

ACTS

THE PERPETUAL POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Jesus from Beginning to End
Acts 8:26-40

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

32 Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth.

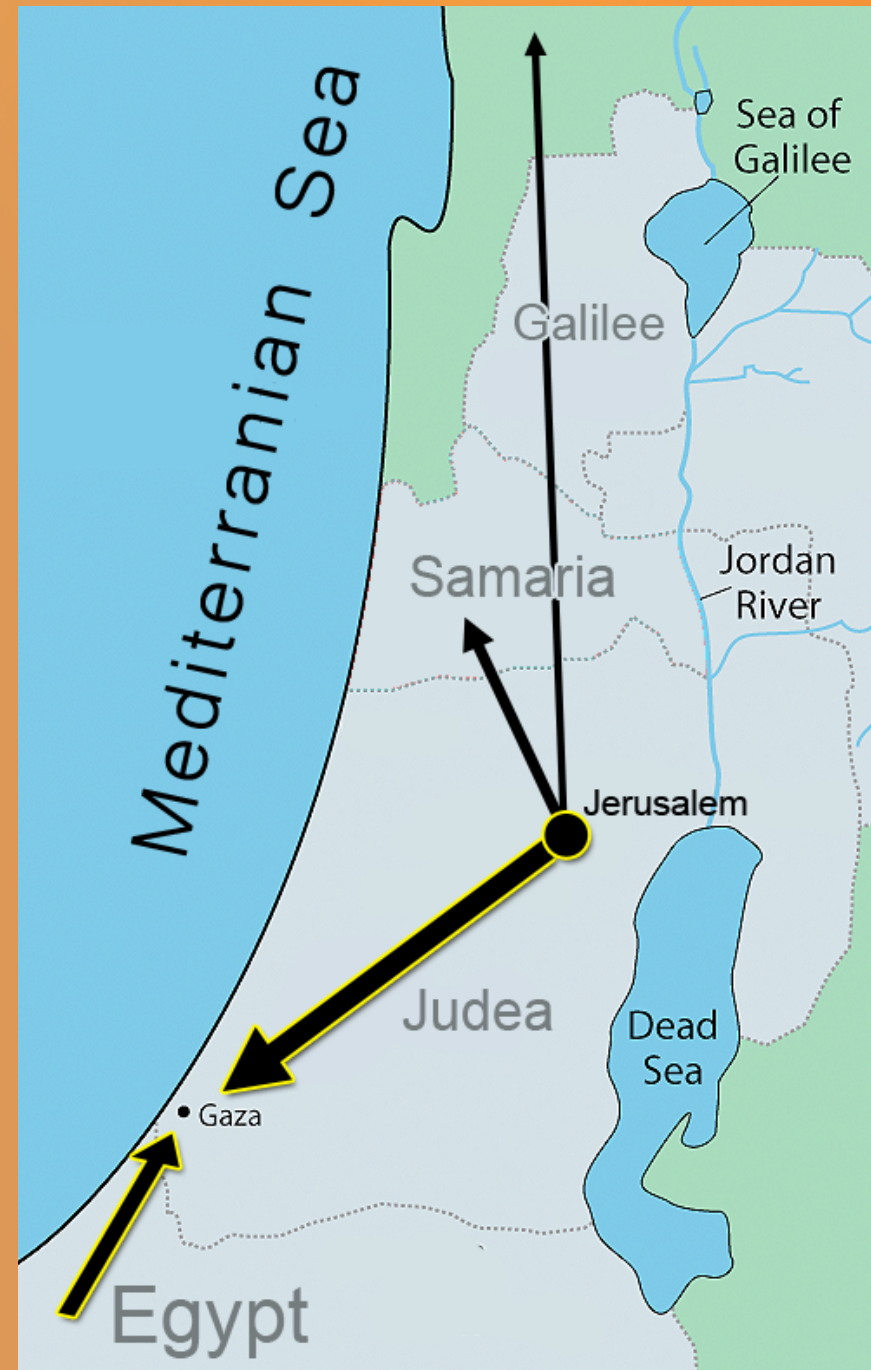
33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34 And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” **35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

36 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” **38** And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. **39** And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. **40** But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Spread of the Gospel

- 1) In Jerusalem
- 2) Samaria – Simon
- 3) Ethiopian in Judea
- 4) (about to go abroad)



The Eunuch

<u>Power</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Empty</u>
<i>CFO of Ethiopia (similar to Joseph)</i>	<i>Sexually altered No Family or Heir</i>	<i>Absolute Outsider 1000 Mile Journey (probably didn't get in to the temple)</i>

What would you give up to achieve your dreams....

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

The Garden

Serpent and flaming sword.

Firepot

Fire passing between a sacrifice.

Red Sea

Moses leading God's people to freedom

Manna

Miraculous "bread" and "water"

David/Goliath

Unassuming man killing the unkillable to set his people free

Daniel

4th man in the fire: "son of God"

Hosea

Hosea buying his adulterous wife from slavery

Jonah

Cast overboard, 3 days in the fish, then "resurrected"

Lamb

Led to the slaughter...

Isaiah 56:3-5

Let not the foreigner who has
joined himself to the LORD say,
“The LORD will surely separate me from his people...

⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.

**New Family
New Hope
New Power**

Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:8-11

Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the **Son of David!** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” ¹¹ And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Response to the Gospel

Philip

*Listened to the Spirit
("ran")*

*Didn't have to know exactly
how or the details.*

Who around you is curious?

Ethiopian

*Believed
Old Life for New*

Baptized

Baptism is more than just a symbol, it:

- **Mysteriously marks that person as a part of the covenant;**
- **Infuses grace blessings to the baptized;**
- **Marks us as belonging to God;**
- **Signifies our being washed of our old sinful nature and given the new nature of Christ;**
- **Allows us to publicly profess our faith in God's saving power - either for ourselves or for our children;**
 - **- for believers, is an outward sign of an inward transformation;**
 - **- for children, is an outward sign of the child being included in the covenant and church body.**