

Study Notes and Questions for Acts 8 (Part 1) :1-25

- How did the persecution of the early believers help to fulfill God's purposes?
- How would you explain to a new believer that sometimes difficult and even painful circumstances can be used to further God's purposes?
- Study Note: ***The Messiah*** (8:5). The Jews expected a Messiah who would be descended from King David and a powerful ruler like him. The Samaritans had rejected the Davidic kings in 930 BC, so they did not share the Jewish doctrines of the Messiah. Instead, they awaited the ta'eb, "the restorer"—a teacher, lawgiver, and deliverer like Moses.
- What do the Jews think of the Samaritans and why?
- How was the Samaritan's coming to Jesus significant to the progress of the gospel? (Recall who has been converted up to now.)
- What convinced the Samaritans to become believers?
- When Peter and John arrived, what did they do and why?
- What was so terrible about Simon's request in 8:18–19?
- Why do you think Luke recorded the episode with Simon? What does it add to the story of Acts?
- Why do you think believers are so interested in discussing whether or not Simon had genuinely accepted Jesus as his Savior?