

EXAMPLES OF CONVERSIONS IN

1

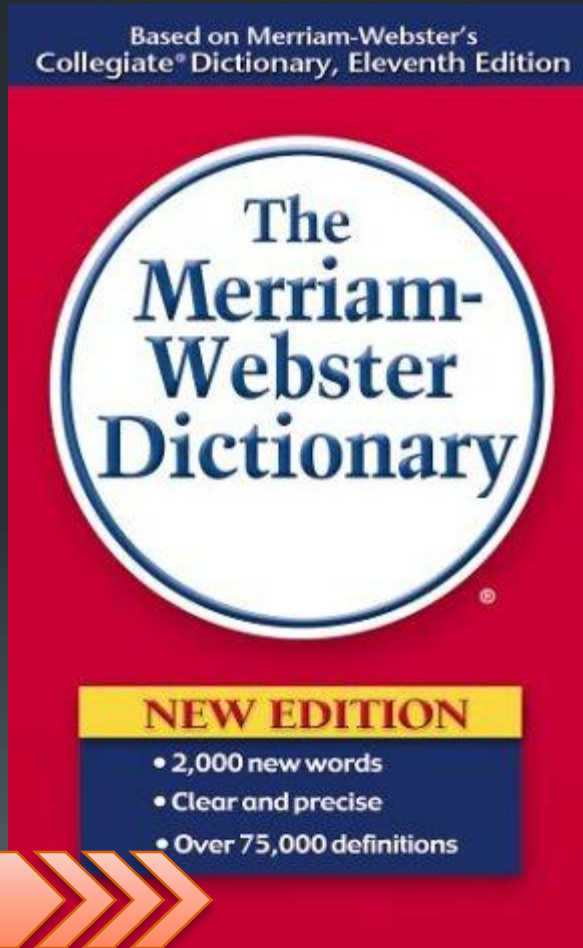
The Book Of Acts

Conversion of

The Samaritans

ACTS 8:1-25

Convert; Converted



transitive verb

- 1 - a : **to bring over from one belief, view, or party to another** b : to bring about a religious conversion in
- 2 - a : to alter the physical or chemical nature or properties of especially in manufacturing b (1) : **to change from one form or function to another** (2) : to alter for more effective utilization



Convert; Converted



Matthew 18:3-4 (NKJV)

³ and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are **converted** and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Therefore **whoever humbles himself** as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.





3,000 CONVERTED ACTS 2:1-47

Convert; Converted



Acts 3:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Repent therefore and **be converted**, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,





Convert; Converted



James 5:19-20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone

turns him back, (*convert him KJV*)

²⁰ let him know that he who **turns** (*converteth – KJV*) **a sinner from the error of his way** will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.





3,000 CONVERTED ACTS 2:1-47

Convert; Converted



Luke 15:11-24

- ✦ Not merely a change in actions –
- ✦ A change in knowledge –
- ✦ A change in conviction –
- ✦ A change in allegiance –
- ✦ A change in thinking & will –
- ✦ A change in commitment – resulting in a change in relationship & identity –
- ✦ A change in who we are – how we talk – where we go – what we do –



