

## November 22, 2020 - Joyful Praise!

### Acts 8:1b-8

The believers were 'scattered' - like seed; they scattered the seed of the Gospel of Jesus.

What the devil did to try to destroy God's work only served to perpetuate it. (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28)

Scattered believers were the shunned Hellenistic (Greek born, Greek speaking) Jewish believers.

The Samaritans, also shunned by the Jews since they were considered as half-breeds, received the gospel message very well.

- Jesus had shared the Gospel and proclaimed Himself as the Messiah there and many believed (John 4).

Their scattering, and therefore their witness of the Gospel of Jesus, was as Jesus had said in Acts 1:8.

- First Jerusalem; then throughout Judea and Samaria; beyond that as in Acts 11:19-21.

What Philip and the others preached is described in various ways but all mean the same thing:

- 1) Word. (v.4)
- 2) Christ. (v.5)
- 3) Good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. (v.12)
- 4) Gospel. (v.25)
- 5) Message. (11:19)
- 6) Good news about the Lord Jesus. (11:20)

And they faithfully preached this Gospel of Jesus "wherever they went."

God brought the harvest of souls in response to the Gospel, producing great joy - great Thanksgiving - in the people then and in us today.

The greatest blessing of all is our redemption, our forgiveness, our salvation. (2 Corinthians 9:15; 1 Corinthians 15:19)

Let's give thanks, praise, adoration and glory to our God for His salvation, and let's enjoy the joy of our salvation! (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Let us faithfully continue to pray to the Lord for more soul harvesting to be done by Him through us and our witness of Him and of His Gospel. (Romans 1:16-17)