

The Gospel to Africa Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out,

Philip’s Obedience

- He didn’t say, ‘I’ll go...but not now’
- He didn’t say, ‘I’m already doing your work’
- He didn’t say, ‘Anywhere but there’

Contrasting Regions and Men

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”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.

The Ethiopian is a different race, rank, and religion than both the Samaritans and Philip.

In Tune with the Spirit

²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

Spiritually Searching

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

No one who has been emasculated by crushing or cutting may enter the assembly of the LORD.
Deuteronomy 23:1

The Ethiopian was likely crushed when he realized, after his long journey, that he couldn’t enter the temple for worship.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“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.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”

All of Scripture Points to Christ

³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

Philip explained the uniqueness of Jesus.

³⁶ 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?” ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

The Spirit of the Lord Leads Philip While the Eunuch Rejoices

³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea. Acts 8

God is saving from every language, custom, culture, and tribe.

In 1900, 28% of all believers lived in the Global North and 6% of all believers lived in the Global South. In 2021, 10% of all believers live in the Global North and 22% of all believers live in the Global South.

In 1970 there were 271 million believers in Latin America, in 2021 there were 617 million.

In 1970 there were 96 million believers in Asia, in 2021 there were 383 million.

In 1970 there were 140 million believers in Africa, in 2021 there were 685 million.