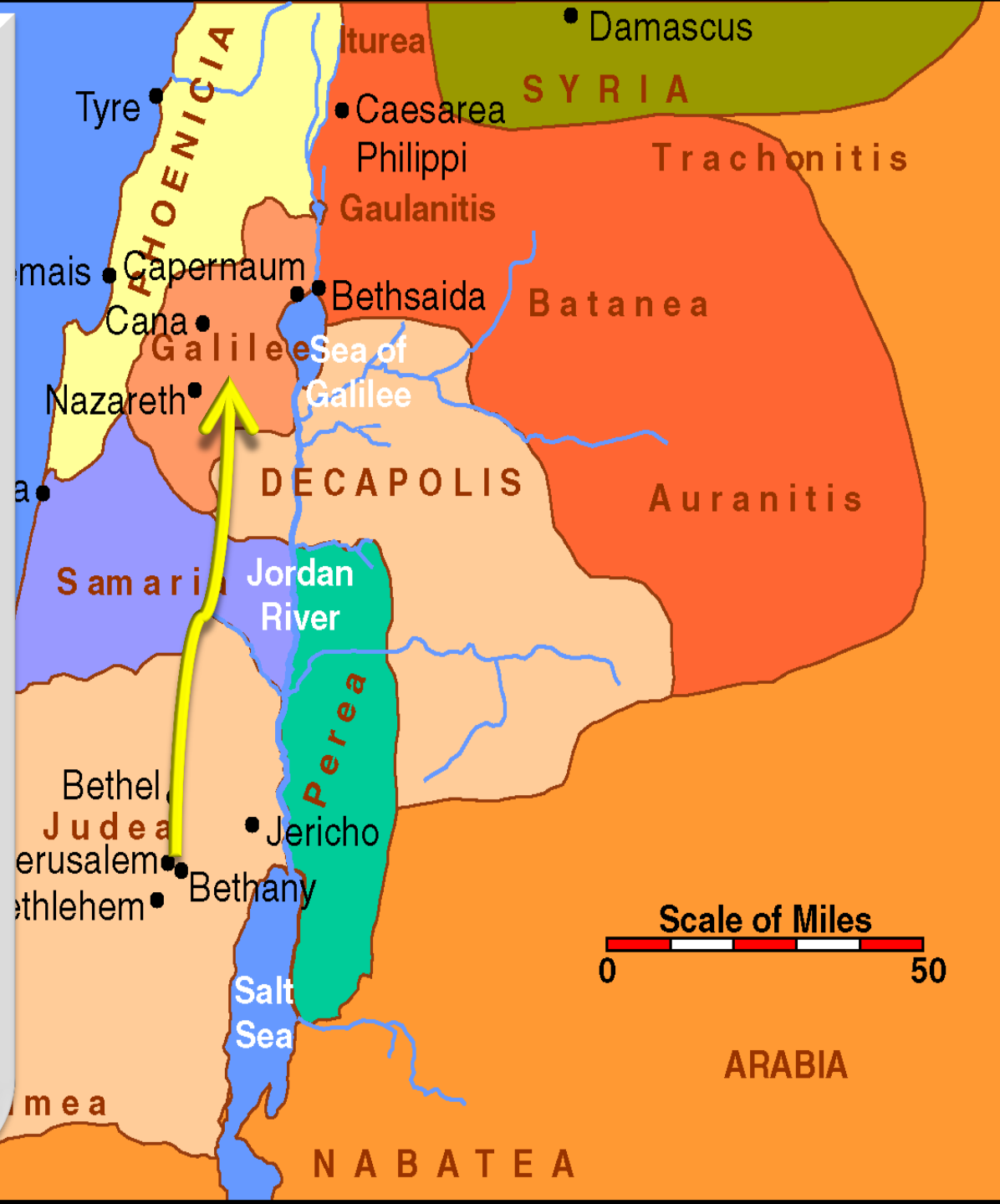


Psalm 19:7 (NKJV)

