# Freedom and persecutions at Neapolis in Samaria, 247–253 CE Neapolis (modern Nablus) is located in the centre of Samaria, at the northern slope of Mount Gerizim. The city was founded by the Roman Emperor Vespasian as *Flavia Neapolis*. Many of the coins issued by the city depict Mount Gerizim with a Roman temple and an altar on its summit. But Neapolis is also the city of the Samaritans who consider Mount Gerizim as the location chosen by God for His temple. In 247 CE, the Emperor Philip the Arab raised Neapolis to the prestigious rank of a Roman *Colonia*. A surprising coinage was issued for this occasion. Coins of this series show a man holding a knife against another man bound at his feet, and a woman with a ram. On another issue, the figure previously kneeling is standing, unbounded, and the ram is being sacrificed. These two issues clearly depict the Binding of Isaac, following the Samaritan tradition that considers Mount Gerizim as the sacred place where this event took place. Alongside a wall painting in the synagogue of Dura Europos, dated to 245 CE, these coins are the second earliest representations of this Biblical scene.  Philip’s successor, Trajan Decius, revoked the city’s rank of *Colonia*, but it was restored as such by Trebonianus Gallus a few years later. The reasons for this very unusual loss of status will be discussed using the evidence given by two manuscripts that record the relationship of the Samaritans with the Romans authorities.