

# The Book of Acts

## Study Guide and Discussion Questions

### Week 9

### Chapters 8-9

1. This sorcerer named Simon – wasn't just a deceiver – he manipulated the people. What did he say was the source of his power?

---

---

---

2. What does Simon do that reveals that he is NOT actually in one accord with the apostles and believers?

---

---

---

3. Why is this offer to purchase the Holy Spirit such an affront to the others? What does this imply about Simon? About the Holy Spirit?

---

---

---

---

4. What did Jesus say about how we are to recognize a true believer from an unbeliever?

Matthew 7:15-23

Matthew 12:34

Luke 6:45

Mark 7:21

Psalm 44:21

---

---

---

---

**5. Read Acts 8:26-8:38 - He meets an Ethiopian on the way. What do we know about this man?**

---

---

---

---

**A little history lesson:**

**A little history lesson:**

The word "Candace" is a title, from the Greek *Kandakē*, not a name, similar to the use of "Pharaoh." The territory called "Ethiopia" in the Bible is Nubia, which includes parts of modern-day southern Egypt and northern Sudan. In Ethiopia, the king was thought to be the child of the sun—far too important to do the work of running a country. His mother, the *Candace*, performed the royal duties.

It was common for royal court officials to be castrated. This was partly meant to curb the man's ability to be tempted by sex. It was also thought that if a man was incapable of having his own heirs, he would be more loyal to his master and not try to leave his own legacy. The money of the kingdom would be safe with a man who could not have sons.

The royal court of Ethiopia had long-time relations with Israel and Israel's God. It's believed the Queen of Sheba was Ethiopian (1 Kings 10:1–13), and an Ethiopian eunuch rescued the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 38:7–13). This official is following the Mosaic law to worship only in the place God establishes (Deuteronomy 12:5–7; 2 Chronicles 7:12, 16), despite the distance. It's unclear how much he was allowed to worship. Deuteronomy 23:1 prohibits a eunuch from entering "the assembly of the LORD," but in Isaiah 56:1–8 God welcomes the foreigners and the eunuchs.

**6. How does the Eunuch respond?**

---

---

---

---

---

**7. When he comes up out of the water what happens?**

---

---

---

---

**8. What is the significance of the Ethiopian's conversion? What does it reveal about the Heart of God?**

---

---

---

---

**9. The Result?**

Today, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church is the largest branch within Oriental Orthodoxy, the group that split from the unified church after the Council of Chalcedon, long before the Eastern Orthodox Churches split from the Roman Catholics.