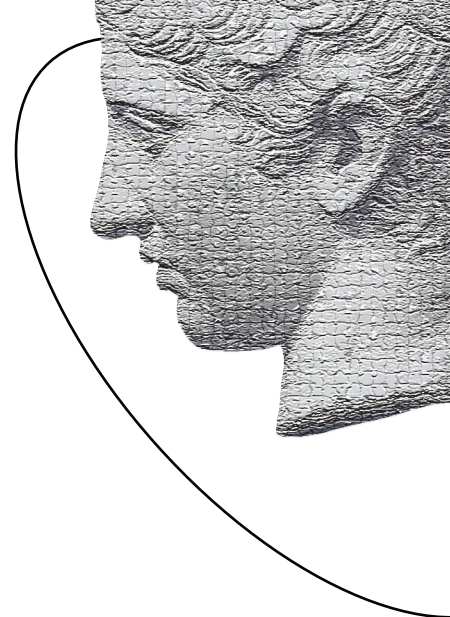




acts.

8



when.

- The events of chapter 8 likely happened between 33-35 A.D.

characters.

- **Saul (Paul)** – A Pharisee who was a vicious persecutor of the early Church.
- **Philip** – An evangelist who was one of the 7 men selected to care for the Hellenist widows in chapter 6.
- **Peter and John** – Two of the original 12 Apostles.
- **Simon** – A man who practiced magic in Samaria. Many Samaritans thought he possessed the power of God.
- **Ethiopian Treasurer** – “A eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure” (8:27).

where.

Judea –

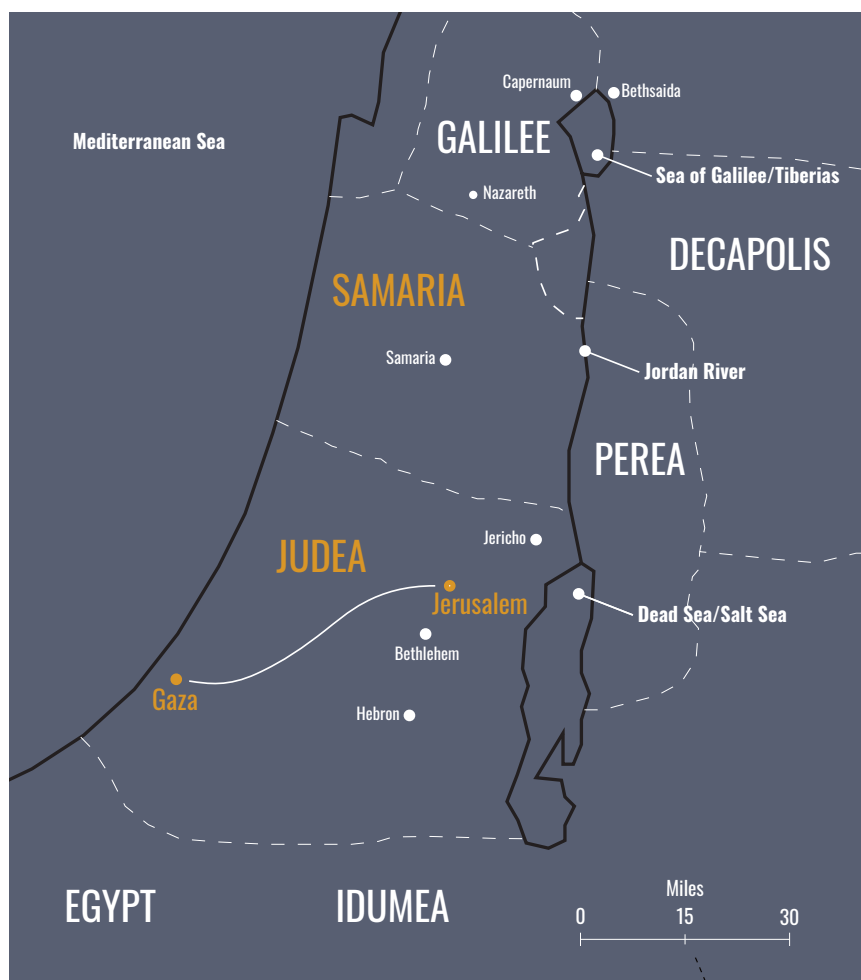
The Region west of the Dead Sea and the Jordan river. Its eastern border was the Mediterranean Sea. The city of Jerusalem was located in Judea.

Samaria –

The region directly north of Judea.

Jerusalem to Gaza Road–

This road was approximately 50 miles long and led to the main trade route to Egypt.



acts.

outline.

- THE BELIEVERS ARE PERSECUTED (8:1-3):
 - + After Stephen's death, the Jews started persecuting the Christians more widely.
 - + The disciples were scattered throughout Judaea and Samaria.
 - + Saul (Paul) was one of the most zealous persecutors. He went around "ravaging the church" and sent men and women to prison for their faith.
- PHILIP PREACHING IN SAMARIA (8:4-25):
 - + When the believers fled Jerusalem, they took the gospel message with them and began preaching in other areas.
 - + Philip went to Samaria and had success teaching among the people.
 - + Many sick people were healed and unclean spirits were cast out.
 - + Peter and John visited Samaria to lay their hands on the new believers so they so they could "receive the Holy Spirit."
 - + One of the new believers, Simon, who had previously been a sorcerer, coveted the Apostles ability to give the Holy Spirit to others.
 - + He went to Peter and John and offered them money saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."
 - + Peter strongly rebuked Simon and told him to pray to God for forgiveness.
 - + Simon, feeling bad for what he had done, repented and asked Peter to pray for him.
- PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN TREASURER (8:26-40):
 - + An angel told Philip to travel down to the road between Jerusalem and Gaza.
 - + When he arrived, the Holy Spirit directed him to speak to an Ethiopian man.
 - + The man was a eunuch, an official over the treasury of the queen of Ethiopia.
 - + Philip joined the Ethiopian official in his chariot and began a discussion about the Christ using a text from Isaiah 53.
 - + After a while, the chariot passed some water and the Ethiopian asked Philip if he could be baptized.
 - + After baptizing the man, the Spirit of God "carried Philip way" to another city and the Ethiopian "went on his way rejoicing."

application.

- God can advance His cause through circumstances created by evil men.
- The men who were persecuting God's Church were serving Satan, but God used the persecution as a catalyst to spread the gospel message to new regions.
- As we observed in chapter 2, and will continue to observe throughout the book, there is a consistent pattern of people being baptized immediately after believing in Jesus.
- There was no delay. Those who believed were baptized right away. Unfortunately, many churches postpone baptism as if its optional or unimportant.

