

HOW REVIVAL ACTS

Acts 8:1-4



FIRED UP

Acts 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

2 And devout men carried Stephen *to his burial*, and made great lamentation over him.

3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed *them* to prison.

4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

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(a) How They Stopped Him, 7:57

There are three trials before the Sanhedrin that Luke recorded thus far:

1. The first ended with a threatening (4:17, 21);

2. The second with beating (5:40);

3. The third with stoning (7:58-60).

(b) How They Stoned Him, 7:58

(3) His Final Triumph, 7:59

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As we continue looking at the Book of Acts, we need to be reminded of the scenario of the first church:

- The apostles had spent three years of preparation with the Lord Jesus Christ in order to serve Him for His glory.
- They were unclear about the establishing of His Kingdom.
- The Lord had ascended back to heaven.
- The Holy Spirit was their primary source of leadership.
- The organization for their actions was the first church.
- They had no complete Bible like we do, today.
- The focus of their lives was living what they believed.
- The title of the book is “The Acts of the Apostles” NOT the **beliefs** of the Apostles.
- We are looking at ***what they did***, in relation to what they believed.
- The key to the effectiveness of what they did was that their lives were empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- We are observing how the Holy Spirit moved in their lives.

C. The First Missionary, 8:1-40

1. A New Foe: Emphasis – Persecuted Christians, 8:1-4

a. The Magnitude of the Persecution, 8:1-4

1. Its Focus, 8:1-2

a. An Explosion, 8:1a

Acts 8:1 “And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria...”

We have already seen that there are three trials before the Sanhedrin that Luke recorded thus far:

1. The first ended with a threatening (4:17, 21);
2. The second with beating (5:40);
3. The third with stoning (7:58-60).

With the stoning of Stephen, the persecution against the believers escalated in Jerusalem.

1 Thess. 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for **ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews:**

b. An Exception, 8:1b "...except the apostles."

c. An Example, 8:2

Acts 8:2 And devout men carried Stephen *to his burial*, and made great lamentation over him.

2. Its Fury, 8:3-4

a. The Manner of the Persecution, 8:3

Acts 8:3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed *them* to prison.

The Greek word translated "made havoc" occurs only here in the New Testament.

Original Word: λυμαίνομαι

Transliteration: lomainomai

Definition: I ravage, outrage, maltreat, corrupt, defile, make havoc.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3075.htm>

Acts 22:19 And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee:

Acts 26:11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted *them* even unto strange cities.

1 Tim. 1:13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.

Gal. 1:13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:

14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

b. The Ministry of the Persecution,
8:4

Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

Original Word: εὐαγγελίζω

Transliteration: euaggelizó

Definition: I bring good news, preach good tidings, with or without an object, expressing either the persons who receive the good news or the good news itself (the good news being sometimes expressed as a person).

euaggelizō (from *eú*, "good, well" and *angellō*, "announce, herald") – properly, proclaim "the good message" (good news). In the NT, (*euaggelizō*) refers to sharing the *full Gospel of Christ* – literally, "*gospelizing*" that announces *the complete message* of "the good news" (the Lord's *glad tidings*).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2097.htm>

Acts 11:19 Now they which were **scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen** travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

b. The Message via the Persecution, 8:1, 4
with 1:8

Acts 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles...

4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Conclusion

1 Sam. 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? **Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.**

