

# Heaven Invade

## Opening Text: Acts 8:1, 4-17

When I read this passage about Philip preaching in Samaria, I see more than just a preacher having another evangelistic meeting. I see

- Two kingdoms in conflict
- Two spiritual powers in collision
- An ambassador of the kingdom of God against an emissary of the kingdom of darkness

I see a spiritual showdown, an open collision of powers – and it is all about the souls of the people of Samaria. Jesus taught us that there is *violence in the kingdom of heaven and the violent take it by force* (Matthew 11:12)

Beyond what we can see with our physical eyes, there is an invisible struggle being fought in the spiritual realm over cities and nations and over the souls of people.

The enemy has unleashed an attack against mankind to precipitate many into an eternity without God. In a short period of time 3.7 million people have died worldwide because of this pandemic. The enemy knows he has little time. We are living at the end of the age. He has intensified his violence against nations, cities, and people.

We need to understand all of this, but we need also to appropriate four things that this passage reveals about the role of the church in this conflict. In this passage, we see...

### 1. The true potential of the church

Because of persecution, they had to leave Jerusalem, they couldn't meet in Solomon's portico in the temple like they used to. A lot had changed about 'church life', as they knew it. However, they didn't backslide, they didn't stop loving Jesus, they didn't stop serving Him. No. They just used their circumstances to their advantage: what started out as persecution, simply became a great crusade for souls in many cities.

*4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.*

### 2. The true vocation of the church

The nature of the church is expansive. Our true vocation is to go, it is to bring the reality of the kingdom of God here. Jesus didn't say, *hold the fort till I come*. No. He said, *occupy until I come* (Luke 19:13 KJV).

### 3. The church moving in supernatural power

When Phillip arrived in Samaria there was already a type of supernatural power at work – but of the wrong kind. Samaria was a very 'spiritual' place and people's beliefs were mixed. People of Samaria even thought that this sorcerer's power was the '*great power of God*'. However, it was the power of sorcery, it was occultic power.

It takes a supernatural church to discern darkness and a supernatural church to dislodge it.

You don't dislodge supernatural power with humanistic thinking or superficial prayers. It takes the supernatural power of God to override the power of satan.

#### **4. A prevailing church, a prevailing message, and a prevailing kingdom**

**V.12-13** - *<sup>12</sup> But when they believed Philip as **he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God** and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. <sup>13</sup> Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.*

According to this passage, powerful things happen when the Kingdom of God comes upon a city.

#### **5 things happen when Heaven invades:**

- **The devil is driven out**

Deception is exposed and darkness leaves

**V.7** - *For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed.*

- **Healing comes**

**V.7b** - *and many who were paralysed, and lame were healed.*

- **Joy comes**

**V.8** - *And there was **great joy** in that city.*

**1 Thessalonians 1:5-6** - *<sup>5</sup> For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, **with joy of the Holy Spirit,***

- **Signs, wonders and Miracles**

**V.13** - *Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptised, he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.*

- **The Holy Spirit comes**

*<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, <sup>15</sup> who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup> For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

Spiritual battles cannot be fought by natural means. Spiritual battles can only be fought in the power of the Holy Spirit.

If what we are experiencing in the world today is the manifestation of a behind-the-scenes spiritual battle, then it must be addressed spiritually. It must be addressed in the power of the Holy Spirit.

That is why we read that when the Apostles came down,

- They prayed for them
- That they might receive the Holy Spirit

This is not an optional matter for the believer. It was so important that the Apostles left Jerusalem and came to Samaria for that exact purpose.

### **Conclusion**

We spoke today about

- The potential of the church,
- The true vocation of the church,
- The supernatural power in the church and
- How the church is a prevailing force, has a prevailing message and belongs in a prevailing kingdom

Lets' get all that potential out. This is the time for the church to shine its brightest light and dispel darkness.

Let us pray for an invasion of heaven upon our planet, our country, and our city!