

## **“A Spirit Of Prophecy, Preaching, & Power!”**

**Acts 8:26-40**

Now **“an Angel of the Lord” (Archangel Gabriel)** spoke to Philip, **“Arise and go toward the south along the desert road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”** So, Philip arose and went. And behold, a **man of Ethiopia (Nubia)**, a **eunuch (chamberlain)**, of great authority, under **Candace (Kandakē Amantitēre)** the **Queen of the Ethiopians (Nubians)**, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, and was returning home. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading **Isaiah the Prophet**. Then the **Holy Spirit said to Philip**, **“Go near and overtake this chariot.”** So, Philip ran up to him, and heard him reading the **Prophet Isaiah**, and said, **“Do you understand what you are reading?”** And the **eunuch (chamberlain)** said, **“How can I, unless someone guides me?”** And then he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the place in the **Scripture** which he read was this: **“He was led as a Sheep to the slaughter; and as a Lamb before its shearer is silent, so He opened not his mouth. In His Humiliation, His Justice was taken away, and who will declare His Generation? For His Life is taken from the earth.”** So, the **eunuch (chamberlain)** answered the original question of Philip, **“I ask you, of Whom does the Prophet say these things, of himself or of some other man?”** Then Philip opened his mouth, **and beginning at this Scripture, Preached Jesus (The Whole Good News) to him.** Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the **eunuch (chamberlain)** said, **“See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?”** Then Philip said, **“If you believe with all your heart, you may!”** And the **eunuch (chamberlain)** answered, **“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!”** So, the **eunuch (chamberlain)** commanded the chariot to halt, and it stood still. And both Philip and the **eunuch (chamberlain)** went down into the water, and **Philip baptized him.** Now when they came up out of the water, the **Spirit of the Lord snatched (caught) Philip away**, so that the **eunuch (chamberlain)** saw him no more; and he went on his way **Rejoicing (with Great Joy)**. But **Philip was found journeying to Azotus (Ancient Ashdod)**. And passing through, **he Preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.**

**Acts 8:26-40 (NKJV)**

**Q: “What Is The Significance Of God Directing Philip To Go First To Samaria And Then To Leave Samaria For Two Cities – Gaza & Azotus?”**

**A1: There Exists In This Passage Two Bookends Bounded By Two Geographic City Locations!**

**Both Cities Being 2 of the 5 Original Cities Of The Pagan Philistines**

**1) Gaza, 2) Ashdod (Azotus), 3) Gath, 4) Ashkelon, & 5) Ekron**

## Map of Philistine 5# Primary Cities



### A2: To Fulfill The Prophecy Spoken By Jesus About The Beginnings Of His Church!

The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that **Jesus** began to do and teach, until the day when **He** was taken up to heaven, after **He** had by the **Holy Spirit** given orders to the apostles whom **He** had chosen. To these **He** also presented **Himself** alive after **His** suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the Things Concerning the Kingdom of God ... So, when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “*Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the Kingdom to Israel?*” He said to them, “*It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His Own Authority; but you will receive Power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My Witnesses both in Jerusalem, in all Judea, Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth!*”

Acts 1:1-3 & 6-8

### A3: Philip Was Fulfilling Prophecy In The Power & Direction Of The Holy Spirit Day By Day In The Exact Order That Jesus Prophesied!

1<sup>st</sup>) He Labored & Preached In **Jerusalem**

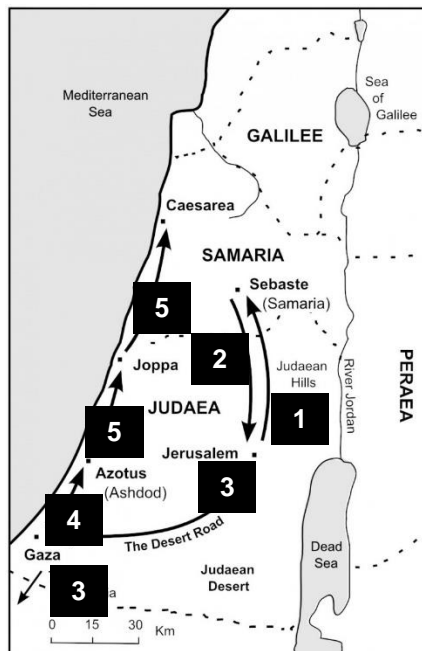
2<sup>nd</sup>) Then To **Samaria**

3<sup>rd</sup>) Then To Gaza In **Southern Judea**

4<sup>th</sup>) Then To Azotus (Ashdod) In **Western Judea**

5<sup>th</sup>) Then To Joppa & Caesarea – To The **Ends of the Earth**

## The Journeys Of Philip The Deacon



**Q:** “How Did God Chose To Direct Philip On His Evangelism Journeys?”

**A1:** Voice of an Angel of the Lord – Most Likely Archangel Gabriel

Now “an Angel of the Lord” (Archangel Gabriel) spoke to Philip,

“Arise and go toward the south along the desert road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

