

Acts Chapters 7-9 Question

1. Acts 7:42 “Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness?”

Where these sacrifices acceptable unto God? Why or why not? Compare Amos 5:25-27. Also Deuteronomy 32:17.

“Gave them up” (paredôken). First aorist active indicative of paradidômi. This same form occurs three times like clods on a coffin in a grave in Romans 1:24, 26, and 28 where Paul speaks of God giving the heathen up to their lusts. To serve the host of heaven (latreuein têi stratiâi tou ouranou). The verb latreuô is used of the worship of God (Mt 4:10) as well as of idols as here (from latron, hire, latris, hireling, then to serve). But the worship of the host of heaven (Deuteronomy 17:3; 2Kings 17:16; 21:3; 2 Chronicles 33:3,5; Jeremiah 8:2; 19:13) is Sabatism (As`trol`a`try) or worship of the host (stratia) of heaven (sun, moon, and stars) instead of the Lord of hosts. **A. T. Robertson's Word Pictures**

2. In Acts 7:55-56 “But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.” What does Luke write concerning the posture of the Son of Man at the martyrdom of Stephen and why or why not is this unusual?

And Jesus standing (kai Iêsoun hestôta). Full of the Holy Spirit, gazing steadfastly into heaven, he saw God's glory and Jesus "standing" as if he had risen to cheer the brave Stephen. Elsewhere (save verse Acts 7:56 also) he is pictured as sitting at the right hand of God (the Session of Christ) as in Mt 26:64; Mark 16:19; Acts 2:34; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3. **A. T. Robertson's Word Pictures**

3. Acts 8:13 “Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.” Based on the teaching of the Lord Jesus, specifically “you shall know them by their fruits” and the later writings of Luke concerning this individual named Simon, would you say that he was truly “Born Again”, why or why not? Notice

carefully Peter's statement in Acts 8:23 and possibly referring to Proverbs 5:22 "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins."

Alluding to Deuteronomy 29:18 signifying, that he was in a state of nature and unregeneracy; under the power and dominion of covetousness, ambition, and hypocrisy; and in a way pernicious to himself, infectious to others, and ungrateful to God, and to good men; and that instead of the root of the matter, the truth of grace being in him, there was nothing in him but the bitter root of sin; which bore gall and wormwood, and everything that was nauseous and disagreeable: and in the bond of iniquity; referring to Proverbs 5:22 and suggesting, that he was held fast bound in the bonds of sin, and with the cords of iniquity, or was entirely under the government of his lusts: John Gill

4. By what mode of transportation did Philip travel from Gaza to Azotus (Hb. Ashdod), a distance of about thirty miles after his encounter with a man from Ethiopia? Acts 8:29-40;

The Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip - Carried him away with a miraculous swiftness, without any action or labor of his own. This had befallen several of the prophets. cp. 1Kings 18:12; 2Kings 2:16. **John Wesley's Notes on the Bible**

1 Kings 18:12; "And as soon as I have gone from you, the Spirit of the LORD will carry you I know not where. And so, when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he will kill me, although I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth." 2 Kings 2:16 "And they said to him, "Behold now, there are with your servants fifty strong men. Please let them go and seek your master. It may be that the Spirit of the LORD has caught him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley." And he said, "You shall not send."