New Testament Student Institute Manual

We learn in Galatians that after Saul's conversion he left Damascus and journeyed to Arabia (see Galatians 1:17). It is not recorded why Saul went there, but he may have gone for study and reflection (perhaps between the events recorded in Acts 9:22 and 23), or he may have fled there for safety (see Acts 9:23-25). He sojourned in Arabia for as long as three years. While there, Saul likely deepened his understanding of how Jesus Christ fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies. After his time in Arabia, he returned to Damascus for a short period of time before journeying to Jerusalem to see Peter and other Church leaders (see Galatians 1:17-18; Acts 9:26-27).







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heard that Peter was there, they

sent unto him two men, desiring

him that he would not delay to come

by interpretation is called Dorcas:

made, while she was with them. 40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, aarise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the asaints and widows, presented her balive.

42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

43 And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Joppa with one Simon a tanner.

CHAPTER 10

An angel ministers to Cornelius—Peter, in a vision, is commanded to take the gospel to the Gentiles—The gospel is taught by witnesses—The Holy Ghost falls upon the Gentiles.

THERE was a certain man in Cæsarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which

36a TG Woman.

40 a TG Death, Power over.

5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? thy way: for he is a achosen vessel And the Lord said, I am a Jesus whom unto me, to bear my cname before thou persecutest: it is hard for thee the ^dGentiles, and ^ekings, and the children of Israel:

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13 a Acts 26:10. 15 a 1 Thes. 3:3.

b Acts 22:15; 26:16.

c TG Name. *d* Rom. 15:10 (8–21); 1 Tim. 2:7.

e Ps. 119:46; Matt. 10:18; 17a TG Administrations to the Sick; Hands, Laying on of.

b 1 Cor. 9:1.

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26 And when Saul was come to

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self to the disciples: but they were

all afraid of him, and believed not

27 But Barnabas took him, and

brought him to the apostles, and

declared unto them how he had

^aseen the Lord in the way, and that

he had spoken to him, and how he

had preached boldly at Damascus

28 And he was with them coming

29 And he spake boldly in the name

of the Lord Jesus, and adisputed

against the Grecians: but they went

30 Which when the brethren knew,

they brought him down to Cæsarea,

31 Then had the churches rest

throughout all Judæa and Galilee

and Samaria, and were aedified; and

walking in the fear of the Lord, and

in the ^bcomfort of the Holy Ghost,

32 ¶ And it came to pass, as Peter

passed throughout all quarters, he

came down also to the asaints which

33 And there he found a certain

man named Æneas, which had kept

his bed eight years, and was asick

34 And Peter said unto him, Æneas,

Jesus Christ maketh thee whole:

arise, and make thy bed. And he

35 And all that dwelt at Lydda

and Saron saw him, and turned to

36 ¶ Now there was at Joppa a cer-

31a TG Edification.

b TG Comfort;

tain disciple named Tabitha, which

and sent him forth to Tarsus.

in and going out at Jerusalem.

that he was a disciple.

in the name of Jesus.

about to slay him.

were multiplied.

dwelt at Lydda.

of the palsy.

the Lord.

25 a Josh. 2:15.

26a Gal. 1:18 (15–18).

arose immediately.

night, and let him down by the wall

in a ^abasket.

throughout all Judæa and Galilee and Samaria, and were aedified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost,

32 ¶ And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all *quarters*, he came down also to the ^asaints which dwelt at Lydda.

33 And there he found a certain man named Æneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was ^asick of the palsy.

34 And Peter said unto him, Æneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

35 And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.

36 ¶ Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which

lifted her up, and when he had called the asaints and widows, presented her balive.

42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

43 And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Joppa with one Simon a tanner.

CHAPTER 10

An angel ministers to Cornelius—Peter, in a vision, is commanded to take the gospel to the Gentiles—The gospel is taught by witnesses—The Holy Ghost falls upon the Gentiles.

THERE was a certain man in Cæsarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which

throughout all Judæa and Galilee and Samaria, and were ^aedified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the ^bcomfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

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33 And there he found a certain man named Æneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was ^asick of the palsy.

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ame ated vent by interpretation is called Dorcas: this awoman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

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Isaiah 61:10

"my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness"

Revelation 19:8

The Saints of God will be "arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

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ertain d kept they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, ^aarise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the asaints and widows, presented her balive.

42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

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CHAPTER 10

