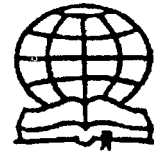


Christadelphian Bible Mission

The Acts of the Apostles



Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 5

Questions - Acts Chapter 5

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| 5.1 | Ananias and Sapphira gave money to the Apostles. They were punished because they said they had given ALL the money to the church. To whom were they lying? |
| 5.2 | The Apostles were able to do many wonderful things (See verses 12-16) by the power of the Holy Spirit.
(a) Did their healings ever fail?
(b) What effect did all this have on the High Priest and the Jewish leaders? |
| 5.3 | Who helped them to get out of prison and what did he tell them? |
| 5.4 | What did Peter tell the chief priests (and others) about ...,
(a) who killed Jesus?
(b) why Jesus was raised and exalted? |
| 5.5 | What did Gamaliel say (verses 38-39)? |
| 5.6 | What effect did all this have on the Apostles (verses 41-42)? |

Verse 29 says 'we ought to obey God rather than men'. The Apostles could not obey the authorities if it meant they were disobeying God. We should obey our leaders unless they are making us to disobey God.

Verse 31 tells us that there is forgiveness of sins through the death of Jesus.

ANGELS are God's messengers, who always do what He wants. They help those who trust in God and who accept His salvation (see Hebrews 1:13-14; Psalm 34:7). Angels do not marry (Matthew 22:30), and those who have a place in God's Kingdom will be made like the angels and therefore will not die.

WHAT ARE 'UNCLEAN SPIRITS' OR 'DEVILS' (Acts 5:16)?

Obviously unclean spirits are to do with illness because verse 16 says "and they were HEALED every one". If you look at Matthew 8:16,17 you will see that this is so. "When the even was come, they were possessed with devil word, and healed all that were sick."

Matthew 8:17 says that he did this to fulfil what Isaiah had prophesied about him: "Himself (Jesus) took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses." So the taking out of devils' in verse 16 is the same as Jesus 'taking our infirmities and sicknesses' of verse 17.

So why does Scripture use the term 'unclean spirit' or 'devils'?

1. It is nothing to do with the devil because the words in Greek are quite different. The Greek word for the devil is *DIABOLOS* and it is used of sin. The Greek word for devil (or unclean spirit) is *DAIMONION*, and is used of mental illnesses, etc. (The word *DAIMONION* is translated 'demon' in some versions).

2. The people of the time could not explain illnesses such as dumbness, epilepsy, deafness, because there seemed to be no reason for them. They could understand that a man could be lame if one leg was shorter than the other, but they could not understand mental illness etc. So they said the person had a demon (or was mad). They even said this of Jesus (John 8:48-52) because they could not understand his power and teaching.

We are told what was wrong with those who had demons in Matthew 9:33 and Matthew 17:14-18. Look them up and find out.

Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 6

Some believers were worried because so much time was spent on preaching that things like looking after widows were not being done. So seven men were chosen to look after the needs of the poor. One of these men was Stephen.

Verses 3 and 8 again show us that the Holy Spirit is the power of God, which allowed Stephen to do signs, miracles and speak with great vision. Although he had been chosen to look after the widows, he could not stop preaching about Jesus.

JESUS AND THE LAW GOD GAVE MOSES

God gave a law to Moses for the people of Israel. He gave the ten commandments at Mount Sinai, and other laws about how the people should worship God and how they should live. To the Jews this law was most important, although they did not keep it properly (see Matthew 23, especially verse 23).

Much of the law was to teach them about the things of God and to prepare the people for the Lord Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:24 says "The law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith". The law was to last only until Christ: Galatians 3:25 - "But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster." Also verse 19 of the same chapter: "Wherefore then serves the law? It was added because of transgressions (sins) TILL the seed should come to whom the promises were made" The seed to whom the promises were made was, of course, Jesus.

Since the time of Jesus, people have not had to keep the law given by God to Moses, although its ideals are excellent, as Jesus showed in Matthew 5:17-48. The first century Jews found it very difficult to accept that the law, with all its sacrifices and ceremonies, did not now apply and some tried to force Gentiles to keep the law. This is what the big meeting in Chapter 15 is all about.

In what way was the law a schoolmaster to bring the people to Christ?

It showed people what sin is so that they knew when they were sinning. It also showed that a sacrifice was needed to 'cover' their sin.

People who come to Jesus need to be aware of their sins and accept the sacrifice he made for us when he died for our sins.

