

THE BOOK OF
ACTS
LIFE IN THE SPIRIT



Acts 8:26-8:40

Message + Mission + Multiply

Acts 8: 26 NIV

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

Question

What kind of road is
Philip headed to?

Acts 8: 26 NIV

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”





Acts 8: 27 NIV

So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”).

Question

Does it sound like there was any hesitation to make this long trip through the desert?

Acts 8: 27 NIV

So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”).

Question

On his way to where?

Acts 8: 26 NIV

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

Question

What can we learn
from this?

Sometimes it's about the

journey
and not *so much* about the
destination.

Question

Where was the eunuch
from?

In biblical times Ethiopia referenced all of Africa south of Egypt. This covers all portions of Northern Africa, Ethiopia, Libya and beyond. We don't know exactly where he was from, just the region.

Question

What was the
Ethiopian eunuch's
job?

Acts 8: 27 NIV

So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”).

The name Kandake or Candace is not a proper name, it's a title like Pharaoh, for the queen mother. So the eunuch is working for the queen mother and managing the finances for the Ethiopian Kingdom.

Being made a eunuch was common practice for those working closely with the Queen. He has great authority and would be considered today to be the CFO for the entire Kingdom of Ethiopia.

Acts 8: 27 NIV

So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”).

Acts 8: 27-28 NIV

This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.

Question

What does the fact that this man made a 1,000 mile trip from his homeland to Jerusalem to worship God tell us about him?

Ethiopian Eunuch

1. Was searching for God

Please turn to
Jeremiah 29:13

Jeremiah 29: 13 NIV

*You will seek me and find
me when you seek me
with all your heart.*

Please turn to

Matthew 7: 8

Matthew 7: 8 NIV

For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Question

How is this different
from Simon the
sorcerer?

Acts 8: 27-28 NIV

This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.

The Scroll of Isaiah

Note this indicates the great wealth the eunuch had as only the priests typically had access to the scrolls. They were meticulously copied letter by letter.

Process for creating copies of the Old testament by the Jewish Scribes

- They could only use clean animal skins, both to write on, and even to bind manuscripts.
- Each column of writing could have no less than forty-eight, and no more than sixty lines.
- The ink must be black, and of a special recipe.
- They must verbalize each word aloud while they were writing.

- They must wipe the pen and wash their entire bodies before writing the word "Jehovah," every time they wrote it.
- There must be a review within thirty days, and if as many as three pages required corrections, the entire manuscript had to be redone.

- The letters, words, and paragraphs had to be counted, and the document became invalid if two letters touched each other.
- The middle paragraph, word and letter must correspond to those of the original document.

Acts 8: 27-28 NIV

This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.

Acts 8: 29 NIV

The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

Question

Do you think Philip
knew at this point
that this was the
destination for his
journey?

Acts 8: 29 NIV

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

Question

How quickly did Philip travel to the chariot?

Acts 8: 29 NIV

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet.

Question

What do you think
Philip thought when
he heard the eunuch
reading the Word of
God?

Acts 8: 29-30 NIV

“Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

Question

Where was the eunuch
searching for God?

Ethiopian Eunuch

1. Was searching for God
2. Searching in the Word

Question

Where do we find the
explanation of the
word today?

Please turn to
Colossians 1: 24-29

Colossians 1: 24-29 NIV

Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

Colossians 1: 24-29 NIV

I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people.

Colossians 1: 24-29 NIV

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1: 24-29 NIV

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Please turn to
Ephesians 3: 7-11

Ephesians 3: 7-11 NIV

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people,

Ephesians 3: 7-9 NIV

this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

Please turn to
John 14: 23-26

John 14: 23-26 NIV

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."

John 14: 23-26 NIV

Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

John 14: 23-26 NIV

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

Acts 8: 30 NIV

*“How can I,” he said,
“unless someone explains
it to me?” So he invited
Philip to come up and sit
with him.*

Acts 8: 31 NIV

*This is the passage of
Scripture the eunuch was
reading:*

(Isaiah 53: 7-8)

Acts 8: 32-33 NIV

*“He was led like a sheep
to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its
shearer is silent,
so he did not open his
mouth.*

Acts 8: 32-33 NIV

In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

Acts 8: 34 NIV

*The eunuch asked Philip,
“Tell me, please, who is
the prophet talking about,
himself or someone else?”*

Question

How do you think Philip felt when he heard those words from the Eunuch?

Acts 8: 35 NIV

Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

Acts 8: 37 NIV

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?"

Question

What type of road
were they traveling
on?



