

ACTS

*THE GOSPEL
ON THE MOVE*

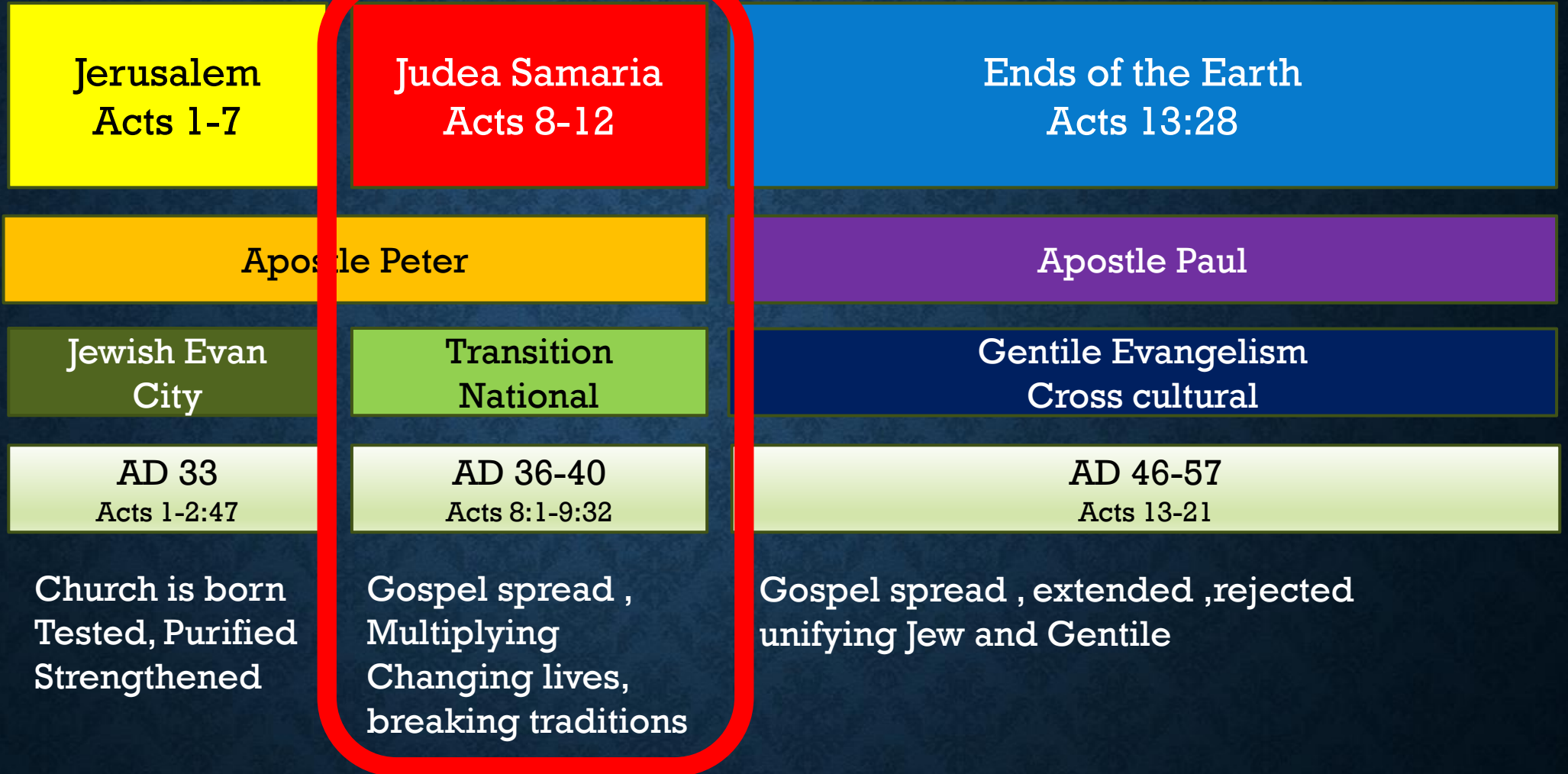


Study 8

Persecution and Church Growth

Acts 8

ACTS



Acts 1:8 (ESV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

WIDE SPREAD PERSECUTION

Acts 8:1-3 ESV And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. 3 But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison



INTERMARRIAGE

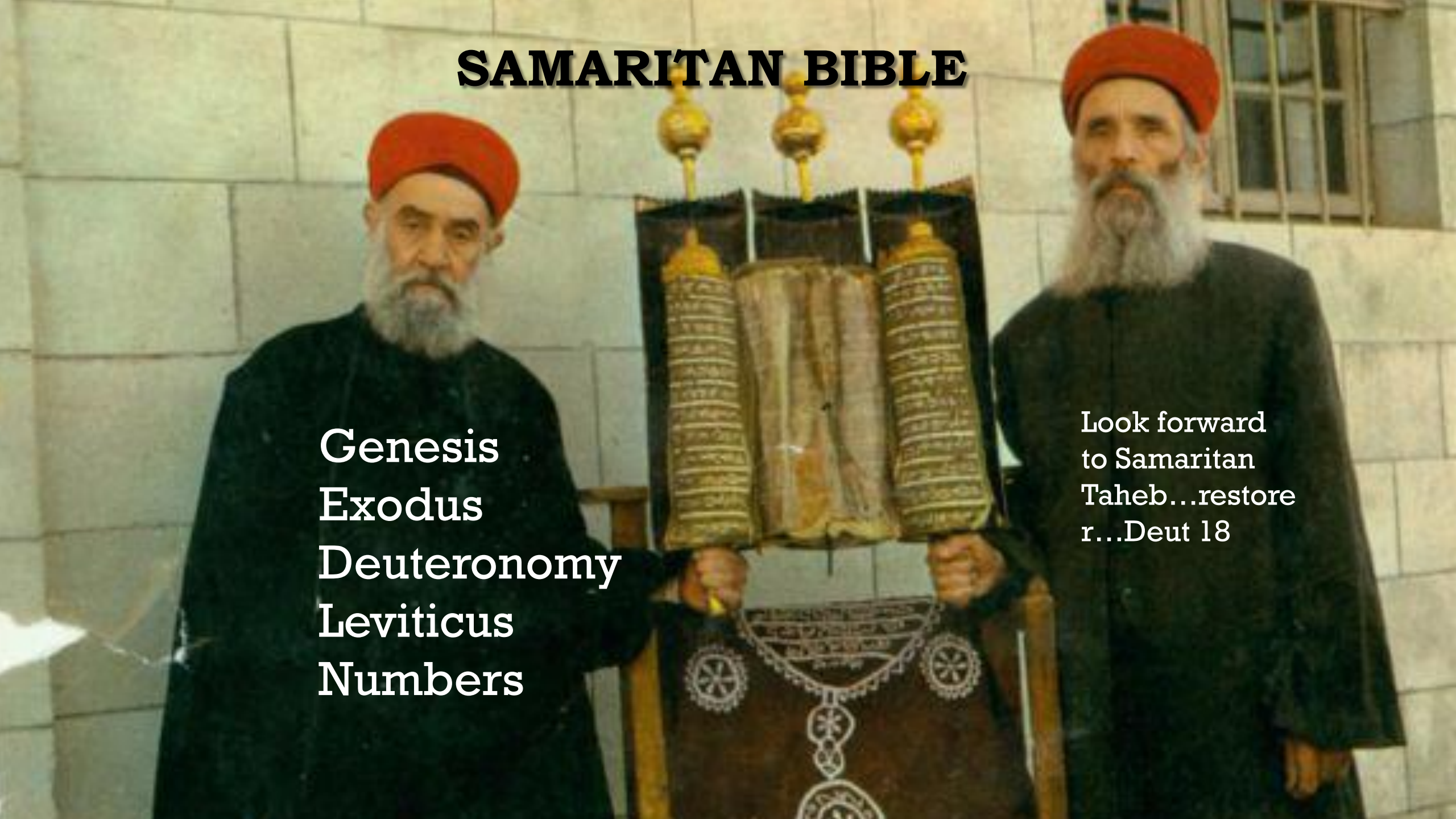
Decision made to go to Samaria of all places –Jews despise



SAMARITAN BIBLE

Genesis
Exodus
Deuteronomy
Leviticus
Numbers

Look forward
to Samaritan
Taheb...restore
r...Deut 18





PERSECUTION ENABLED MISSIONS

Acts 8:4 ESV Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word



εὐαγγελίζω
Euangelizo...
Evangelizing not
preaching
sermons



Spirit lead people's
movement
Not directed by leaders
Testimony and message

2. DELIBERATE MISSIONS

Acts 8: 5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ.