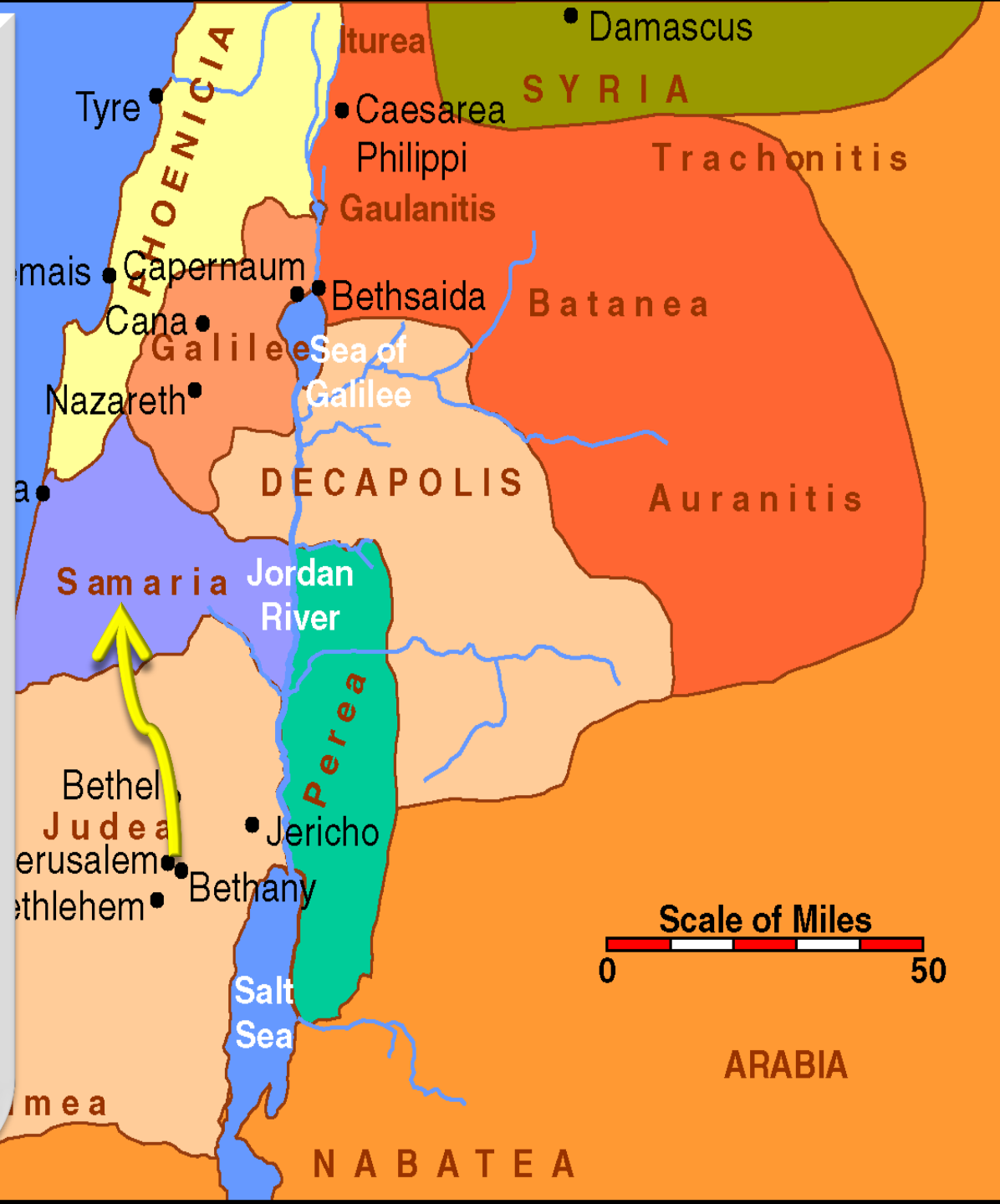
⁷ The law of the LORD *is* perfect,
converting the soul; The testimony
of the LORD *is* sure, making wise
the simple;



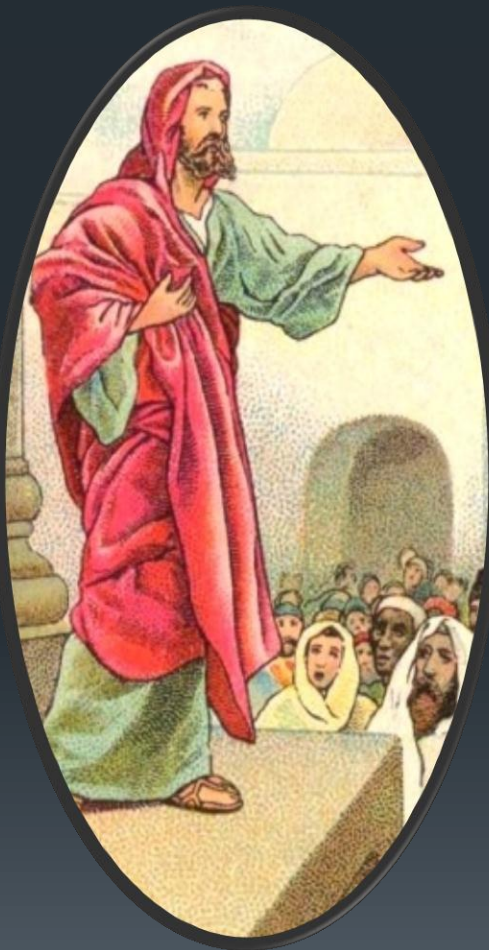
- ◆ Assyrian Captivity -
2 Kings 17
- ◆ Their religion,
though basically
Jewish, was mixed
with idolatry -
2 Kings 17:32-34,41
- ◆ Jews and Samaritans
had no dealings with
each other - John
4:3-9; Luke 10:30-37
- ◆ Though not
regarded as totally
heathenistic, they
were despised by the
Jews. – John 8:48