Why is the Law no longer needed?

Because the one sacrifice of a totally sinless man (Jesus) is enough for all people to have their sins forgiven (See Hebrews 9:24-28, especially 28).

How can we have our sins forgiven?

We have to repent and be baptised because baptism washes away our sins (Acts 22 v 16) and also ends the old life of serving ourselves and starts a new life of serving God. So we are 'baptised into the death of Jesus Christ.' (Read Romans chapter 6).

Question - Acts Chapter 6

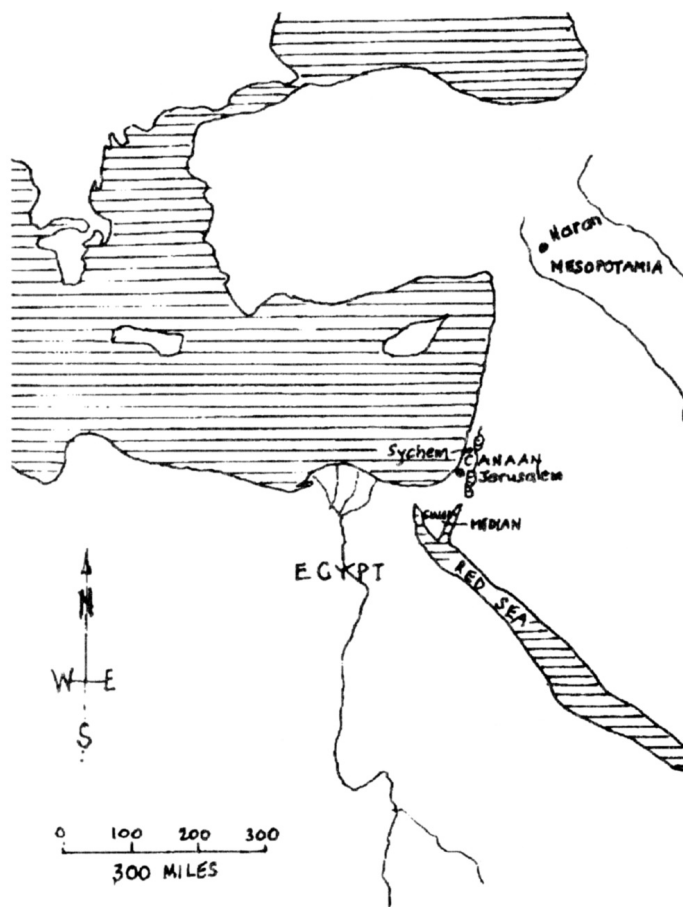
6.1 Why did Stephen get into trouble?

Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 7

Stephen reminds the people of God's dealings with the Jewish nation, starting with the first Jew, Abraham. Read the chapter carefully, then re-read it as you try to answer the following questions. (The summary at the end may help you, and Genesis chapter 12 and chapter 13 will also be useful in answering the first few questions).

Questions - Acts Chapter 7

- 7.1 Where did Abraham first live?
- 7.2 What did God tell him to do?
- 7.3 What did God promise to give Abraham?
- 7.4 Did Abraham receive what God has promised him?
- 7.5 Why did Joseph go Egypt?
- 7.6 Who helped Joseph when he was in Egypt?
- 7.7 In which land was Moses born?
- 7.8 What was Moses told at the burning bush?
- 7.9 Why did 'God give them up to worship the host of heaven?' (verse 42)
- 7.10 Where does God dwell (live)?
- 7.11 Why were the people angry (verse 54)?
- 7.12 What did Stephen see just before he died?
- 7.13 What did Stephen say just before he died?
- 7.14 Why does it say 'he fell asleep,' in verse 60?

