

The Church in Acts

Week 7: Turning Point – Samaria and the Ends of the Earth

Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp - Reston Bible Church - Sunday, February 16, 2025

The background consists of horizontal wooden planks. The top portion of the image is illuminated with a warm, orange-red light, creating a gradient that fades into a darker, blueish-black color towards the bottom. The planks themselves are dark, with visible grain and some lighter spots or scratches.

The Church in Acts: Foundation for Mission and Community

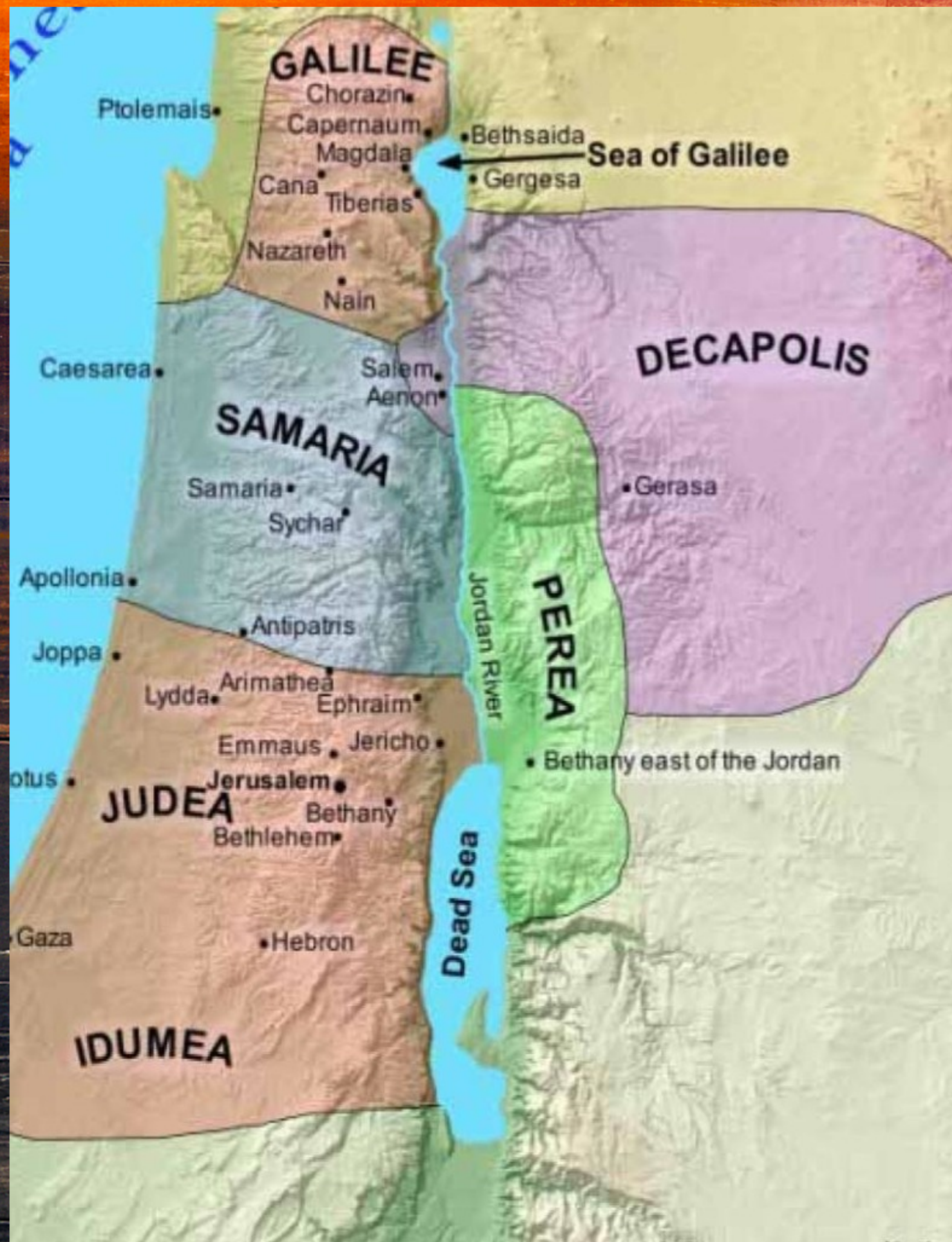
“But you will receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 ESV

1. Persecution Advances the Gospel

And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day **a great persecution** against the church in Jerusalem, and they were **all scattered** throughout the regions of **Judea and Samaria**, except the apostles.

Acts 8:1 ESV



But Saul was **ravaging** the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Acts 8:3 ESV

Ravage – to cause destruction of, or to utterly ruin.

I persecuted this Way **to the death**, binding
and delivering to prison both men and
women...

Acts 22:4 ESV

I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when **they were put to death** I cast my vote against them.

Acts 26:10 ESV

Then they left the presence of the council,
rejoicing that they were counted **worthy to
suffer** dishonor for the name.

Acts 5:41 ESV

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also **suffer for his sake.**

Philippians 1:29 ESV

2. The Gospel Comes to Samaria

Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the **city of Samaria** and **proclaimed to them the Christ.**

Acts 8:4-5 ESV

Who was Philip?

What they said pleased the whole gathering,
and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith
and of the Holy Spirit, **and Philip**, and...

Acts 6:5 ESV

931 BC - the Divided Kingdom - Samaria the Capital of Israel

722 BC - Assyrians Conquer N Kingdom

586 BC - Babylonians Conquer S Kingdom

516 BC - Persians Decree the Return

300 BC - Samaritans Worship on Mt Gerazim

30 AD - Jesus & the Samaritan Woman

Map of Ancient Samaria



...when **they believed** Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women.

Acts 8:12 ESV

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John who came down and prayed for them **that they might receive the Holy Spirit**, for He had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14-17 ESV

3. There is a Belief that Doesn't Save

Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

Acts 8:13 ESV

But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, **saying that he himself was somebody great.**

Acts 8:9 ESV

Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money saying, “**Give me this power** also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 8:18-19 ESV

“May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!”

Acts 8:20 ESV

You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. **Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours,** and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.

Acts 8:21-22 ESV

And Simon answered, “**Pray for me to the Lord**, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.”

Acts 8:24 ESV

But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. **Even the demons believe—and shudder!**

James 2:18-19 ESV

4. To the Ends of the Earth

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place.

Acts 8:26 ESV

And he rose and went. And there was **an Ethiopian, a eunuch**, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was **in charge of all her treasure**. He had come to **Jerusalem to worship...**

Acts 8:27 ESV

**So Philip ran to him and heard him reading
Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you
understand what you are reading?”**

Acts 8:30 ESV

Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a **sheep he was led to the slaughter** and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

Acts 8:32-33 ESV

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him **the good news about Jesus.**

Acts 8:34-35 ESV

**Commit to Faithfulness in Prosperity
and Courage in Persecution.**

Embrace the Call to People not Like You.

Live With More Than Mental Assent.

Engage the Outcast in Our World.