**Session Four – Acts Chapters 7 and 8**

**Outline**

* Chapter 7
  + Stephen addresses the Sanhedrin.
  + Stephen the first martyr.
* Chapter 8
  + Philip’s ministry in Samaria
  + Peter and John investigate.
  + Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch.

**Chapter 7**

* Stephen’s summary of Jewish history from Abraham to the present.
* Stephen’s summary begins and ends with God.
* Stephen’s summary points out how the Jewish people failed to recognize who God sends and they resist or reject God’s messenger and or servants, only to see it later.

**Key References**:

* Abraham – obeyed God (kind of), delayed complete obedience for 25 years.
* The promise of the land was for his descendants, 400 years later.
* Oppression and bondage in Egypt – God would judge the nation.
* Joseph – originally rejected (hated by his brothers), later accepted as God’s deliverer.
* The Pharoah arose why “knew not Joseph” – not an Egyptian, and Assyrian.
* Moses was raised up by God – initially rejected, 40 years later accepted.
* Burning Bush, shoes, holy ground.
* God had seen, heard, and come down to deliver through Moses.
* Duet 18:15 – a prophet like Moses – Jesus prophesied in OT.
* The oracles of God – 10 commandments.
* Jewish disobedience – Golden Calf. Hearts turned back to Egypt.
* Worship the “hosts of heaven” – astrology – stars, planets, sun, moon, etc.
* Moses builds the “tabernacle” – shown design by God on Sinai.
* Joshua and conquering the promised land.
* Solomon and the temple.

**Stephens Charge against the Sanhedrin**

* Stiff necked
* Uncircumcised of heart
* Resisting the Holy Spirit
* Persecution of the Prophets
* Disobedience to God’s Holy Law

**The Sanhedrin’s Response**.

* Pierced to the heart.
* Gnashing of teeth
* Stopped their ears.
* Shouting with loud voices.
* One accord.
* Stoned him.
* Saul (later Paul) was a participant.

**Stephen’s Vision and Prayer**

* Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
* Lord Jesus receive my spirit.
* Lord Jesus, hold not this sin against them.

**Chapter 8**

**Paul’s Persecution**

* Consenting to Stephen’s death
* Made havoc of the church imprisoning believers.
* The church scattered from Jerusalem.

**Philip to Samaria**

* Not the apostle, one of the deacons
* He preached Christ and people accepted Jesus.
* He ministered in powerful signs and miracles.
* He ministered in deliverance from evil spirits.
* He ministered physical healing.
* Peter and John investigate – minister of the Holy Spirit.
* Simon the magician
  + Attracted to the power Philip manifested.
  + Appeared to accept Jesus.
  + Simon wants to purchase the power.
  + Peter’s rebuke.
  + Did Simon repent?
* Results – many villages impacted – gospel spreads.

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

* The treasurer of Queen Candice of Ethiopia
  + Why was he in Jerusalem?
  + The Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat.
    - Taken to Egypt during Manasseh’s reign (very wicked and evil king).
    - Protected on Elephantine Island 642 BC – Island fortress in Nile River
    - Moved to Tana Kirkos Island in 470 BC
    - Transferred to Axum in Ethiopia 330 BC
    - Mercy seat to be presented to the Messiah when He rules from Mt. Zion.
* Philip encounters the Ethiopia reading Isaiah 52 and 53.
* Their dialogue. Philip preached Jesus.
* The result – baptism.
* Philip translated to Azotus (ancient Ashdod) and continued to Caesarea.