

## Discerning the Community V

### Samaria

During the time of the divided kingdom there were two capitals Jerusalem and Samaria.

Samaria was the capital of Northern Kingdom Israel.

Both cities were “sin city.”

Both cities pursued idols and rejected exclusive worship to God alone.

- The results were devastating.

Consider **Acts 8:5-17**

### I

The preaching was centered on Christ, the Messiah and great liberator.

Phillip preaches the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. **Vs 12**

The preaching was a new king, and kingdom.

The kingdom is a new throne, dominion, principality and power.

- Consider **Eph 1:21** and **Col 1:16**

### II

The problem the city was in bondage.

The city was bewitched. **Vs 19**

The city's principality was Simon.

The city was **bewitched** by sorcery. **Vs 11 KJV**

Bewitched means to be astounded, astonished or struck with amazement.

Bewitched means to be out of one's mind.

Sorcery means magic, whether sleight of hand or **supernatural** trickery.

Magic is from the phrase *follower of Magi*, the god of the Persians.

The condition was people were lame, sick and filled with unclean spirits.  
**Vs 7**

When unclean spirits are **enthroned** in cities, the city is in bondage.

- Unclean spirits manifest themselves in the lives of the residents.

### **III**

The **purpose** of the preaching of the kingdom of God and Jesus Christ is the announcement of a new community.

The result was the city was **liberated**.

Healing came through the preaching of the kingdom of God.

All freedom from thrones and dominions comes by more powerful authority. **Vs 12**

When they believed, they were baptized, both men and women.

When they received the word of God (**vs14**) and were baptized, they needed the Holy Ghost (**vs15**).

- The Holy Ghost brings the life and power of God into us.

- The Holy Ghost in us is our greatest force to resist the devil.
- The Holy Ghost gives us power to cast out devils.

When darkness is displaced by the kingdom of God, the community has great joy!

- Liberation brings great joy to the city. **Vs 8**