

إِصْطِهَادُ الْكَنِيسَةِ فِي أُورُشَلِيمَ

¹وَكَانَ سَاوُلُ رَاضِيًا بِقَبْلِهِ. وَحَدَّثَ فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ اصْطِهَادَ عَظِيمٍ عَلَى الْكَنِيسَةِ الَّتِي فِي أُورُشَلِيمَ فَتَشَتَّتَ الْجَمِيعُ فِي كُورِ الْيَهُودِيَّةِ وَالسَّامِرَةِ مَا عَدَا الرُّسُلَ.² وَحَمَلَ رَجُلٌ أَتِفَاءً اسْتِيقَاوُسَ وَعَمِلُوا عَلَيْهِ مَتَاحَةَ عَظِيمَةً.³ وَأَمَّا سَاوُلُ فَكَانَ يَسْطُو عَلَى الْكَنِيسَةِ، وَهُوَ يَدْخُلُ الْبُيُوتَ وَيَجُرُّ رَجَالًا وَنِسَاءً وَيُسَلِّمُهُمْ إِلَى السَّجْنِ.

فِيلِبُّسُ يَكْرِزُ بِالْمَسِيحِ فِي السَّامِرَةِ

⁴قَالِذِينَ تَشْتَوُوا جَالُوا مُبَشِّرِينَ بِالْكَلِمَةِ.⁵ فَانْحَدَرَ فِيلِبُّسُ إِلَى مَدِينَةٍ مِنَ السَّامِرَةِ وَكَانَ يَكْرِزُ لَهُمَ بِالْمَسِيحِ.⁶ وَكَانَ الْجُمُوعُ يَضْعُونَ نَفْسَ وَاحِدَةٍ إِلَى مَا يَقُولُهُ فِيلِبُّسُ عِنْدَ اسْتِمَاعِهِمْ وَتَطْرَهُمُ الْآيَاتُ الَّتِي صَنَعَهَا.⁷ لِأَنَّ كَثِيرِينَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ بِهِمْ أَرْوَاحُ نَجِسَةٍ كَانَتْ تَخْرُجُ صَارِحَةً بِصَوْتٍ عَظِيمٍ، وَكَثِيرُونَ مِنَ الْمَفْلُوجِينَ وَالْعُجَجِ شَفُوا.⁸ فَكَانَ قَرَحٌ عَظِيمٌ فِي تِلْكَ الْمَدِينَةِ.⁹ وَكَانَ قَبْلًا فِي الْمَدِينَةِ رَجُلٌ، اسْمُهُ سِيمُونُ، يَسْتَعْمِلُ السَّخَرَ وَيُدْهِشُ شَعْبَ السَّامِرَةِ قَائِلًا، إِنَّهُ شَيْءٌ عَظِيمٌ.¹⁰ وَكَانَ الْجَمِيعُ يَنْبَغُونَهُ مِنَ الصَّغِيرِ إِلَى الْكَبِيرِ قَائِلِينَ: هَذَا هُوَ قُوَّةُ اللَّهِ الْعَظِيمَةِ.¹¹ وَكَانُوا يَنْبَغُونَهُ لِكُونِهِمْ قَدْ انْدَهَشُوا رَمَانًا طَوِيلًا بِسِحْرِهِ.¹² وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا صَدَّقُوا فِيلِبُّسَ وَهُوَ يُبَشِّرُ بِالْأُمُورِ الْمُخْتَصَّةِ بِمَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ وَبِاسْمِ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ اعْتَمَدُوا رَجَالًا وَنِسَاءً.¹³ وَسِيمُونُ أَيْضًا تَعَسَّهَ آمَنَ، وَلَمَّا اعْتَمَدَ كَانَ يُبَارِزُ فِيلِبُّسَ، وَإِذْ رَأَى آيَاتٍ وَقُوَّاتٍ عَظِيمَةً تُجْرَى انْدَهَشَ.

