

# ACTS TO REVELATION

Drive Thru History | The World of the First Christians

## This Week

**Acts 8:4-40, 9:32-11:18**

## More Resources

The **BIBLE PROJECT** is an amazing, free resource that is available to you on the internet. Check out this brief video about how the Christian movement begins to move out from Jerusalem to the world. Click **[HERE](#)**.



**IF YOU WANT TO WATCH EPISODES** of Drive Thru History: Acts to Revelation, you can view them online at [TubiTV.com](https://tubitv.com). Just click **[HERE](#)** to access their website.



## Week 4 Prep

**Read Acts 9:1-31, 11:19-12:25**



## The Gospel Spreads to the Gentiles

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Which part of this week's reading caught your attention the most? What insights did you glean? What questions do you have? Is God speaking to you about a situation in your own life through these Scriptures? What are you learning about God?

#### PHILIP (Acts 8:4-40)

R. Kent Hughes writes, "Reading Acts for the first time, none of us would have guessed when we came to the dawn of Philip's ministry in chapter 6 that he would ascend to such spiritual heights in chapter 8. Philip's ministry began as a lay-deacon humbly doling out the widow's portions in the Jerusalem church. But it soared to unimagined heights when persecution hit. Though he was not a "pro," God's power coursed through him to the despised Samaritans, and large numbers of them believed the good news and were saved."<sup>1</sup>

- Describe the significance of Philip's ministry in this Samaritan city.
  - Describe the spiritual journey of Simon the Sorcerer. Though we only know part of his story, what evidence of growth as a disciple of Jesus do you see in Simon? What helped Simon grow as a Christ-follower?
  - Make a list of everything you learned about the Ethiopian official from this passage. How does God use Philip in this man's life?
  - How was Philip in touch with the Spirit of God, in touch with the gospel and in touch with people?
  - How are you challenged and encouraged by the example of Philip's life?
- (OVER)

<sup>1</sup>Hughes, R. Kent. Acts: The Church Afire (Preaching the Word) . Crossway. Kindle Edition.

## Small Group Prayer Requests

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To help you pray for one another during the week, please take notes on the requests that are shared. Please remember that everything people talk about in your group is confidential.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS (continued)

#### PETER (Acts 9:32-11:18)

In these texts, we see God helping Peter to overcome his prejudices and begin to understand God's expansive vision for the world. First, God enables Peter to have wonderfully positive ministry experiences back to back, and those miraculous experiences become significant factors in shaping Peter's attitude toward the world. These great successes occurred in Gentile (non-Jewish) settings. The miracles were performed on Jews among Jews, but the environments of the commercial centers of Lydda and Joppa were generally Gentile. The early church was shocked that God's power was at work through Peter among the Gentiles.

Let's focus our attention on how God brings Peter (the Jewish disciple of Jesus) and Cornelius (the God-fearing Gentile) together.

- Cornelius was a "God-fearer." While stationed in Palestine, he became interested in the God of the Jews but was not a convert to Judaism. What else do we learn about Cornelius?

- What do you discover about God from His interactions with Cornelius?

Peter was staying with a tanner in Joppa. R. Kent Hughes writes, "The significance of this is that a tanner's place of business was anathema to a fastidious Jew. Tanners were ostracized and had to live fifty cubits outside of town. However, Peter had met a Jewish tanner who loved Jesus, and he was willing to associate with him. God was at work in the impulsive apostle's heart. The old biases were wearing thin."<sup>2</sup>

- How does God begin to change the prejudices he held against the Gentiles on the rooftop of the home where he was staying?
- What happened when Peter goes to Cornelius' home and tells him (and his family) the good news of the gospel? How is Peter changed?
- How was Peter in touch with the Spirit of God, in touch with the gospel and in touch with people?
- How are you challenged and encouraged by the example of Peter's life?

### Notes from the Video and Discussion

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What insights, questions, challenges, encouragements are you taking with you? Record your thoughts and any action steps you intend to take in the space below.

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<sup>2</sup>Hughes, R. Kent. Acts: The Church Afire (Preaching the Word) . Crossway. Kindle Edition.