

“The people and personalities we meet throughout the Bible were all prepared and equipped by God for the special purposes He had ordained for them. This is also true of people we meet today—and its true for you and for me!”

—Warren Wiersbe

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Overview of Acts

The Founding Emphasis Acts 1:1–5:42

The Forward Emphasis Acts 6:1–12:25

The Foreign Emphasis Acts 13:1–28:31

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¹And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ²Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him.

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³But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. ⁴Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word... ⁸So there was much joy in that city.

—Acts 8:1-4, 8 ESV

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²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure.

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He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

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³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: ³³“Like a sheep He was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He opens not His mouth.

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³³In His humiliation justice was denied Him. Who can describe His generation? For His life is taken away from the earth.” ³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

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³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

—Acts 8:26-38 ESV

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Acts 8:26

God Issues Different Assignments
For His People

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Sometimes the will of God in our lives comes by revelation—directive guidance.

Other times, God’s work in our lives is through transition—corrective movements.

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Acts 8:27-30

God Prepares Divine Appointments
For His People

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“A divine appointment is when God brings you into contact with a specific individual at a specific time and place whom He intends to bring to Himself through this contact with you.”

—D. James Kennedy

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Acts 8:30-31

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³He was despised and rejected by men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as One from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. ⁴Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵But He was pierced for our transgressions;

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He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all... ¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief;

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when His soul makes an offering for guilt, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous One, My servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities. —Isaiah 53:3-6, 10-11 | ESV

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Acts 8:31

God Uses Diverse Experiences to Prepare People to Receive the Gospel

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⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you.

⁸And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

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⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see Me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. —John 16:7-11 ESV

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“Jesus didn’t come to make bad people good, but dead people live.”

—C.S. Lewis

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¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. —Ephesians 2:1-3 ESV

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¹⁴How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent?

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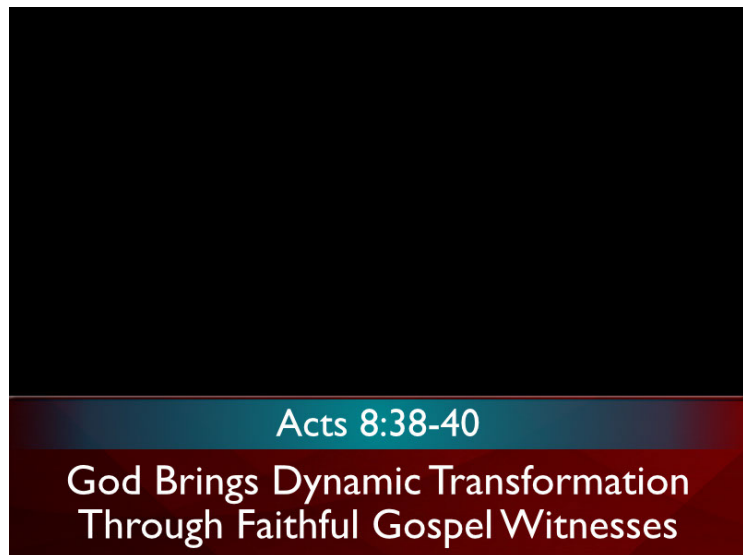
As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “LORD, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

—Romans 10:14-17 ESV

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