الرَّسُولَانِ بَطْرُسُ وَبُوحَنَّا فِي السَّامِرَةِ

¹⁴وَلَمَّا سَمِعَ الرُّسُلُ الَّذِينَ فِي أُورُشَلِيمَ أَنَّ السَّامِرَةَ قَدْ قَبِلَتْ كَلِمَةَ اللَّهِ، أَرْسَلُوا إِلَيْهِمْ بَطْرُسَ وَبُوحَنَّا، الَّذِينَ لَمَّا تَزَلَا صَلَاتًا لِأَجْلِهِمْ لِكَيْ يَقْبَلُوا الرُّوحَ الْقُدُسَ.¹⁵ لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ قَدْ حَلَّ بَعْدَ عَلَى أَحَدٍ مِنْهُمْ، غَيْرَ أَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا مُعْتَمِدِينَ بِاسْمِ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ.¹⁷ حِينَئِذٍ وَصَعَا الْآيَادِي عَلَيْهِمْ فَقَبِلُوا الرُّوحَ الْقُدُسَ.¹⁸ وَلَمَّا رَأَى سِيمُونُ أَنَّهُ يَوْضَعُ أَيْدِي الرُّسُلِ يُعْطَى الرُّوحَ الْقُدُسَ قَدَّمَ لَهُمَا دَرَاهِمَ.¹⁹ قَائِلًا: أَعْطِيَانِي أَنَا أَيْضًا هَذَا السُّلْطَانَ حَتَّى أَقْبَلَ مِنْ وَصَعَتْ عَلَيْهِ يَدَيَّ يَقْبَلُ الرُّوحَ الْقُدُسَ.²⁰ فَقَالَ لَهُ بَطْرُسُ: لَيْتَكَ فَضْلُكَ مَعَكَ لِلْهَلَاكِ لَأَنَّكَ طَنَنْتَ أَنْ تَقْتَنِي مَوْهَبَةَ اللَّهِ بِدَرَاهِمَ.²¹ لَيْسَ لَكَ نَصِيبٌ وَلَا قُرْعَةٌ فِي هَذَا الْأَمْرِ، لِأَنَّ قَلْبَكَ لَيْسَ مُسْتَقِيمًا أَمَامَ اللَّهِ.²² قَتُبُ مِنْ

¹And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.²And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.³As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.⁴Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.⁵Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.⁶And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.⁷For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.⁸And there was great joy in that city.⁹But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:¹⁰To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.¹¹And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.¹²But 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.¹³Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered,

سَرَّكَ هَذَا وَاطْلُبْ إِلَى اللَّهِ عَسَى أَنْ يُعْقَرَ لَكَ فِكْرُ قَلْبِكَ.²³ لَا تَنِي أَرَاكَ فِي مَرَارَةِ الْمُرِّ وَرِبَاطِ الطَّلْمِ.²⁴ فَأَجَابَ سِمْوُنُ وَقَالَ: اطلُبَا أَنتُمَا إِلَى الرَّبِّ مِنْ أَجْلِي لِكَيْ لَا يَأْتِيَ عَلَيَّ شَيْءٌ مِمَّا ذَكَرْتُمَا.²⁵ بَلْ إِنَّمَا بَعْدَ مَا شَهِدَا وَتَكَلَّمَا بِكَلِمَةِ الرَّبِّ، رَجَعَا إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ وَبَشَّرَا قُرَى كَثِيرَةً لِلسَّامِرِيِّينَ.

