

## READING THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2021 Week 2 (January 11-15)

("Let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly" ... and bear fruit in our lives) – Colossians 3:16.

### Historical Context

33 AD The church chooses even assistants to distribute food, so that the apostles can give themselves to and prayer and the ministry of the Word

Stephen, one of the assistants, is accused of blasphemy and stoned to death.

Persecution breaks out against the church in Jerusalem. The Jewish believers are scattered throughout Judaea and Samaria, and flee to Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch in Syria.

Philip joins the believers who have fled to Sebaste (Samaria). Many people are healed and more become believers. Peter and John are sent from Jerusalem. As they pray for the new believers, the Samaritans are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Philip baptizes an official from the court of the Queen of Ethiopia, then travels to Caesarea where he settles.

Saul (Paul) travels to Damascus to persecute the believers. On the way, the risen Lord Jesus appears to him and he is converted. He spends some time away from the city, then returns to Damascus for three years.

36 AD Paul visits Cephas and James - the leaders of the church in Jerusalem.

Peter visits the believers in Lydda where he heals Aeneas. In Joppa, he raises Tabitha from death.

Peter travels to Caesarea where Cornelius, a Roman centurion, and his family become the first Gentile believers.

Dates synthesized from: [www.thebiblejourney.org](http://www.thebiblejourney.org), the [Chronological Study Bible](#), the [IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament](#), and [Paul Apostle of the Heart Set Free](#).

<u>Day</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Clarification from the Greek (the original language)</u>
Mon.	Acts 6	(:7) <i>Obedience</i> = Listen to / answer / do as told / submit.
Tues.	7	(:51) <i>Resist</i> = fall against / oppose / strive against.
Wed.	8	(:12) <i>Baptized</i> = dip (as in dye and become that color) / cause to perish (as when a person drowns, or ship sinks – cf. Romans 6:1-12).
Thur.	9	(:15) <i>Instrument</i> = vessel – cf. II Corinthians 4:7.
Fri.	10	(:36) <i>Peace</i> = well-being the comes from the absence of conflict.

Primary references: [Dictionary of New Testament Theology](#), Vol. 1-3; the [Analytical Greek Lexicon, Revised](#), [The Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament](#), and [The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament](#).  
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