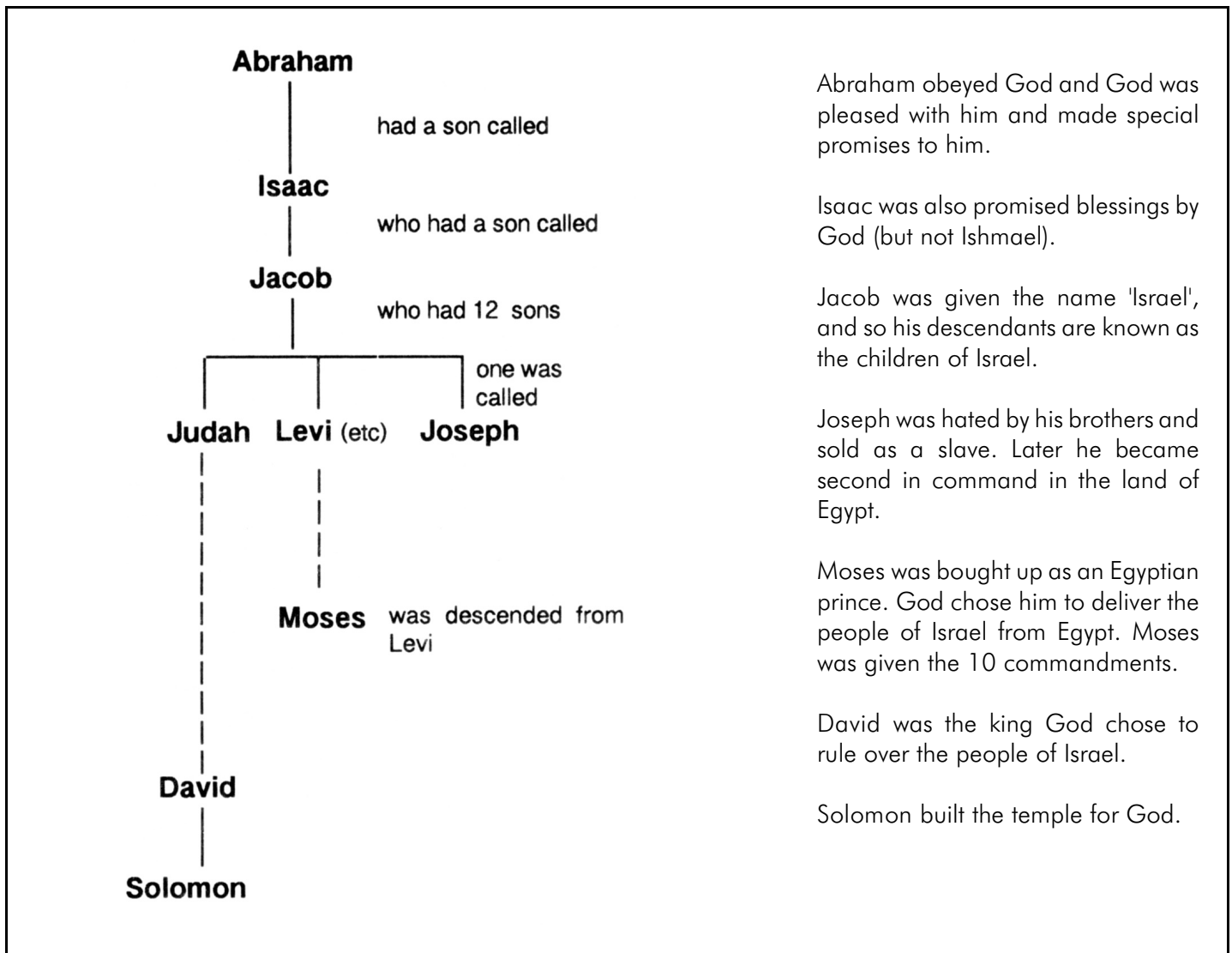


Places mentioned in Acts 7.

God told Abraham to leave home, and Abraham did what he was told. Because he obeyed, God made promises to Abraham, and one of these promises was that Abraham would inherit (own) the land that God showed him (now known as Israel).

Verse 5 says that Abraham did not have that land while he was alive, even though God has promised it to him. So when will Abraham have the land? - when he has been raised from the dead, when Jesus has come back to this earth.

Note that Abraham was promised land (Israel) on this earth, not a place in heaven. The Kingdom will be on the earth, and then God will give to Abraham what He has promised him.



Please begin by reading - Acts Chapter 8

Note that Saul was mentioned in chapter 7:58.

Questions - Acts Chapter 8

- 8.1 Copy out this passage filling in the blanks as you do so. You may need to put more than one word for some blanks.
- After the death of Stephen, most of the Christians in _____ were persecuted and were scattered. The _____ stayed in Jerusalem. But as the Christians were scattered, so they took the gospel message to others further away.
- Philip (not the Apostle Philip but one of the seven deacons, Acts 6:5) preached in _____ and the people, when they heard him and saw the _____ he did, followed him. When they believed what

Philip taught them about the Kingdom of God and the name of _____ they were baptised, both _____ and _____ (verse 12). Simon the magician also _____ and was _____.

