

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

BACK TO THE BOOK OF ACTS (BBA)

RLJ-1131

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PART 21: PERSECUTION AND VICTORY

Stephen's death broke the fear that the Jewish leadership had for the Christians. From the day of Pentecost, there had been daily miracles, which indicated some kind of supernatural power operated among the followers of Jesus. When the international Jews were able to kill Stephen and there was no supernatural resistance, they became bold and drove out the entire Christian population in Jerusalem. **Acts 8:1-4**

The Jewish leadership did not understand that God allowed this to happen since the born again Jews in Jerusalem were not obeying Jesus' command to spread out and preach the Gospel outside Jerusalem. **Matthew 28:18-20**

THE PROVINCE OF SAMARIA

There was still a lot of hostility between the Jews and the Samaritans. Remember, this province with its capitol of Samaria was sandwiched in between Galilee to the north and Judah in the south. The people living there were descendants of the 10 northern tribes who had intermarried with Gentiles and were considered bastards by the Jews. There was great hate on both sides. After the resurrection, Jesus told the apostles that He wanted the Gospel preached in Samaria. **Acts 1:8**

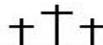
THE JUDGMENT ON ISRAEL

When the nation of Israel was divided after the death of King Solomon, ten tribes formed the northern kingdom, known as Israel. The tribes of Judah and Benjamin stayed loyal to the son of King Solomon became the southern kingdom, known as Judah. The city of Samaria was the capitol for Israel while Jerusalem was the capitol for Judah. Israel was the first to be judged by God for their sin of idolatry.

Originally the province of Samaria was the center of the Northern Kingdom, known in the Bible as Israel. The ten northern tribes were the first one to be judged by God for their sin of idolatry. Let us look at these verses in the Bible to see the severity of God's judgments:

1. They would lose the land. **Deuteronomy 28:58-68**
2. Strangers would come and take over the land and spiritual pollution would follow. **2 Kings 17:21-41; 2 Chronicles 36:16**

The ten northern tribes were never allowed by God to rule their own land again. There was no corporate redemption but salvation is available through Jesus to each individual! God will not restore the earthly kingdom of Israel like it first existed from time of King Saul until the destruction of the northern and southern kingdoms. The next unified kingdom of Israel



will not come into existence until Jesus comes back and sets up the 1000 years kingdom consisting of all born again people. Revelation 20:1-6

There is no special covenant for the twelve tribes of Israel. Each individual must have faith in the Messiah and repent. Without this every Israelite will end up in hell and later in the Lake of Fire.

There is no national salvation plan! Acts 4:12; Revelation 20:11-15

DO YOU REALLY HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?