URBAN MISSIONS

Ideas, capital ,commerce, flourish in cities

Cosmopolitan ---all single
language of commerce more
effective than going to each
region to learn language
Go to Antioch



21st century will be
dominated by cities
Technology and pop growth
has massive contributed to
this





Half the world live in cities

A city skyline at dusk, with a river in the foreground reflecting the lights. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, and the buildings are illuminated with various colors. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**100 CITIES OF WORLD ACCOUNT FOR
30% OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMIES AND
ALMOST ALL OF ITS INNOVATIONS**

3. EMBODIED MISSIONS

Acts 8:4-8 Now **Word** who were scattered went about preaching the word. 5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. 6 And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was **Deed** said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was much joy in that city

EMBODIED MISSIONS



Social action in order to bring people to faith
Manipulation
Motive to enlarge church not help the community
Ignores Good Samaritan
Produce rice Christians

EMBODIED MISSIONS

Evangelism

Social Action

Separate and Equal

Social action can stand on its own without the Word
Love is communicating the gospel
Eternal is more important than temporal

EMBODIED MISSIONS

Evangelism

Social Action

Inseparable

Ministering to the whole person

SOCIAL ACTION IS EVIDENCE OF AN AUTHENTIC FAITH

James 2:14-17 (ESV) What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

EFFECT OF SOCIAL ACTION TO POOR WIDOWS

Acts 6:7 (ESV) And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

RADICAL GENEROSITY

Acts 2:44-45 (ESV) And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.



EDMUND P. CLOWNEY,

“We cannot be faithful to the words of Jesus if our deeds do not reflect the compassion of His ministry. kingdom evangelism is therefore holistic as it transmits by word and deed the promise of Christ for body and soul as well as the demand of Christ for body and soul “

3. EMBODIED MISSIONS

Acts 8:4-8 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. 5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. 6 And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who **Not in converts but in the city** led.

8 So there was much joy in that city

RESULTS OF EMBODIED MINISTRY

Proverbs 11:10-11 When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness. 11 By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is overthrown

Simon the magician



THE GOSPEL AND TRUE FAITH THE PROBLEM OF SIMON

Acts 8:9-11 (ESV) But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. 10 They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." 11 And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic.

PUBLIC PROFESSION OF FAITH

Acts 8:12-13 (ESV) But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

THE LAYING OF HANDS AND SPIRIT BAPTISM

Acts 8:14-17 (ESV) Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, 15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

SIMON DID NOT GET IT?

Acts 8:18-19 (ESV) Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

THERE WAS NO GENUINE FAITH



Acts 8:17-23 ESV 20 But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!

THERE WAS NO GENUINE FAITH



21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. 22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.

THERE WAS NO GENUINE FAITH



23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.”

