

Acts 8: 26 - 40

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Philip and the Ethiopian - Acts 8:26-40

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1. What did the angel tell Philip to do? (8:26)

Acts 8: 26

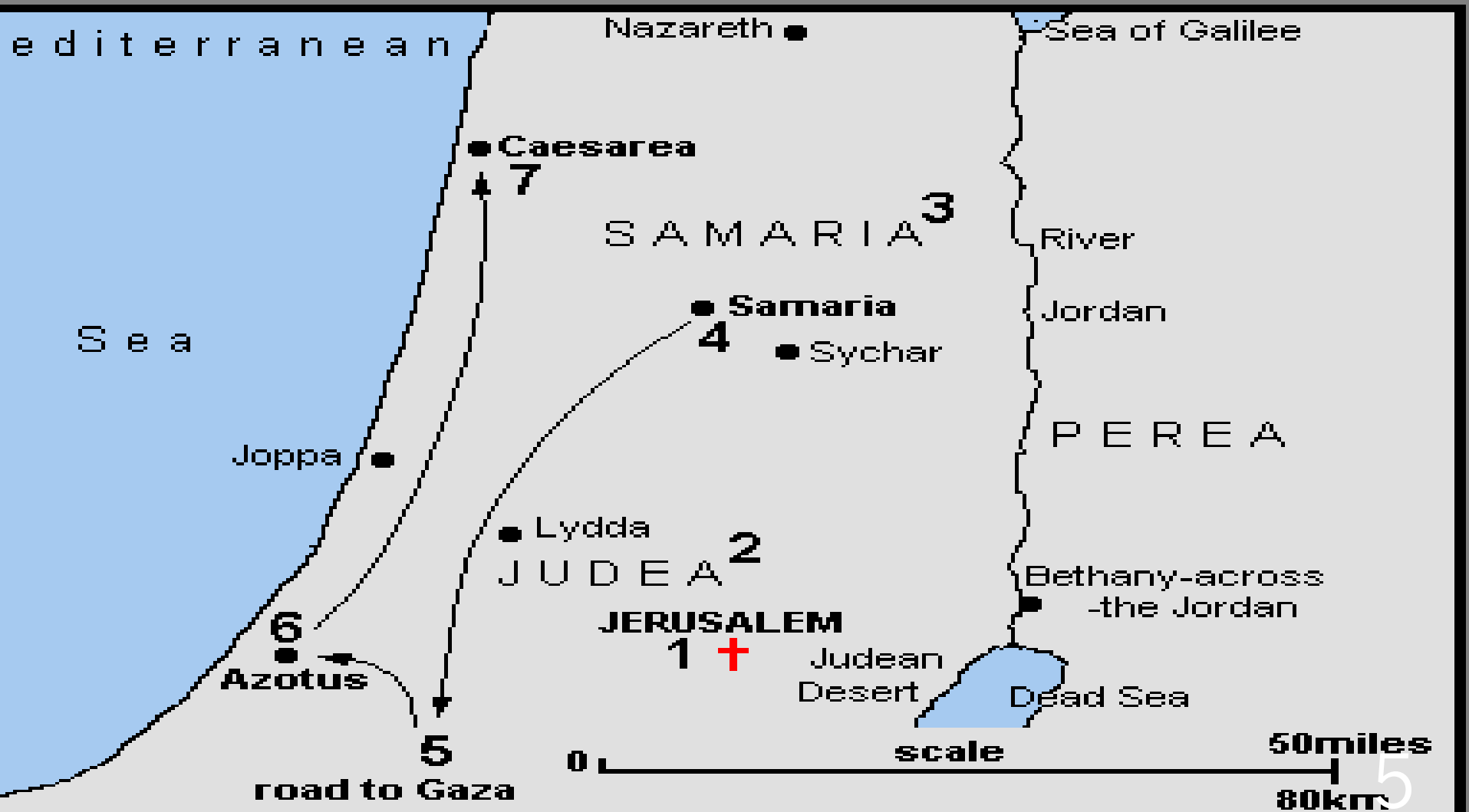
26 But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, “Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert *road*.)

“Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

The angel of the Lord guided Philip:

1. Get up
2. Go south to the road to a certain road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza. The road was a desert road.

1. Angels no longer speak to man today due to God's revelation being completed and perfect.
2. Philip dealt with demonic angels in Samaria yet now communicates with a faithful angel of the Lord. The angel instructs Philip to travel to Gaza by way of a desert route.
3. Gaza was one of the five chief cities of the Philistines.
4. God did not tell Philip why he was to travel the main road to the south, only to arise and go. Just as Abraham of old, Philip had to walk by faith. He arose and went, not knowing why, but trusting God to show him.
5. Philip trusted God to lead him to those who are seeking God.



2. Why had the eunuch gone to Jerusalem? (8:27)

Acts 8: 27

27 So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and **he had come to Jerusalem to worship,**

“He had come to Jerusalem to worship”

1. Ethiopia is in Africa due south of Egypt.
2. The eunuch was the country's treasurer in power over all the queen's funds.

3. What was the eunuch doing while he sat in the chariot? (8:28)

Acts 8: 28

28 and he was returning and sitting in his chariot and was reading the prophet Isaiah.

The eunuch was reading the prophet Isaiah.

1. The Ethiopian eunuch was riding along in his chariot, not observing the scenery, not taking care of some official paperwork, but reading the Isaiah scroll.

2. The man was experiencing a deep hunger and thirst for God.

3. A person must hunger and thirst after righteousness, true righteousness, to be saved.

4. One must not only *believe*, but diligently seek God.

Jer. 29: 13

13 ‘You will seek Me and find *Me* when you search for Me with all your heart.