The Apostles Peter and John came from _____ to these new believers at Samaria and they prayed that the newly baptised people should receive the _____ and so they laid their hands on them. Simon offered the apostles _____ because he wanted this power to be able to give people the _____ but Peter told him _____.

PHILIP PREACHES TO AN ETHIOPIAN (Chapter 8:26-40)

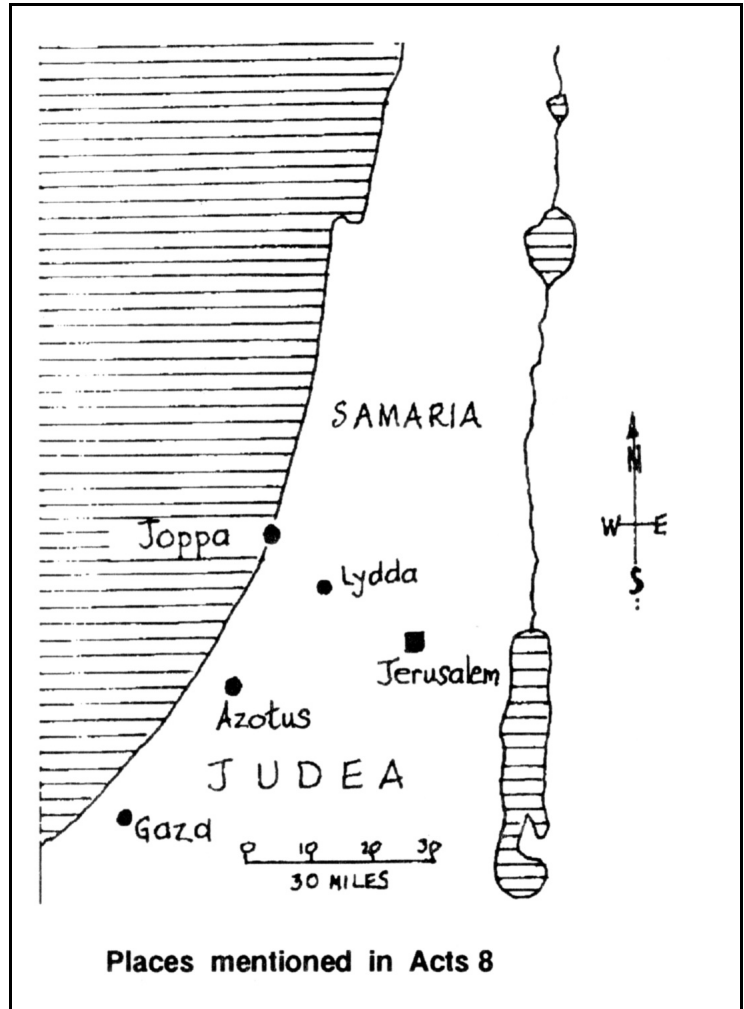
- 8.2 Who told Philip to go to the road from Jerusalem to Gaza?
- 8.3 The man from Ethiopia was reading from Isaiah chapter 53. What is Isaiah 53 about?
- 8.4 What did Philip say to the Ethiopian when he asked to be baptised?
- 8.5 What did they both do in order that the Ethiopian could be baptised?
- 8.6 How do you think this man was baptised - by sprinkling water on him, or by putting him down under the water?

The first part of this chapter shows us:

1. Men and women (not children) were baptised after believing what Philip taught about the Kingdom of God and about the work of Jesus.
2. The preacher Philip (not the apostle Philip) did not seem to be able to give people the gift of the Holy Spirit, although he had baptised them with water.
3. The Apostles could give people the gift of the Holy Spirit after they had prayed and laid their hands on them.
4. Simon, even after he had received the Holy Spirit, still did not have the power to give it to others. This is what he wanted Peter and John to give him.

To sum up:

It seems that only the apostles (and God and Jesus) had the power to give the gift of the Holy Spirit to others, so that when the apostles died there would be nobody to pass on the gift of the Holy Spirit.



BAPTISM

The Ethiopian had been learning about the Lord Jesus Christ and his death, and asked to be baptised. Verse 38 says "they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptised him." Verse 39 says "when they were come up out of the water

Baptism is a complete burial in water (putting completely under the water). The eunuch had to believe first before he could be baptised. Babies should not be "baptised" because they cannot repent of their sins. The Bible does not talk about babies being baptised. This is something men have made up and is not part of God's truth.



**Philip baptising
the eunuch**

Please return your answers to:

Please include your reference number which is: _____