OT BACKGROUND

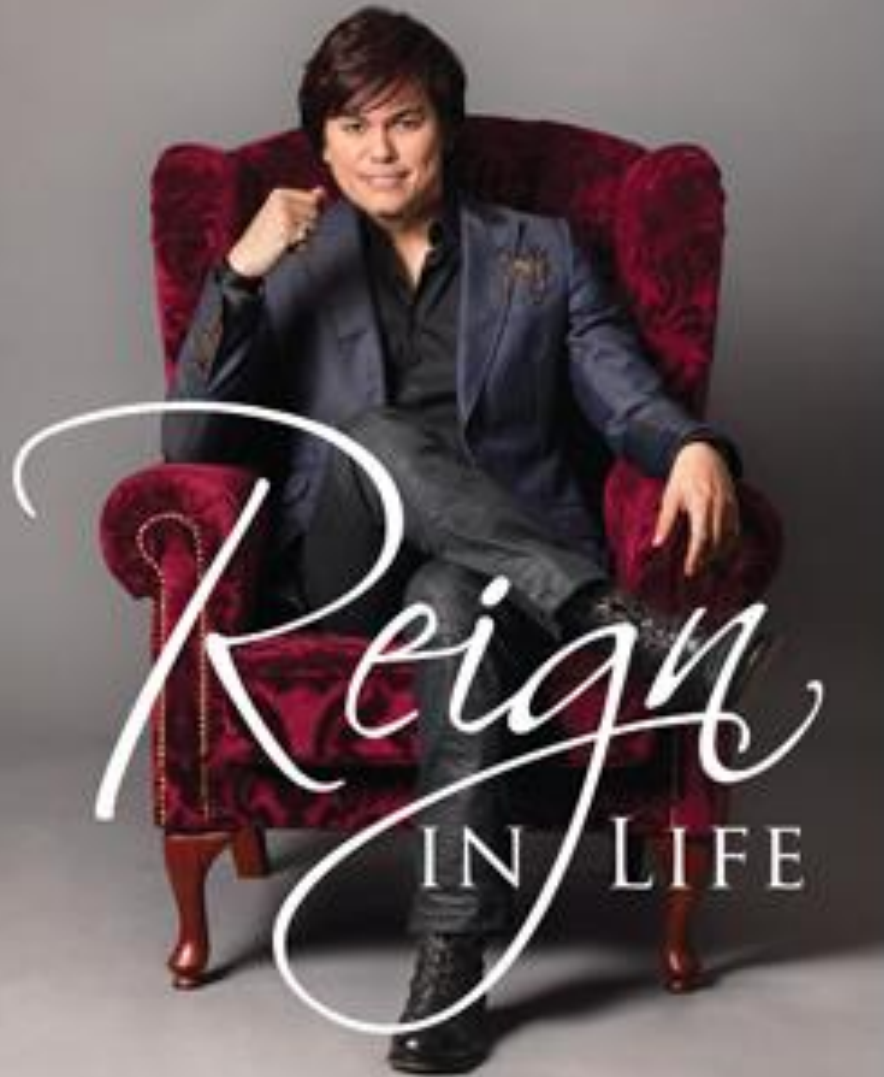
Deut 29: 18 Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the Lord our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit, 19 one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart.'

OT BACKGROUND

This will lead to the sweeping away of moist and dry alike.
20 The Lord will not be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the Lord and his jealousy will smoke against that man, and the curses written in this book will settle upon him, and the Lord will blot out his name from under heaven.

HYPER GRACE

- Secure and presumptuous
- Based on sinner's prayer and past experiences I am safe from judgment
- I can ignore a life of vigilance in the fight of faith and the pursuit of holiness.
- Such a person or a doctrine defiles many



90 Powerful Inspirations
for Extraordinary Breakthroughs

JOSEPH PRINCE



2016

Legalists

Rules apply

Hypergrace

Rules don't

YOU ARE A SLAVE TO WHATEVER CONTROLS YOU

ROMANS 6:16 + 2ND PETER 2:19 + JOHN 8:34

Deut 29: 18 Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the Lord our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit



Chosen leaders on basis of stature and money

MEGA CHURCH DANGER



BEWARE OF PUBLIC PROFESSION OF FAITH

Acts 8:12-13 (ESV) But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

WORKS AUTHENTICATE FAITH

James 2:18-19 (ESV) But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

SAMARITAN CONVERSION AND BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1

Repentance..faith
Water Baptism




2

Laying of hands from
apostles and Holy Spirit
baptism

THE PROMISE AND APPARENT CONTRADICTION

Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.


Acts 8: 16 for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.



**DOES THE LAYING OF
HANDS OF APOSTLES
IMPART THE SPIRIT?
ACTS 8, 19**

Acts 2: No laying of hands

Acts 10: No laying of hands

A photograph of John Stott, an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and patterned tie. He is seated in a library, surrounded by bookshelves filled with books. He is holding an open book in his hands. The background shows several shelves of books, some with religious titles like 'CHRISTIANITY' and 'THE BIBLE'. There are also some decorative items on the top shelf, including a small cross and figurines.

JOHN STOTT

Alternative explanation

PREJUDICE AGAINST SAMARITANS



Mount Gerizim



Jerusalem Temple

SAMARITANS AS OUTCASTES



**17 THEN THEY LAID THEIR HANDS ON THEM
AND THEY RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT**



Solidarity

**Authenticity to
apostles as well
as Samaritans**



RACIAL RECONCILIATION

"If God had not withheld his Spirit until the Jerusalem apostles came, converts on both sides of the cultural barrier might have found Christ without finding each other."

GOSPEL AND RACIAL DIVERSITY THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH

**Acts 8:26 (ESV) Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip,
“Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down
from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place**

Acts 8:27 And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure.





