

## The Evangelist Philip



**Etymology of the name Phillip: Being translated from the Greek (Lover of Horses) is first mentioned in the account of the dispute between the Hebrew and Hellenistic disciples in Acts 6.**

He is one of the deacons appointed to supervise the daily distribution of food and alms, and so to remove all suspicion of partiality.

The persecution of which Saul was the leader must have stopped the "daily ministrations" of the Church.

## **8 And Saul approved of their killing him.**

### **The Church Persecuted and Scattered**

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.

3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

### **Philip in Samaria**

4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there.

6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said.

7 For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed.

8 So there was great joy in that city.

**The teachers who had been most prominent were compelled to take flight, and Philip was among them. It is noticeable, that the city of Samaria, is the first scene of his activity.**

**Acts 8. He is the precursor of St. Paul in his work, as Stephen, had been in his teaching.**

**The Gospel is for everyone, regardless of race, nation, gender, or background (Acts 8:5).**

The scene which brings Philip and Simon the sorcerer into contact with each other, (Acts 8: 9-13 NIV) which the magician has to acknowledge a power over nature greater than his own, is interesting.



## Simon the Sorcerer

**9** Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great,

**10** and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, “This man is rightly called the Great Power of God.”

**11** They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery.

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

**13** Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

## **This step is followed by another.**

On the road from Jerusalem to Gaza he meets the Ethiopian eunuch.  
( Acts 8:26 ).



The History that follows is interesting as one of the few records in the New Testament of the process of individual conversion.

A brief sentence tells us that Philip continued his work as a preacher at Azotus (Ashdod) and among the other cities that had formerly belonged to the Philistines, and, following the coast-line, came to Caesarea.

Then for a long period--not less than eighteen or nineteen years--we lose sight of him.

The last glimpse of him in the New Testament is in the account of St. Paul's journey to Jerusalem.

It is to his house as to one well known to them, that St. Paul and his companions turn for shelter.

He has four daughters, who possess the gift of prophetic utterance and who apparently give themselves to the work of teaching instead of entering on the life of home.

( Acts 21:8 Acts 21:9) He is visited by the prophets and elders of Jerusalem.



One tradition places the scene of his death at Hierapolis in Phrygia.

According to another, he died as bishop of Tralles.

The house in which he and his daughters had lived was pointed out to travelers, in the time of Jerome.



Please, remember friends, that You can't buy your way into heaven, OR out of hell.

Rev. Jesus Del Rio, Ed

