

**New Testament 2: Unit 4 – The Church begins to Expand (Acts 6:1-9:31)**

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The purpose of these notes are first to provide a summary of key points from the PTC Course Notes, and second to provide some extra information that may fill out your understanding of the subject in question.

**Introduction****The widow's complaint (6:1-7)**

Grecian = Hellenists, Greek Origin, Greek speakers – like the 7 appointed  
Hebraic = Semitic, Hebrew Origin, Aramaic speakers – like the 12 apostles

Core concern

Result

**Stephen a man full of Grace (6:8-15)**

Accusations – attacking the foundation of Jewish life: temple, law, God and Moses

Parallels to Jesus (6:11, 13-14)

Parallels to Moses (Ex 34:29)

**Exercise:**

Read Acts 7:1-53

How does Stephen answer the charge (in 6:13) that he speaks against the temple?

- *Jews had made an idol out of the temple, and failed to see that God dwells with people not with bricks and mortar,*

How does Stephen answer the charge (in 6:13) that he speaks against the Law of Moses?

- *Jews had failed to keep the law – not Stephen.*

**Stephen's Sermon/Speech (7:1-53)**

Longest speech in Acts – a great outline of salvation history

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Vv 1-8 – Abraham – the Patriarchic  
No temple  
No law  
God dwelled with his people

Vv 9-19 – Joseph – the Egyptian Exile  
No temple  
No law  
God dwelled with his people

Vv 20-43 – Moses – Exodus and Wilderness  
No temple  
10 Commandments  
God dwelled with his people  
But – the people rejected God

Vv 44-50 – David & Solomon – Monarchy  
Finally a temple - but not to house God (Is 66:1-2)  
Temple points to Jesus – God dwells with his people

Vv 51-53 – You Jews!!  
But – You, Jews, rejected Jesus.

**Stephen's Stoned (7:54-8:3)**

Parting words  
- Look Jesus (7:56)  
- Pray – Lord Jesus receive my spirit (7:59 c.f. Luke 23:46)  
- Forgive them – (7:60 - c.f. Luke 23:34)

Saul

Core concern

Result – Scattering and persecution (8:1, 3, 4, 11:19) and the word preached  
(8:4)

Apostles – note they stay behind in Jerusalem

**Philip – the evangelist (8:4-40)**

Samaria

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Read Acts 8:4-40

Here we see the evangelism of Philip – first before Simon the Sorcerer and second before the Ethiopian Eunuch.

- a. Highlight all the words that indicate word ministry (e.g. Preaching, proclaiming, word, news etc.)
- b. Highlight the role of the Holy Spirit in this proclamation.
- c. Consider both settings, what is the same and what is different?
  - *Same pioneering spirit (go!)*
  - *Same message (gospel)*
  - *Same response (believe and be baptised)*
  - *Same result (joy)*
  - *Different settings – one corporate (before others) and one personal (private)*

Simon the sorcerer

The Samaritan coming of the Spirit

Apostolic endorsement

The Ethiopian Eunuch

Isaiah (Is 53:7-8)

Elijah (2 Kg 2)

**Saul – the Persecutor (9:1-43)**

The man

- Acts 21:39-22:5
- Phil 3:4-6, Rom 11:1
- Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek speaker
- educated (Acts 22:3, c.f. 5:34)
- religious (Gal 1:14, Phil 3:6)

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His conversion

- Acts 9:3-19, 22:6-21, 26:2-29

Persecution of Jesus (9:4)

Spare a thought for Ananias! (9:10-19, 22:12-16)

*'my chosen instrument to carry my name before the gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel'*

And then for Barnabas!

Saul's immediate ministry – 9:20,22, 27, 28

And the immediate response – 9:23-25

Core concern

Result - 9:31

**For next Week:**

- Read Unit 5
- Read the *New Bible Dictionary* article 'Stephen' and 'Paul'.