

EPISODE 3 “Peter & Friends in The New Adventures of The Apostles!”

The first 12 chapters of the Book of Acts, re-told in the style of the 1960s cartoon version of "The New Adventures of Superman!"

Episode 3: Acts 8:1 to 9:31 (6 minutes + 46 seconds)

Church persecuted; Philip in Samaria; Simon the Sorcerer; Philip and the Ethiopian; Saul’s conversion; church enjoys a time of peace.

Cast:

1. Narrator (Luke)
2. Person in Crowd 1
3. Person in Crowd 2
4. Philip
5. Peter
6. Ethiopian
7. Jesus
8. Saul
9. An Apostle
10. Barnabas

(slide 1 “Cheese & Jesus” present and slide 2 is Episode number)

Narrator: *(drum roll) (slide 3)* Taught by Jesus, witnesses of the resurrection, chosen by God to found the church, it’s... The Apostles! *(music starts) (slide 4)* Look! In Judea! In Samaria!

Person in Crowd1: Is it a fad?

Person in Crowd2: Is it a cult?

Narrator: *(slide 5)* No! It’s Super-Church!

(slide 6 – title slide, let some music play)

Narrator: *(slide 7)* The year is 34AD; following the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the Apostles and fellow believers have been “clothed with power from on high” and have begun to spread the gospel. The Sanhedrin, and Saul are determined to stop them. Arrests are being made; people sentenced to death. *(slide 8)* The Apostles remain in Jerusalem, but all the other believers have scattered throughout Judea and Samaria, sharing the good news about Jesus wherever they go. Philip, one of the Magnificent Seven, goes to a city in Samaria... *(slide 9)*

Person In Crowd1: Samaria! What’s a Jew doing in Samaria? Jews don’t mix with Samaritans, ever!

Person in Crowd 2: What’s wrong with mixing with Samaritans?

- Person
In Crowd1: Samaritan's are half-breeds! They diluted and poisoned their original Jewish beliefs by adding in pagan ways, and they built their own alternative temple. Jews don't talk to Samaritans, or socialise with them, and they refuse to use the same cups and bowls. The Jews and Samaritans hate one-another!
- Philip: *(slide 10)* People of Samaria! Let me tell you the good news about Jesus, the Messiah! He has come to restore our relationship with God by paying the price for our sins for us. He did this for Jews and Samaritans alike! *(slide 11)* And it is by His power that I can cast out evil spirits, and heal your sick!
- Narrator: *(slide 12)* Many believed, and when the apostles in Jerusalem heard about this, they sent Peter and John to Samaria, to lay hands on the people, and the Samaritans too were "clothed with power from on high"! *(slide 13)* Simon the Sorcerer, impressed by Philip's miracles, claimed he believed, and offered Peter money in exchange for the abilities the Holy Spirit gave...
- Peter: Simon the Sorcerer! I see you want you want this gift from God because you are jealous of the miracles Philip has performed in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jealousy and a desire for power are selfish and wicked motives. And no-one can buy the Holy Spirit! Repent, and get your heart right before God!
- Narrator: *(slide 14)* Disregarding the centuries-old Jewish tradition of segregation, Peter and John preached in many Samaritan villages on their way back to Jerusalem. *(slide 15)* Then an angel of the Lord instructed Philip to go to the Jerusalem to Gaza desert road. There he met a eunuch, one of the Queen of Ethiopia's important officials.
- Philip: What are you reading?
- Ethiopian: The book of the prophet Isaiah, but I don't understand it. Can you explain it to me?
- Philip: Yes! I can! The prophet Isaiah is writing about the promised Messiah, the one who will save us from our sins. And now that Messiah has come; his name is Jesus!
- Ethiopian: I understand and I believe! Look! Here is some water, I want to be baptized!
- Narrator: And so Philip baptized the Ethiopian; the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the Ethiopian went on his way rejoicing. *(slide 16)* Meanwhile, Saul continued to persecute the Christians. *(slide 17)* But on his way to Damascus to arrest more Christians, a light from heaven flashed around him...
- Jesus: Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?
- Saul: Who are you Lord?
- Jesus: I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting!

Narrator: Saul was blind for 3 days, until the Lord sent a disciple to lay hands on him. *(slide 18)* Saul got baptized, then, “clothed with power from on high” went to the synagogues in Damascus to preach that Jesus is the Son of God! *(slide 19)* Some of the Jews plotted to kill him, but, with help, he managed to escape into Arabia where he was taught by “revelation from Jesus Christ” himself for three years *(Gal 1: 11-18)*. *(slide 20)* Saul then went to Jerusalem and tried to join the other disciples.

Apostle: Saul’s the one who’s been putting Christians in prison, and having them killed! This is a ploy to get close to us! Don’t trust him!

Peter: Barnabas, Son of Encouragement, what do you say?

Barnabas: Saul met the Lord on the road to Damascus, and he preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus in the synagogues there. He’s a genuine convert!

Narrator: So the disciples accepted Saul, and he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord throughout Jerusalem, until some Hellenistic Jews tried to kill him, and the believers had to send him away to Tarsus. *(slide 21)* Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace.

(slide 22) Tune in next time to find out what happens else happens to Peter and friends in, “The New Adventures of The Apostles!”