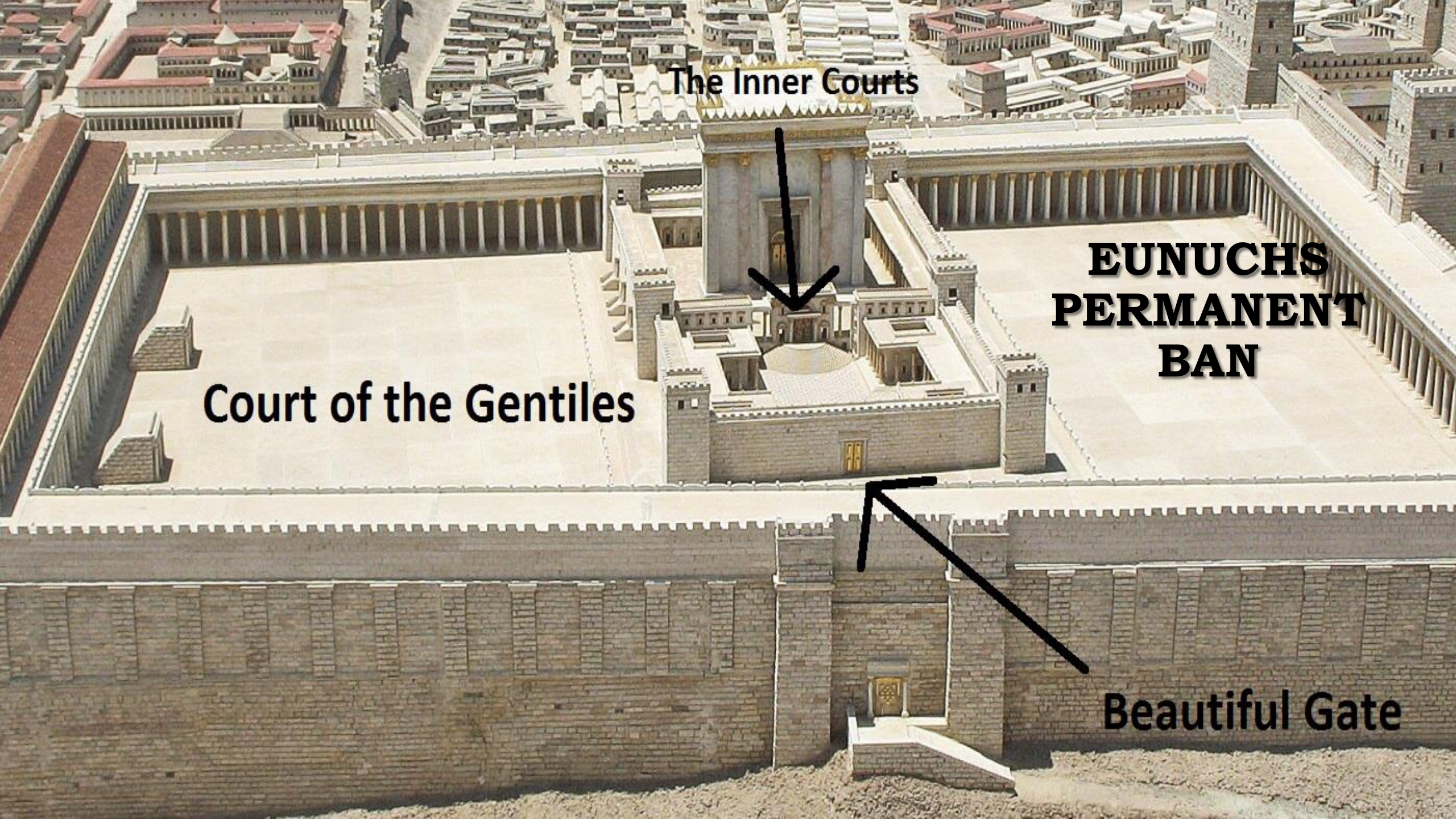
Acts 8:27-28 (ESV) He had come to Jerusalem to worship
28 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was
reading the prophet Isaiah



2564 km as the crow flies
More using land routes

Ethiopia

• Addis Ababa



The Inner Courts



**EUNUCHS
PERMANENT
BAN**

Court of the Gentiles



Beautiful Gate



Isaiah 56:3-5 (ESV) Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, “The Lord will surely separate me from his people”; and let not the eunuch say, “Behold, I am a dry tree.” 4 For thus says the Lord: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, 5 I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.

