

# The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness.

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness—Isa. 35-8.

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## A Great Persecution, Great Lamentation, A Great Revival. And There Was Great Joy in That City.

The word great is found seven times in this chapter. It is applied to events, to expressions of deep sorrow, manifestations of joy and to men.

It conveys to us the facts that these things mentioned, reached beyond the ordinary occurrences of events of a similar kind, and leaves us to judge the magnitude of the events by the results effected.

### PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH.

**At that time there was a great persecution of the church which was at Jerusalem.**

There is only two verses given to this in relating this important event. This is said to be a great persecution and evidently nothing of the elements of persecution, including violence reaching danger to the lives of its members, which were all scattered abroad, except the Apostles. We wish to draw attention to the fact that there was no time or energy expended in fighting the persecutors, the church lost nothing in any way in spiritual power or zeal.

Before the work of these people is mentioned it is stated:

**"And devout men carried Stephen to his burial and made great lamentation over him."**

The first Christian martyr received a Christian burial. He had won the prize.

We naturally say, a great loss to the church. Was it? It looked that way to friends, and the persecutors no doubt gloried in their success.

But the gospel according to Stephen lives and sends forth a great shining light through the world.

We also have the statement. **"And for Saul, he made havoc of the church,"** scattered and destroyed. The awful mistake of a great man. He thought he was doing God service.

This statement alone is a subject worthy of most serious thought. Is it possible in this day that men are making havoc of the church of Jesus Christ, who in their blindness think they are doing God ser-

vice?

At this dark period of the history of this spirit baptized church light breaks in with the declaration. **"Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word."** A scattered church but a united church. They all preached the word, not one phase of it, but the Word.

**"Wherever they went, they proclaimed the same doctrines, though at the risk and hazard of their lives."**

What a power of this very fact would accompany their messages. But in following this chapter there was one particular man now brought to the front by Dr. Luke in the statement:

**"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them."**

No big tabernacle, nor combination of churches, but—

### A GREAT REVIVAL.

Something about the man and his message attracted the undivided attention of the people.

**And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.**

Then follows a statement of a number of wonderful things that took place, which would have stirred any community.

Many of these people did not have a still born experience.

For it is said—**For unclean spirits crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed of them; and many taken with palsies, and that were lame were healed.**

**And there was great joy in that city!**

Ah! this was an extremely emotional affair, but also an exceedingly powerful and effectual affair, a real genuine revival, that was considered worthy of a place in the greatest and most read book in the world. This revival revolutionized the whole city.

Cleaned up Simon, the sorcerer's business and had such tremendous success that Simon decided to go out as an evangelist,

and professed conversion and joined Philip in his meeting and went in with the crowd and was baptized and joined the church, and passed as a real convert and no doubt was counted as a big catch—as he thought he was a great man, and people thought he possessed the great power of God.

But there was another great blessing in store for these converts, and Peter and John came down to hold a holiness convention, as delegates from the Apostles.

**"Who, when they were come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Ghost:"**

Now, there is every evidence that the people were genuinely converted under Philip's preaching, even Simon it is stated believed and was baptized, and was received by all as all right until the gift of the Holy Ghost was given, then his real inward condition was disclosed to Peter. In Simon's case three things can be noted. 1st. The Holy Ghost is not given to people whose hearts are not right with God. 2nd. There is a right and a wrong way of seeking the gift of the Holy Spirit—not by purchase or mere generosity, nor merit. 3rd. Nor can the gift of the Holy Spirit be obtained for the wrong purpose, and it is needless to look very far to find out why so comparatively few obtain this great essential gift of salvation and a successful Christian life. Rightness with God is inevitably essential to obtaining the true Christian's inheritance. And 4th If the gift of the Holy Spirit as a definite second blessing is not needful for these people, why were Peter and John sent to them just at this stage of this great revival at Samaria.

These circumstances related in the 8th

chapter of the Acts reveals how God can turn persecution, and havoc, of the church, into a wonderful chain of success, and blessing, extending throughout the succeeding centuries in the richest blessings to the people of God who has not been blessed in reading this chapter?

Mrs Geo Teallic. Dec. 20