**Acts 8:26**

**A2:** Directly By The Voice of The Holy Spirit

Then the Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.” ... **Acts 8:29**

**Q:** “How Did Philip Respond Each Time God Directly Commanded Him?”

**A:** He Completely & Instantly Obeyed God

So, Philip arose (leaving Samaria) and went (down toward Gaza on the southern desert road)

**Acts 8:27a**

... So, Philip ran up to him (in the chariot) ... **Acts 8:30a**

**Q:** “Who Was This Man of Ethiopia (Nubia)?”

**A1:** A Chamberlain Who Was Also A Eunuch To The Ethiopian (Nubian) King’s House & Directly Attached To The Ruling Queen Mother - Candace (Kandakē Amantitëre)

The Queen of the Ethiopians (21-41 A.D.)

And behold, a man of Ethiopia (Nubia), a eunuch (chamberlain), of great authority, under Candace (Kandakē Amantitëre) the Queen of the Ethiopians (Nubians) ... **Acts 8:27b**

**A2:** A Gentile Convert To Judaism Who Had Just Visited Jerusalem For Celebration & Worship!

... who had charge of all her treasury, & had come to Jerusalem to worship, & was returning home.

**Acts 8:28a**

**Q:** “But Which Of The Three Major Festival - Celebrations Was He Returning From?”

**A:** Spring Festivals: Pesach – Passover or Shavuot – Pentecost

Or

Fall Festival: Sukkot – Tabernacles

### Discussion Of Evidence

**A:** *It cannot be either of the two Spring Festivals as they both would have revealed to the Eunuch the Answers he sought fulfilled in the Death & Resurrection of Jesus Christ at Passover and the Coming of God's Holy Spirit and the Manifestations of Tongues of Fire & Signs & Wonders everywhere at Pentecost.*

**A:** *It had to be the Fall Festival of Tabernacles – that he attended in his covered chariot as his tabernacle on wheels. The other Minor Four Festivals cost would not be important enough to allow for the great cost of the journey from Ethiopia.*

**A:** *Also, I believe he came (was sent by royal decree) to make inquiry concerning the strange and out of the order rumors surrounding the days of Passover past, the destruction of the Temple Curtain and foundation, and the sudden unexpected and unpredicted solar eclipse surrounding the death of Jesus of Nazareth.*

**A:** *Further, the strange and wonderful reports surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth during the Festival of Passover, and Subsequent Coming of Signs & Wonders from Heaven As Tongues of Fire, A Great Wind, Great Healings & Exploding New Faith expressed by many returning from Jerusalem after the Festival of Pentecost in late Spring.*

**A:** *The Eunuch Was Probably Taking Notes & Contemplating His Full Report To The Queen Upon His Return Home. So, He Stopped Along The Road To Further Try And Understand All The Reports & Eyewitness Preaching & Teaching He Had Heard Some 4 to 5 Months Later After Pentecost, While Attending The Feast Of Tabernacles. So, Here He Was That Day, Found Alongside The Road Heading South, Reading So More Scriptures About These Things He Had Heard – But Did Not Yet Fully Understand!*

### And Now Back To Our Story

And sitting in his chariot, he was reading **Isaiah the Prophet ... Acts 8:28b**

**Q:** *“But What Passage In Isaiah’s Prophecy Was He Reading When Philip Found Him?”*

**Evangelism 101 – Let The Word Of God Speak – “Spirit of Prophecy”**

**A:** Now the place in the **Scripture** which he read was this: *“He was led as a Sheep to the slaughter; and as a Lamb before its shearer is silent, so He opened not his mouth. In His Humiliation, His Justice was taken away, and who will declare His Generation? For His Life is taken from the earth.”*

**Acts 8:32-33 (Isaiah 53:7-8)**

**\* See Blow Full Context Just Before & After This Passage \***

Behold, My Servant will prosper, He will be High and Lifted Up and Greatly Exalted. Just as many were astonished at you, My People, So His Appearance was marred more than any man and His Form more than the sons of men. Thus, He will sprinkle many nations, kings will shut their mouths on account of Him; For what had not been told them they will see, and what they had not heard they will understand.