How to give a name if I am a eunuch?

SUBSTITUTIONARY SACRIFICE

Acts 8:32-34 (ESV) Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth.³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

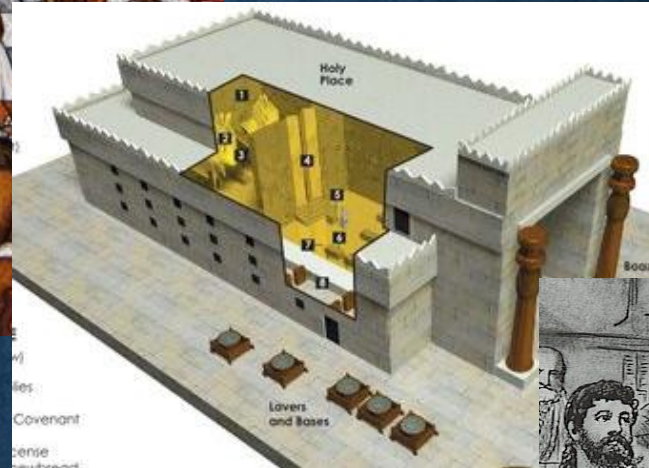
BIBLICAL IMAGERY OF SUBSTITUTION



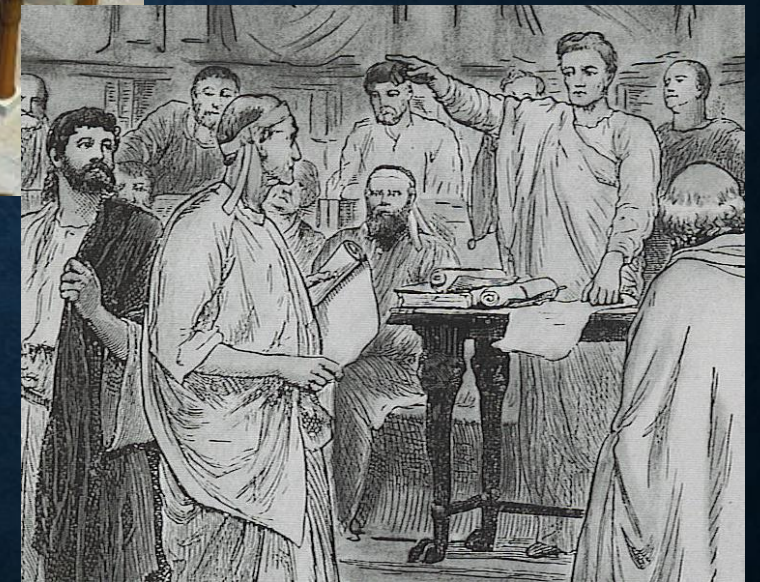
Battle – Christ fights
in our place



Market
place Christ
pays ransom



Temple
Christ ultimate
sacrifice



Law courts Christ pays penalty

Salvation by any other means will allow us to judge others less than ourselves based on our efforts





PRESIDENT ELECT TRUMP

“Mr. Trump judges by group: Muslims are untrustworthy, women are weak or treacherous, the disabled are to be mocked, Jews are tough negotiators, African Americans are living lives of desperation, Mexicans are rapists — and their American offspring are unfit to serve as federal judges.”

Washington Post editorial 2/11/16



MALAY MAIL 20/8/2022

"If we want to deal with corruption we must first tackle it from the grass roots. If not it will eventually become a disease. These groups who chase illicit gains are the ones who eventually control the economy.

"They then damage our politics as they are the roots for corruption and the majority of them are non-Muslims and non-Bumiputras,"

**SALVATION BY GRACE
ONLY THE GOSPEL CAN DO THIS**



INCREASES THE GLORY OF GOD

Quality of praise greater from diverse nations than from homogenous group

Psalms 96:3-4 (ESV) Declare his glory among the nations
his marvelous works among all the peoples! 4 For great is
the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared
above all gods.

2ND Nation to be come Christian AD 300





الموت أن أقاتل، الخاسر حتى، يشهدوا إلا لله والتم فاضل محمد رسول الله