- ◆ The great commission – Mat. 28:18-21; Mark 16:15,16; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8
- ◆ Acts chapters 2 – 7 tells of the preaching in Jerusalem and Judea.
- ◆ Acts 4-8:4 we see that persecution arose against Christians
- ◆ Acts 8:4-25 tells of the Evangelist Philip preaching in Samaria.



BRIEF ANALYSIS OF ACTS 8:1-25



- ♦ **Verses 1-3** – Great persecution arose against the church – the involvement of Saul – (Acts 9:1,2,21; 22:3,4; 26:9-11; 1 Cor. 15:9; Gal. 1:13; 1 Tim 1:13)
- ♦ **Verses 1,4** – Disciples driven from Jerusalem and went everywhere preaching the Word – (Acts 11:19-21; 1:8)
- ♦ **Verses 5** – Phillip preaches Jesus – (8:35)
- ♦ **Verses 6-13** – Samaritans converted
- ♦ **Verses 14-17** – Apostles send Peter and John to the Samaritans that they may receive miraculous spiritual gifts – (Mark 16:17-20)
- ♦ **Verse 18-25** – One of the Samaritans, (Simon), falls and is restored – (Gal. 5:4; James 5:19,20)

THE CHURCH SCATTERED



EVIL CAN WORK FOR GOOD!

VERSES 1-3

Acts 8:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

- ✦ We can be guilty of participation by consent – 1, cf. 7:58; 22:20; Rom 1:32; Eph 5:7,11
- ✦ God's enemies can't overcome His plans – Mat. 28:18-20; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8; 2:23; Rom 8:18-39



EVIL CAN WORK FOR GOOD!

VERSES 1-3

Acts 8:1-3 (NKJV)

² And devout men carried Stephen *to his burial*, and made great lamentation over him.

³ As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing *them* to prison.

- ♦ There is actual honor in death for the godly – 2; cf. Eccl. 8:10-13; 1 Thes 4:13-18; Rev 14:13
- ♦ What if we faced the kind of persecution the early church faced? – 3; 2 Tim 3:12; 1 Pt. 4:12-16; Jam 1:1-12



THE CHURCH SCATTERED



THE CONVERTED ARE EVANGELISTIC!

VERSES 1,4

Acts 8:4 (NKJV)
4 Therefore those
who were scattered
went everywhere
preaching the word.

- ♦ If we are truly converted to the cause of Christ – wouldn't we naturally want to tell others? – 4; cf. Acts 4:12,19,20; 1 Thes 1:8
- ♦ All need the gospel – which is the only hope for the lost – Rom 3:23; 1:16,17



THE SAMARITANS CONVERTED



PREACHING CHRIST INVOLVES: VERSES 5-13

Acts 8:5 (NKJV)
5 Then Philip went
down to the city of
Samaria and
preached Christ to
them.

