

Acts 8:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Analysis

When Samaritans believed Philip's preaching about 'the kingdom of God' and 'the name of Jesus Christ,' they were baptized. This demonstrates saving faith's response: belief leads to baptism as a visible sign of invisible grace. The dual emphasis on God's kingdom and Jesus' name shows the gospel's comprehensive claim - Jesus as the Messiah-King establishing God's reign. Reformed theology sees effective calling here: the Spirit worked through Philip's preaching to grant faith and repentance. Both men and women believed, showing the gospel's universal appeal.

Historical Context

This represents the first Samaritan conversions to Christianity, fulfilling Jesus' words to the Samaritan woman (John 4:42). The mixed Jewish-Gentile nature of Samaritans made them a bridge population between the Jewish and Gentile missions.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does baptism signify about the nature of saving faith?
2. How does the gospel of the kingdom differ from mere moral reform?
3. Why is belief in Jesus' name essential to entering God's kingdom?

Interlinear Text

ὅτε δὲ ἐπίστευσαν τῷ Φιλίππῳ εὐαγγελιζομένῳ τὰ
when **But** **they believed** G3753 G1161 G4100 G3588 **Philip** G5376 **preaching** G2097 G3588
περὶ τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ τοῦ
the things concerning G4012 G3588 **the kingdom** G932 G3588 **of God** G2316 **and** G2532 G3588
ὀνόματος τοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐβαπτίζοντο ἄνδρες τε
the name G3686 G3588 **of Jesus** G2424 **Christ** G5547 **they were baptized** G907 **men** G435 **both** G5037
καὶ γυναῖκες
and G2532 **women** G1135

Additional Cross-References

Acts 2:38 (Baptism): Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 1:3 (Kingdom): To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Matthew 28:19 (Parallel theme): Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Acts 2:41 (Baptism): Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

1 Peter 3:21 (Baptism): The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Romans 10:10 (Faith): For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Galatians 3:28 (References Jesus): There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.