

Acts 8:1-4

-chapter 1: leadership and the establishment of a culture of faithful prayer

-chapter 2: the birth of the church

-chapters 2-4: the community of the church

-chapter 5: the imposition of church discipline by the Holy Spirit through Peter

-chapter 6: further organization of the church / diaconal ministry.

- Chapters 2-7: the rising
opposition to the church in
Jerusalem/Stephen's
execution

-Matthew 16:18 (ESV) ...I
will build my church, and
the gates of hell shall not
prevail against it.

*Ominous Opposition vs
Invincible Church*

-Ephesians 6:12 (ESV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

-Acts 22:4 (ESV) I
persecuted this Way to the
death, binding and
delivering to prison both
men and women...

-Acts 26:9-11 (ESV) 9 "...11

And I punished them often in
all the synagogues and tried
to make them blaspheme,
and in raging fury against
them I persecuted them even
to foreign cities.

Jesus will build His church
and the gates of hell will not
prevail against it!