**Isaiah 52:13-15**

... Who has believed Our Message? And to whom has the Arm of the Lord been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a Tender Shoot (Branch), And like a Root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. He was despised and forsaken of men, a Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, ...

... And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him ... *He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His Mouth; like a Lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a Sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His Mouth. By oppression and judgment, He was taken away; and as for His Generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of My People, to whom the stroke was due?* ... His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His Mouth. But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a Guilt Offering, He will see His Offspring, He will prolong His Days, and the Good Pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His Hand. As a result of the anguish of His Soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by His Knowledge, the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong; because He Poured Out Himself to Death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors. **Isaiah 53:1-12**

#### Evangelism 101 – Start With A Question

Why? – To Assess The Person’s Place In Life At That Moment!

**Q:** “So, What Did Philip Do To Inquire About The Man’s True Intentions?”

**A:** First, Philip Asked A Question To Qualify The Man’s Intention of His Mind, Heart, & Soul!  
Philip Wanted To Inquire About This Man’s Sincerity & Heart’s Desire

#### Evangelism 101 – Question

**Q:** Philip said to the Eunuch, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ... **Acts 8:30b**

Evangelism 101 – Wait For An Answer To Allow For Permission Or Invite To Continue

**Q:** “What Was The Man’s Response To The Evangelistic Inquiry Of Philip?”

#### Evangelism 101 – Answer / Invite

**A:** And the eunuch (chamberlain) said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?”

And then he asked Philip to come up and sit with him ... **Acts 8:31**

... So, the eunuch (chamberlain) responded to the original question of Philip,

“I ask you, of *Whom* does the *Prophet* say these things, of *himself* or of some other *man*?”

**Acts 8:34**

Evangelism 101 – Proceed To Tell The Full Gospel Of The Good News – “Spirit of Preaching”

**Q:** “So, What Did Philip Do With This Entire Passage In Context From The Prophet Isaiah?”

**A:** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, Preached Jesus (The Whole Good News) to him ... **Acts 8:35**

Evangelism 101 – Always End The Full Gospel Presentation With A Personal Invitation To Repent & Accept Jesus Christ As Their Lord & Savior

**Q:** “Did Steven Give Such A Personal Invitation To The Man?”

**A:** Either He Did Or The Holy Spirit Did!

(Most Likely He Did At The Spirit’s Prompting)

Because We Can See The Man’s Response To The Preaching & Teaching Of The Full Gospel Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch (chamberlain) said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” **Acts 8:36**

Evangelism 101 – Always Inquire About The Person’s

Sincerity & Heart’s Desire Concerning Their Commitment Of Faith

Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may!” **Acts 8:37a**

**Evangelism 101 – Wait For An Answer To Allow Permission / Invite To Continue**  
And the eunuch (chamberlain) answered, *“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!”*  
Acts 8:37b

**Evangelism 101 – Act While The Fire Is Hot**  
**Act While The Holy Spirit Has The Person Under Conviction & Submission - *“Spirit Of Power”***  
So, the eunuch (chamberlain) commanded the chariot to halt, and it stood still.  
And both Philip & the eunuch (chamberlain) went down into the water, & Philip baptized him.  
Acts 8:38

**Evangelism 101 – Pray For Miracles As Signs & Wonders For The Benefit Of Strengthening  
The New Convert To The Faith As They Demonstrate Proof Of God’s Presence & Power!**  
*“Spirit Of Power”*

Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched caught (snatched) Philip away, so that the eunuch (chamberlain) saw him no more; and he went on his way Rejoicing (with Great Joy).  
Acts 8:39

**Philip Commissioned & Empowered To Continue The Mission Of Evangelizing The World!**  
But Philip was found journeying to Azotus (Ancient Ashdod). And passing through, he Preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.  
Acts 8:40

**Please Stand & Let Us Pray!**  
*“Oh Lord, Please Grant To Us Your Faithful & Obedient Servants,  
To Become Like Stephen & Philip In This Modern Age!  
Let Us Completely Surrender Our Lives  
To Your Perfect Plan & Will For Us Individually  
And As Your Church Gathered Together Here In Your Name!  
Oh, Lord, Grant To Us Also A Spirit Of Prophecy, Preaching, & Power!  
That We May Boldly Proclaim Jesus Christ As The Lord & Savior Of This World!  
Let Us Share Your Love & Forgiveness With All We Meet & Greet,  
That They Might Turn Their Lives Over To You,  
And Come To Love & Serve You, As We Do Today & Tomorrow!”*