Matt. 5: 6

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Jn. 5: 39

39 “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

4. What did the Holy Spirit tell Philip to do? (8:29)

Acts 8: 29

29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.”

“Go up and join this chariot.”

1. The Holy Spirit guided Philip to present the message of the cross to the eunuch.

2. This is the first “one on one” Bible study recorded in Acts.

5. What did Philip ask the eunuch? (8:30)

Acts 8: 30

30 Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

“Do you understand what you are reading?”

The eunuch was a worshiper of God and now we see that he was a student of God's Word.

Philip did four significant things.

1. **Philip obeyed the Spirit of God.** He ran up to the man. When he did what the Spirit instructed, Philip found out that the man was prepared to receive the witness of the Lord. He heard the man reading the Scripture out loud.
2. **Philip initiated a conversation with the man.** Philip did not wait for the man to notice and question him as to why he was running alongside the chariot. Philip took the lead; he spoke first.
3. **Philip joined the man.** The man invited Philip and welcomed him. The man was one to whom the believer was to go, one who welcomed the witness.
4. **Philip noticed the eunuch was seeking God.**
 - a. The man was extremely faithful:
 - i. In worshiping God - He had traveled hundreds of miles to worship in the temple at Jerusalem.
 - ii. In reading Scripture.

6. How did the eunuch respond to Philip? (8:31)

Acts 8: 31

31 And he said, “Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

1. How could I understand what I am reading, unless someone guides me?
2. He invited Philip to come up and sit with him.
3. The eunuch was not ashamed to say that he did not understand the scripture he was reading. He asked Philip to come up and explain this scripture to him.
4. **He did not know that Jesus of Nazareth had fulfilled the prophecy, that the Savior had already come and died for the sins of men.**

5. Philip's heart must have been rejoicing in the confidence that God had prepared this man.

a. The official invited Philip to explain the Scriptures to him. This shows the eunuch's **seeking**, **humble**, and **teachable spirit**.

Is. 55: 6-7

6 Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near.

7 Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

7. What passage in Isaiah was the eunuch reading? (8:32-33)

Acts 8: 32-33

32 Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: “HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH.

33 “IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY; WHO WILL RELATE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH.”

The eunuch was reading Isaiah 53: 7-8.

The man was reading Isaiah 53:7–8, which is a prediction of the coming **Messiah**:

1. **Of His death:** His being led as a sheep to the slaughter.
2. **Of His willingness to die:** His not opening His mouth in opposition.
3. **Of His humiliation in death:** His judgment—the justice due Him was taken away and denied Him.
4. **Of His generation, His seed or followers:** His generation of followers are innumerable. Who can number them since Jesus' life was taken from the earth (since He died)?

8. How did Philip present the good news about Jesus? (8:34-35)

Acts 8: 34-35

34 The eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please *tell me*, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?”

35 Then Philip opened his mouth and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.

“Philip opened his mouth and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.”

Philip was knowledgeable in the Scriptures so he could recognize where the eunuch was reading.

Every Christian should strive to be proficient in the Scriptures so that they can meet people at the point of their perplexity and lead them to the Savior.

1 Peter 3: 15

15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

9. What did the eunuch do after he believed in Jesus? (8:36-38)

Acts 8: 36-38

36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?”

37 [And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”]

38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

- 1. He saw water.**
- 2. He believed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**
- 3. He was baptized.**

The Spirit's preparation and Philip's presentation **combined to produce the proper response on the eunuch's part.**

He **Heard** the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ from Philip preaching Jesus from the Scripture in Isaiah.

He had **Faith** when he saw water and knew that it was necessary for baptism.

He **Confessed** that Jesus is the Son of God.

He was **Baptized**.

1. Preaching Jesus is exactly what Peter did on Pentecost (Acts 2).
2. Preaching Jesus is exactly what the Jews in Jerusalem were taught (Acts 2-6).
3. Preaching Jesus is exactly what Philip did in Samaria (see Acts 8: 4-5).

4. Preaching Jesus involved telling people of the saving blood of Jesus.
5. Preaching Jesus meant that people were told about the kingdom of God i.e., the church (Acts 8: 12).
6. Preaching Jesus involved commanding men to be baptized so that they may contact the saving blood of Jesus (Acts 2: 38; 8: 12, 13).

7. Preaching Jesus involved warning mankind of the eternal consequences of not being forgiven of sins (Acts 2: 40; 8: 24).

8. Preaching Jesus means telling people that they need to believe, confess that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God, repent of their sins, and be baptized for the forgiveness of those sins.

10. What was the eunuch's attitude as he went on his way? (8:39)

Acts 8: 39

39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.

“The eunuch went on his way rejoicing.”

The eunuch was taught by Philip, according to the commission, and according to the preaching of Peter, that the penitent believer was to be immersed for the remission of sins (Acts 2: 38).

The eunuch was a penitent believer. He was immersed.

The eunuch's sins were pardoned and he went on his way rejoicing.

11. Where did Philip go to preach? (8:40)

Acts 8: 40

40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

1. In verse 39, “The Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away”.
2. “Philip found himself at Azotus”.
3. “He kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.”

1. Philip's task was done. It was time for him to move on, so the Spirit of God took him away.

2. The Holy Spirit led Philip back to Samaria. He traveled throughout "all the cities" preaching Christ. Eventually he came to the city of Caesarea.

Acts 21: 8

8 On the next day we left and came to Caesarea, and entering the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him.