فيلبس يُعَمِّدُ الرَّجُلَ الْحَبَشِيَّ

²⁶ ثُمَّ إِنَّ مَلَكَ الرَّبِّ كَلَّمَ فِيلِبَّسَ قَائِلًا: قُمْ وَاهْبُتْ تَحَوِّ الْجَنُوبِ عَلَى الطَّرِيقِ الْمُتَحَدِّثَةِ مِنْ أُورُشَلِيمَ إِلَى غَزَّةَ الَّتِي هِيَ بَرْيَّةٌ.²⁷ فَقَامَ وَذَهَبَ، وَإِذَا رَجُلٌ حَبَشِيٌّ خَصِيٌّ وَزِيرٌ لِكِنْدَاكَةِ، مَلِكَةِ الْخَبَشَةِ، كَانَ عَلَى جَمِيعِ خَزَائِنِهَا فَهَذَا كَانَ قَدْ جَاءَ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ لِيَسْجُدَ. وَكَانَ رَاجِعًا وَجَالِسًا عَلَى مَرْكَبَتِهِ وَهُوَ يَقْرَأُ النَّبِيَّ إِسْعْيَاءَ.²⁹ فَقَالَ الرُّوحُ لِفِيلِبَّسَ: تَقَدَّمْ وَرَافِقْ هَذِهِ الْمَرْكَبَةَ.³⁰ فَتَوَدَّعَ إِلَيْهِ فِيلِبَّسُ وَسَمِعَهُ يَقْرَأُ النَّبِيَّ إِسْعْيَاءَ فَقَالَ: أَلَعَلَّكَ تَفْهَمُ مَا أَنْتَ تَقْرَأُ؟³¹ فَقَالَ: كَيْفَ يُمَكِّنُنِي إِنْ لَمْ يُرْشِدْنِي أَحَدٌ؟ وَطَلَبَ إِلَى فِيلِبَّسَ أَنْ يَصْعَدَ وَيَجْلِسَ مَعَهُ.³² وَأَمَّا قَضَلُ الْكِتَابِ الَّذِي كَانَ يَقْرَأُهُ فَكَانَ هَذَا: "مِثْلُ سَاءِ سَبَقٍ إِلَى الذَّبْحِ وَمِثْلُ خُرُوفٍ صَامِتٍ أَمَامَ الَّذِي يَجْزُهُ هَكَذَا لَمْ يَفْتَحْ فَاهُ،³³ فِي تَوَاضُعِهِ انْتَرَعَ قَضَاؤُهُ، وَجِيلُهُ مِنْ يُخْبِرُ بِهِ؟ لِأَنَّ حَيَاتَهُ تُشْرَعُ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ".³⁴ فَأَجَابَ الْخَصِيُّ فِيلِبَّسَ وَقَالَ: أَطْلُبُ إِلَيْكَ، عَنْ مَنْ يَقُولُ النَّبِيُّ هَذَا؟ عَنْ نَفْسِهِ أَمْ عَنْ وَاحِدٍ آخَرَ؟³⁵ فَفَتَحَ فِيلِبَّسُ فَاهُ وَابْتَدَأَ مِنْ هَذَا الْكِتَابِ قَتَشَرَهُ يَسُوعَ.

³⁶ وَفِيمَا هُمَا سَائِرَانِ فِي الطَّرِيقِ أَقْبَلَا عَلَى مَاءٍ، فَقَالَ الْخَصِيُّ: هُوَذَا مَاءٌ، مَاذَا يَمْنَعُ أَنْ أَعْتَمِدَ؟³⁷ فَقَالَ فِيلِبَّسُ: إِنْ كُنْتَ تُؤْمِنُ مِنْ كُلِّ قَلْبِكَ يَجُوزُ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ: أَنَا أُوْمِنُ أَنَّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ هُوَ ابْنُ اللَّهِ.³⁸ فَأَمَرَ أَنْ تَقِفَ الْمَرْكَبَةُ، فَتَرَلَا كِلَاهُمَا إِلَى الْمَاءِ، فِيلِبَّسُ وَالْخَصِيُّ، فَعَمَّدَهُ.³⁹ وَلَمَّا صَعِدَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ حَطَفَ رُوحُ الرَّبِّ فِيلِبَّسَ فَلَمْ يُبْصِرْهُ الْخَصِيُّ أَيْضًا، وَذَهَبَ فِي طَرِيقِهِ قَرَجًا.⁴⁰ وَأَمَّا فِيلِبَّسُ فَوَجَدَ فِي أَسَدُودَ، وَبَيْتَمَا هُوَ مُجْتَازٌ كَانَ يُبَشِّرُ جَمِيعَ الْمُدُنِ حَتَّى جَاءَ إِلَى قَيْصَرِيَّةَ.

beholding the miracles and signs which were done.¹⁴ Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:¹⁵ Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:¹⁶ (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)¹⁷ Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.¹⁸ And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,¹⁹ Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.²⁰ But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.²¹ Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.²² Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.²³ For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.²⁴ Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.²⁵ And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.²⁶ And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.²⁷ And he arose and went: and,

behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,²⁸ Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.²⁹ Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.³⁰ And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?³¹ And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.³² The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:³³ In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.³⁴ And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.³⁶ And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?³⁷ And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.³⁹ And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught

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away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.