

Acts of the Apostles: Do You See the BIG Picture?

September 5th, 2010

OPERATION Holy Land Acts 1– 12

Headed up by Peter, Assisted by John, Stephen & Philip

“Pentecost – Persecution”

“Supernatural Healing – Persecution”

“Faith & Purity – Persecution”

“Good News Preached – Persecution”

Acts 8:1 Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen.

PERSECUTION Scatters the Believers

Acts 8:1b-3 A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria. ² (Some devout men came and buried Stephen with great mourning.) ³ But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.

God has a PURPOSE

Romans 12:2 Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking... Unlike the culture around you, which is always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, and develops well-formed maturity in you. (Mes)

1 Timothy 2:22 Run away from infantile indulgence... (Mes)

Ephesians 4:14-15 God wants us to grow up... (Mes)

WHERE Does Persecution Come From?

The Powerful The Culture The Jealous The Evil One

How Should we Respond

- **Be Fearless**

Psalm 3:5-6 I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me. I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side.

Philippians 3:13-14 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

- **Be Faithful**

1 Corinthians 1:9 God, who has called you to share everything with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful and will give you strength and will protect you from the Evil

One.

Jesus Will GIVE You...

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

The RESULT of Persecution

Acts 8:4 But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went.

OUR Responsibility

Acts 8:30-31 Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ The man replied, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?" And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

SHARING the Love of God

John 3:16 For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Who will you share God's love with this week?