

## “Philip the Witness”

Acts 8:26-40

3/23/14

This morning/afternoon we'd like to see the book of Acts 8:26-40 under the title of “Philip the Witness”

Q1. In verse 26 and verse 29, “<sup>26</sup> 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,” and “<sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot,” how did Philip respond? (<sup>27</sup> So he arose and went. <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran to him,)

Q2. In verses 30 & 31, “So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup> And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him, “ which way did Philip preach?”

Q3. In verses 34 & 35, “So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him,” what are the heart of eunuch and the heart of Philip?

**(Background)** Before Jesus' ascension, Jesus said in Acts 1:8, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

And the Spirit came on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:4, “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Then, the church of Jerusalem grew in Acts 2:47, “praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

But the early church was persecuted in Acts 8:2-3, “And devout men carried Stephen *to his burial*, and made great lamentation over him.<sup>3</sup> As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing *them* to prison.”

And in Acts 8:4 “Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”

Philip became the witness to Jesus, preaching the word to Samaritans in Acts 8:5-8, “Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. <sup>6</sup> And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did (healing gift of the Holy Spirit). <sup>7</sup> For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. <sup>8</sup> And there was great joy in that city,” and now to the Ethiopian Eunuch (a castrated man).

<p><sup>26</sup> Now <u>an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip</u>, saying, “<u>Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.</u>” This is <u>desert.</u> <sup>27</sup> <u>So he arose and went.</u> And behold, <u>a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians</u>, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come <u>to Jerusalem to worship,</u> <sup>28</sup> was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.</p> <p><sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, “<u>Go near and overtake this chariot.</u>”</p> <p><sup>30</sup> <u>So Philip ran to him</u>, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “<u>Do you understand what you are reading?</u>”</p> <p><sup>31</sup> And he said, “<u>How can I, unless someone guides me?</u>” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.</p> <p><sup>32</sup> The place in the Scripture which he read was this:</p> <p>“<u>He was led as a sheep to the slaughter;</u> And as a lamb before its shearer <i>is</i> silent, So He opened not His mouth.</p> <p><sup>33</sup> <u>In His humiliation His justice was taken away,</u></p>	<p>26= Q1 Arise and go toward the south, down from Jerusalem to Gaza (from preaching/healing ministry to multitudes in Samaria city, above); down <sup>1</sup>from Jerusalem to Gaza.</p> <p>27= So he arose and went (full obedience); a man of Ethiopia (even one person, but his soul has eternal value); to Jerusalem to worship (Judaist; <sup>2</sup>Ps 68:31</p> <p>29=Q1 the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake”</p> <p>30.31 =Q2 Philip ran to him (full obedience); Do you understand; How can I, unless someone guides me? He asked Philip to come up and sit with him (Evangelism begins where is the audience’s interest or concern – one wise way in season, <sup>3</sup>2 Tim 4:2)</p> <p>32= “He was led as a sheep to the slaughter....” (paraphrase of <sup>4</sup>Isaiah 53:7)</p> <p>33= In His humiliation His justice... (paraphrase of <sup>5</sup>Isaiah 53:5-6)</p>
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<sup>1</sup> from Jerusalem to Gaza (See the Bible Map often and, if need, more Bible maps.)

Mediterranean sea (The Great Sea)	Caesarea	Samaria
	Joppa Azotus/Ashdod	Judea
	Gaza	

<sup>2</sup> Ps 68:31 Envoys will come out of Egypt; Ethiopia will quickly stretch out her hands to God.

<sup>3</sup> 2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

<sup>4</sup> Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

<p>And who will declare His generation? For <u>His life is taken from the earth.</u>”</p> <p><sup>34</sup> So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “<u>I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?</u>”</p> <p><sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and <u>beginning at this Scripture</u>, preached Jesus to him.</p> <p><sup>36</sup> Now as they <u>went down the road, they came to some water</u>. And the eunuch said, “See, <i>here is</i> water. <u>What hinders me from being baptized?</u>”</p> <p><sup>37</sup> 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.”</p> <p><sup>38</sup> So he commanded the chariot to stand still. <u>And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water</u>, and he baptized him.</p> <p><sup>39</sup> Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord <u>caught Philip away</u>, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on <u>his way rejoicing</u>.</p>	<p>34=Q3 I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man? (Who is the prophet talking about? Himself or someone else?; eunuch’s pure/honest Q to seek God, not argumentative or assertive Q which is in flesh, not in the Spirit).</p> <p>35=Q3 beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him <sup>6</sup><i>John 5:39; John 14:26; 2 Cor 3:6; 1 Cor 2:14</i></p> <p>36= came to some water; What hinders me from being baptized (water baptism by immersion, not by sprinkling)</p> <p>37= If you believe, I believe that Jesus Christ... (faith for salvation verse; In NIV, this verse 37 is deleted. That’s why we don’t use NIV as the textbook of the Bible study although we use NIV as a reference; like the Catholic Bible (73 books) added with Apocrypha (7 books) as a reference)</p> <p>38= And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water (The Ethiopian’s faith in Christ was followed by the water baptism, a ceremony of identification with Christ before Christians.)</p> <p>39= his way rejoicing (Spiritual works are always joyful; his conversion to Christianity was the beginning of the witness to Ethiopia, fulfilling the witness “to the end of the earth” in</p>
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<sup>5</sup> *Isaiah 53:5-6* But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

<sup>6</sup> *John 5:39* You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me; *John 14:26* But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you; *2 Cor 3:6* who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life; *1 Cor 2:14* But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

<p><sup>40</sup> But Philip was found at <u>Azotus</u>. And passing through, he preached in <u>all the cities till he came to Caesarea</u>.</p>	<p>Acts 1:8)</p> <p>40= Azotus .... Caesarea (North bound beach cities of the Mediterranean sea <sup>7</sup>Acts 21:8)</p> <p>⇒ Church should Not limit the Spirit to the early apostolic period, being replaced by a man-made frame; But church lets the Holy Spirit work, following the divine model of the early church in the Book of Acts.<sup>8</sup> <i>Gifts of the Holy Spirit [Charisma]</i></p>
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<sup>7</sup> Acts 21:8 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.

<sup>8</sup> Especially, the gifts of the Holy Spirit (e.g., Philip's healing gift, above) called as Charisma are ceased to the early apostolic period. This thought is called "cessationism" while such people of the thought are cessationists. We would discover that they often put partial Bible verses without observation of the verses' context/syntax into a man-made frame, usually, their own denominational doctrine. God warns in Jeremiah 23:36, "And the oracle of the LORD you shall mention no more. For every man's word will be his oracle, for you have perverted the words of the living God, the LORD of hosts, our God." On the other hand, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are continued to the present day until Jesus is coming again in heaven. This thought called "continuationism" while such people of the thought are continuationists. The Lord doesn't need any human opinions in light of John 2:24-25, "But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all *men*,<sup>25</sup> and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man."