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   Sommario/riassunto   The portrait of the Samaritan mission in Acts 8:4-25 is the climax of
                         various Lukan episodes involving the Samaritans. This work shows that
                         the function of this portrait makes better sense in light of the historical
                         context of the Samaritans up to and including the New Testament
                         period, and of Luke's special interest in the Samaritans as depicted in
                         his Gospel. A review of the socio-ethnic and religious contexts of the
                         Samaritans points to the conclusion that they struggled to establish the
                         legitimacy of their identity and status as a people. In some Jewish