

**I. Philip Obeying Divine Leadership**

- A. *"Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, 'Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' This is desert. So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go near and overtake this chariot.' So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' And he said, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. 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 answered Philip and said, 'I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?' Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?' Then 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.' So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea." Acts 8:26-40*
- B. An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip. Notice this is not "The Angel of The Lord" speaking to Philip. The angel of the Lord told him *"Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."* The Scripture records *"This is desert."* What do you do when the Lord asks you to do something that you know leads only to dryness or death?
- C. It was in this place that Philip was going to meet a divine contact. The Ethiopian eunuch was the chief treasurer for Candice the queen of Ethiopia (Kandake of the Kush Kingdom). Apparently, the eunuch had been to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home. He was sitting in his chariot and Philip was commanded by the Holy Spirit "Go near and overtake this chariot." This was a divine moment for Philip, the eunuch, and ultimately the Ethiopian civilization.

**II. Philip Discerning Divine Opportunities**

- A. The eunuch was reading from the Prophet Isaiah. Upon Philip's arrival he overheard him reading the Scripture, and Philip asked a question addressing a present situation; *"Do you understand what you are reading?"* We all must look for ways where God is already working in a person's life and ask them the right question.

- B. The honesty of this man was indicative of a hungry person. *"How can I, unless someone guides me?"* He invited Philip into his chariot where Philip listened and offered Holy Spirit guided insight into the eunuch's question.
- C. The Word of God is powerful to convict and to reveal the heart of an individual. He was reading from Isaiah about the Messiah and was pondering what it could mean. This was the exact moment God sent Philip to the eunuch to explain these things to him.
- D. From that point in the Scripture Philip began to preach Jesus to the eunuch.

### III. Philip Modeling Divine Ministry

- A. The eunuch sees water as they are traveling and asks the question, *"What hinders me from being baptized?"* When God is at work in someone there is an internal longing to be obedient to what the Lord commands. This is how we know if someone is truly born-again. There is a new nature birthed inside them. Believers may not know what to do, but if a discipler tells them what to do they are ready and maybe even eager to do it.
- B. Philip simply replies *"If you believe with all your heart, you may."* The eunuch's confession is very clear and apparently in their conversation together the person of Christ, His mission, and His calling were clear to the point that the eunuch knew he needed to be baptized in water and to do so there needed to be a confession of what he truly believed.
- C. So they actually stopped what they were doing and got down out of the chariot and Philip baptized this nameless eunuch, in the desert, who was the chief treasurer of the queen. Both the eunuch and Philip seized the opportunity to do what was necessary in the moment. The Opportunity of a Lifetime must be Seized in the Lifetime of the Opportunity.

### IV. Philip Experiencing Divine Transportation

- A. *"Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away"* This statement is I believe to be taken as you would literally read it. Philip was translated from the desert on the way to Gaza to another place called Azotus (Ashdod). We do not know where Philip was exactly with the eunuch, but Ashdod is on the sea and is further north of Gaza around 10-12 miles.
- B. This Greek word for caught away is the same Greek word used in *"Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."* **1 Thessalonians 4:17**
- C. Even though the eunuch never saw Philip again he went away rejoicing. Can you imagine the eunuch must have thought at the moment Philip was an angel. But you know he was. He was the messenger of God sent to deliver the Good news to the eunuch.
- D. Philip preached his way to Caesarea; which apparently became his home. *"On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him."* **Acts 21:8**

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*The Book of Acts  
Chapter 8 Part 2*

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