

Acts 6:8 - 9:31

Second Major

Parting of ways

between Judaism and

Christianity

4 Major Movements

1st Persecution, defense, martyrdom of Stephen

6:8-8:4

2nd Evangelization of Samaria

8:4-25

3rd Conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch

8:26-40

4th Conversion of Saul of Tarsus

9:1-31

4 Major Movements

1st Persecution, defense, martyrdom of Stephen

6:8-8:4

What Christianity had to say about Judaism's orthodox temple & Jerusalem centered worship

2nd Evangelization of Samaria

8:4-25

Christianity & Samaritans - who rejected Jerusalem's temple & worshipped on Mt. Gerazim in Samaria

4 Major Movements

3rd Conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch

8:26-40

A convert to Judaism. What Christianity had to say to him

4th Conversion of Saul of Tarsus

9:1-31

This story also concerned w/ witness of Israel to Gentiles

4 Major Movements

- 1st Orthodox Judaism's worship
- 2nd Unorthodox Samaritan worship
- 3rd Gospel of Suffering Servant
- 4th Gospel of the Son of God

Similarities and Contrasts

1st Saul joins Stephen's execution

4th Saul preaches faith he once destroyed

1st "God of glory appeared" - beginning of Hebrew nation - away from the Gentiles

4th Bright light 9:3 Saul now goes in opposite direction - 9:15 "carry God's name before Gentiles..."

Note the “reverse” process - not convert Gentiles and bring them into Israel. But establish knowledge of one true God among the Gentiles. Not to become Jews, members of Israel, or synagogue, but believe in God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob!

Reminiscent of “reversal” at Pentecost -

Babel - confusion of tongues (languages)

Pentecost - understanding of tongues (languages)

Babel - the beginning of division of nations; call of Abraham to make one nation - Israel (ultimately)

Pentecost - the uniting of people into one “nation” (spiritual) ; (The church - the body of Christ) neither Jew nor Gentile

Reminiscent of “reversal” at Pentecost -

Sinai - 3,000 die

Pentecost - 3,000

Saved

Sweeping movements!

Judea to Samaria	Shem
Ethiopia	Ham
Gentile world at large	Japeth

Acts 7

Stephen's Argument Distilled

1. Progressive revelation - culminating in 7:37 & 7:52

Stepping stones to higher levels. Yet now - Hebrews 1:1,2a

2. Historically, Jews had rejected - not received - their God appointed "saviors".
7:9 7:20;39 7:51-53

Not due to loyalty as much as to resistance to progressive revelation

Acts 7

Stephen's Argument Distilled

3. Temple, priesthood, sacrifices, rituals - obsolete. Soon to disappear. 7:48,49
7:55,56 = Argument of book of Hebrews!
Where is Jesus now? Answer this correctly and implications are clear!
 - a. Note the charge - 6:13,14
 - b. Deja vu all over again! (Remember what they said of the Lord Jesus!)

