

# The Church Grows

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# Introduction

-The regions of Judea and Samaria were largely non-Jewish, with Jewish followers of Christ (not yet denoted as Christians) scattered throughout.

-Philip, a recurring character, begins centering his church in Samaria, which earns him a visit from Peter and John.

-Simon the Magician was baptized by Philip, but tried to buy the “laying on of hands.”

-”May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God’s gift with money!”



# Ethiopian Church

-The Ethiopian eunuch, a member of the Candace (queen) of Ethiopia, was baptized by Philip in some water they found along the road.

-This shows Christianity is not confined to one geographical location. It can be practiced anywhere.



# Saul (my favorite character)

-Saul's story in the bible is one of redemption.

- "Then they dragged [Stephen] out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul...And Saul approved of their killing him." (Acts. 7:58)

-Saul is a horrible person who thinks his adherence to laws is what makes him better than anyone else.

-For this, Saul is blinded; " Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. (Acts. 9:8)



## Saul (continued)

- The Disciple Ananias was the one to restore Saul's sight.
- "Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah." (Acts. 9:22)
- He would later be baptized as Paul (I don't like this name as much as I like Saul but it's the symbolism of rebirth here.)



# Rapid Fire: The Apostles

- God proclaims it's okay to eat "profane" animals as long as God makes them clean
- Peter goes to Cornelius and realizes it is wrong to call anyone profane or unclean
- Cornelius gets baptized
- Gentiles (non-Jews) accept the word of God, which causes controversy
- Debates over circumcision
- Tension between Antioch and Jerusalem
- King Herod persecuted the Jewish citizens and was struck down and eaten by worms, then died. In that order.