

**A Spiritual  
Awakening Begins  
for Ethiopia**

# Background Leading Up to Acts 8:26

- Jesus ascends to His throne and believers (known as “The Way”) follow the lead of the Holy Spirit as they rapidly grow.
- The apostles were arrested several times and Stephen was arrested and martyred as he forgave those killing him. All the while, Saul supported the killers and began a great persecution.
- Philip, one of the 7, brings the gospel to Samaria and even Simon the sorcerer believed and was baptized.
- Peter and John visited Philip. Peter identified the bitterness and wickedness in Simon who asked to pay Peter for spiritual power.

**Acts 8:26-30 (NKJV)** <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. <sup>27</sup> 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, <sup>28</sup> was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

*On the desert road, Philip was called to bring the Fountain of Living Water to the treasurer of Ethiopia. He'd gone to worship in Jerusalem. He was seeking God.*

*Asking questions is almost always the best way to approach the lost. When we're obedient, God can put us in the right place at the right time.*

**Do pray for and seize opportunities to share Jesus?**

**Acts 8:31-35 (ESV)** <sup>31</sup> And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup> And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

*In some cases, God enlightens those seeking Him, and in other cases, He uses faithful believers.*

*The official asks the right question, and the answer is the victorious actions of Jesus bringing our salvation.*

*There's probably no better O.T. passage that lays out what Jesus did, than this.*

**Do you regularly ponder the great cost of our salvation?**

**Acts 8:36-40 (HCSB)** <sup>36</sup> As they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, "Look, there's water! What would keep me from being baptized?" [<sup>37</sup> And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart you may." And he replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."]<sup>38</sup> Then he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he

baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him any longer. But he went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> Philip appeared in Azotus, and he was traveling and evangelizing all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*From the discussion, he asks to be baptized and Philip, likely explained baptism's meaning.*

*What a powerful, spiritual legacy the eunuch could share with his people! Philip becomes known as Philip the Evangelist.*

**Do you consider the spiritual legacy you'll leave behind?**