Question

Where did the eunuch
hear about baptism?

Question

What are the chances of spotting water deep enough to be baptized next to a desert road?

Acts 8: 38 NIV

*And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch **went down into the water** and Philip baptized him.*

Acts 8: 39 NIV

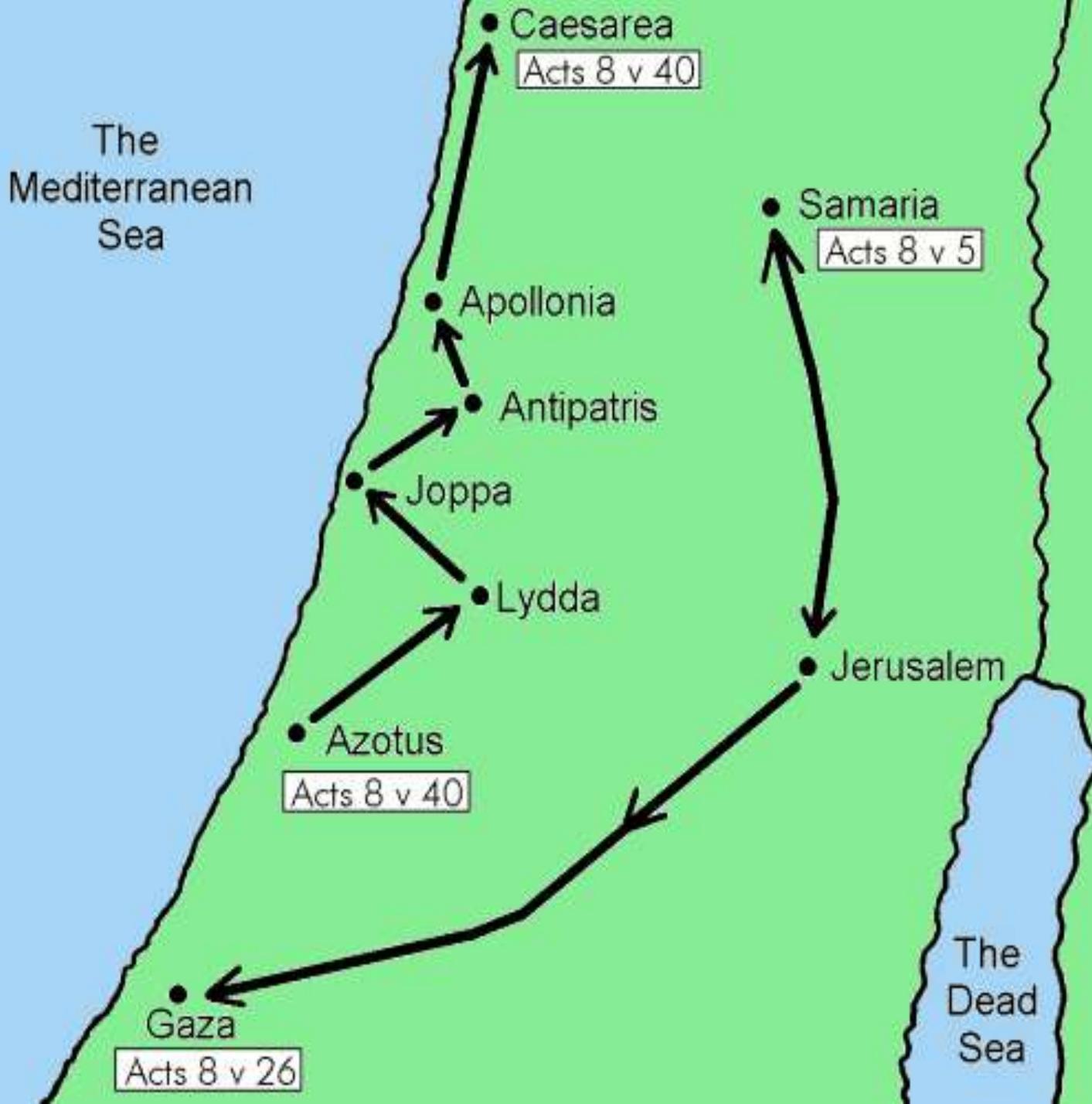
When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

Question

What does the fact that water was found next to a desert road and Philip was not taken away until the eunuch was baptized tell us about the importance of baptism?

Acts 8: 40 NIV

Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.



Question

What was Philip
doing in every town
on his journey to
Caesarea?

Next week

Please read

Acts 9:1-31