

Philip and the Ethiopian

Acts 8:26-40

by Don Falkos

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An angel told Philip, "Go to the road leading south out of Jerusalem." Philip headed south and met an Ethiopian eunuch. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship despite the fact that as a eunuch he would not have been allowed into the Temple courts. Now he was on his way home to Ethiopia, where he was an important official, a treasurer to the queen.

Philip ran up alongside the Ethiopian's chariot and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you're reading?"

The man replied, "No, I need someone to explain it to me." He invited Philip to get into his chariot and sit with him.

The passage he was reading said:

He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.
And as a lamb is silent while being sheared,
He did not open his mouth.
He was humiliated and received no justice.
He has no descendants,
For his life was taken from the earth.

The man asked, "Who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then using this very scripture as a starting point Philip told him the good news about Jesus.

As they continued down the road the Ethiopian said, "Look, there is some water. Can I be baptized right now?" He stopped the chariot. He and Philip went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but he went on his way as happy as could be. Philip found himself in a completely different region. He traveled north sharing the good news in town after town on his way to Caesarea on the Sea.