- ♦ The Word of God - (8:4,14,25,35)
- ♦ Jesus as the Christ - *death, burial and resurrection* - (8:5,32-35; 1 Cor. 1:23; 15:1-34)
- ♦ The Kingdom of God (8:12)
- ♦ The Name of Jesus - (8:12)
- ♦ Baptism (8:12,36; Mk 16:16)



THE SAMARITANS CONVERTED



THE SAMARITANS BELIEVED

VERSES 5-13

Acts 8:6,12,13 (NKJV)

⁶heeded

⁶hearing and seeing

¹²Believed as he

preached

¹²baptized

¹³Simon believed and
when he was baptized

- ♦ The Word of God - (8:4,14,25,35)
- ♦ Jesus as the Christ - *death, burial and resurrection* - (8:5,32-35; 1 Cor. 1:23; 15:1-34)
- ♦ The Kingdom of God (8:12)
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THE SAMARITANS CONVERTED



16

MIRACLES SERVED TO CONFIRM VERSES 6-21; MARK 16:19,20; ACTS 14:3; HEBREWS 2:4

Acts 8:6 (NKJV)

⁶ And the multitudes
with one accord heeded
the things spoken by
Philip, hearing and
**seeing the miracles
which he did.**

- ♦ The need for miraculous confirmation in each stage of advancement of the gospel - Act 2; Acts 8:6-21; Acts 10
- ♦ The contrast between the miracles of God and the deceptions of men – 9-13
- ♦ “Baptism in the name of Jesus” NOT Holy Spirit baptism – 14-19



THE SAMARITANS CONVERTED



17

MIRACLES SERVED TO CONFIRM MIRACLES HAVE CEASED

Acts 8:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money,

- ♦ The means of passing them on is not available - 6:6; 8:14-18; 19:6; Rom 1:11; 2 Tim 1:6
- ♦ Genuine miracles could not be denied – even by the critics – Acts 4:16; 8:13,18,19
- ♦ They served their appointed purpose – 1 Cor. 13:8-13; 2 Tim 3:16,17



THE SAMARITANS CONVERTED



THE FALL OF SIMON

BELIEVERS CAN FALL FROM GRACE — VERSES 18-24

Acts 8:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ But Peter said to him,
"Your money perish with
you, because you
thought that the gift of
God could be purchased
with money!"

- ♦ He was in danger of perishing— 20; 1 Tim 6:9; 2 Pet. 2:14-17
- ♦ His heart was not right with God - 21; Ps 78:37
- ♦ Poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity – Heb 12:15; John 8:34; Rom. 6:1-23
- ♦ Needed to repent and pray – 22,24; 1 John 1:9,10



THE SAMARITANS CONVERTED



THE CONTINUED EFFORTS

Acts 8:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.



CONVERSIONS IN ACTS

Examples	Believed	Repented	Confessed	Baptized
Pentecost – 2:14-41	Implied	✓ 37,38	Implied	✓ 38,41
Samaria – 8:5-13	✓ 12	Implied	Implied	✓ 12,13
Eunuch – 8:35-39	✓ 36,37	Implied	✓ 37	✓ 38
Saul – 9,22,26	Implied	Implied	Implied	✓ 22:16
Cornelius - 10:34-48	✓ 43	Implied	Implied	✓ 48
Lydia – 16:13-15	✓ 14	Implied	Implied	✓ 15
Jailor – 16:30-34	✓ 31	Implied	Implied	✓ 33
Corinthians - 18:8	✓ 8	Implied	Implied	✓ 8
Ephesians - 19:3-5	Implied	Implied	Implied	✓ 5

HAVE YOU BEEN CONVERTED?

- ✦ Not merely “have you changed your actions”
- ✦ But have you been changed in your convictions, allegiance, thinking, will, commitment, and relationship with God through a knowledge of the truth –
- ✦ True conversion results in a change in who we are – how we talk – where we go – what we do – “proving what is that acceptable and perfect will of God” in our lives -

HAVE YOU BEEN CONVERTED?

**To believe and
do what the
Samaritans did
will make us the
same thing it
made them:**

- ✦ They believed the Word of God and heeded it - (8:4,14,25)
- ✦ They believed that Jesus is the Christ - (8:5; John 8:24)
- ✦ They were obedient to Jesus in being baptized – (Mk 16:16)
- ✦ They became citizens in the Kingdom of God (Col. 1:13)
- ✦ The one who stumbled repented and prayed – (8:24)

THE SAMARITANS CONVERTED

ACTS 8:1-25

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