

## THE FOURTH PERSECUTION

### Acts 8

We have noticed in previous lessons: (1) the many different powers the Apostles received from the Holy Spirit as they needed them in their witness for Christ; (2) the two great reactions to their witness, as many believed and were saved, while others refused to believe and persecuted the Christians; and (3) the growing severity of this persecution until one of the Christians was actually *martyred* (put to death for his belief in Christ). Now see what happened following Stephen's death:

**A. The Effects of the Persecution:** Read Acts 8:1-4

1. Against whom was this persecution aimed? Acts 8:1a

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2. What happened as a result of this persecution? Acts 8:1b

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3. To what places did they go? Acts 8:1c

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4. What did the Christians do everywhere they went? Acts 8:4

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5. Who stayed in Jerusalem throughout the persecution? Acts 8:1d

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**B. An Example of this Effect:** Read Acts 8:5-25

1. Where did Philip go as a result of this persecution? Acts 8:5a

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2. What did he do there? Acts 8:5b

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3. How did the people receive his witness there? Acts 8:6a

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4. What was one of the main things which caused them to do this? Acts 8:6b, 7

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5. What was the result of his witness to that city? Acts 8:8

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6. Who was one of the outstanding men converted through Philip's witness? Acts 8:9-13

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7. Who came up from Jerusalem to help Philip in his work? Acts 8:14

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8. How much of Samaria heard the gospel as a result of their witness?  
Acts 8:25

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**C. A New Mission For Philip:** Read Acts 8:26-40

1. While Philip was in the midst of the great revival in Samaria, who spoke a message to him? Acts 8:26a  
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2. Where was he told to go? Acts 8:26b  
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3. What did he do when he received this message? Acts 8:27a  
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4. Whom did he meet there as a result? Acts 8:27b  
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5. Where had this man been? Acts 8:27c  
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6. What was he doing now as he returned home? Acts 8:28  
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7. Who then spoke to Philip? Acts 8:29a  
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8. What did He tell Philip to do? Acts 8:29b  
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9. When Philip obeyed, what did the man ask him to do? Acts 8:31b  
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10. What did Philip do as they rode along? Acts 8:35  
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11. What did the man ask when they reached some water? Acts 8:36  
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12. On what condition did Philip say that he might do this? Acts 8:37a  
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13. What then happened to Philip as soon as he had done this? Acts 8:39a, 40  
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14. What did the man do after this? Acts 8:39b  
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**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. In what ways did God guide His servants in their witnessing for Him?  
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2. Am I careful to obey the Spirit's leading through circumstances, and through His own voice to my heart? (See Isaiah 30:21)  
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