



A Unique Eunuch

Acts 8:26-40



26 But an angel of the Lord said to Philip, Rise and proceed southward or at midday on the road that runs from Jerusalem down to Gaza. This is the desert [route].

27 So he got up and went. And behold, an Ethiopian, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure, had come to Jerusalem to worship.

28 And he was [now] returning, and sitting in his chariot he was reading the book of the prophet Isaiah.



29 Then the [Holy] Spirit said to Philip, Go forward and join yourself to this chariot.

30 Accordingly Philip, running up to him, heard [the man] reading the prophet Isaiah and asked, Do you really understand what you are reading?



31 And he said, How is it possible for me to do so unless someone explains it to me and guides me [in the right way]? And he earnestly requested Philip to come up and sit beside him.

32 Now this was the passage of Scripture which he was reading: Like a sheep He was led to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is dumb, so He opens not His mouth.



33 In His humiliation He was taken away by distressing and oppressive judgment and justice was denied Him [caused to cease]. Who can describe or relate in full the wickedness of His contemporaries (generation)? For His life is taken from the earth and a bloody death inflicted upon Him. [Isa. 53:7, 8.]



34 And the eunuch said to Philip, I beg of you, tell me about whom does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this portion of Scripture he announced to him the glad tidings (Gospel) of Jesus and about Him.



36 And as they continued along on the way, they came to some water, and the eunuch exclaimed, See, [here is] water! What is to hinder my being baptized?

37 And Philip said, If you believe with all your heart [if you have a conviction, full of joyful trust, that Jesus is the Messiah and accept Him as the Author of your salvation in the kingdom of God, giving Him your obedience, then] you may. And he replied, I do believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.



38 And he ordered that the chariot be stopped; and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and [Philip] baptized him.

39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord [suddenly] caught away Philip; and the eunuch saw him no more, and he went on his way rejoicing.

40 But Philip was found at Azotus, and passing on he preached the good news (Gospel) to all the towns until he reached Caesarea.



- 1) Direction (26-27a)
- 2) Discernment (27b-35)
- 3) Declaration (36-40)



Near Eastern and African courts, it was a common (and often forced) practice for men serving in the presence of female royalty—specifically the Candace (the title for the Queen Mother of Ethiopia)—to be physically castrated.



The Palace: By being made a eunuch, he was deemed "safe" to oversee the Queen's private quarters and, more importantly, her Treasury.

Personal: he had no biological heirs to provide for. This ensured his total loyalty to the Crown; he couldn't build a private dynasty or embezzle funds to pass down to his own lineage.



Under the Mosaic Law (Deuteronomy 23:1), anyone "mashed or cut" (a eunuch) was strictly forbidden from entering the assembly of the Lord. He was a man who loved the God of Israel, yet the Temple he traveled thousands of miles to visit would have kept him in the "Outer Courts."



**Isaiah 56:3-5 contains a specific promise:
"To the eunuchs... I will give them an
everlasting name that shall not be cut off."**



1) Direction (26-27a)

**Phillip The Evangelist (not the apostle)
but a Deacon assigned to mitigate a
conflict between Jews and Greeks and food
distribution (Acts 6)**

When The Spirit Prompted..He Obeyed!!!!



2) Discernment (27b-35)

Religious without Relationship

Reading with no Revelation

vs. 29-Holy Spirit says go and join to the chariot and he had a conversation

How Can I understand unless someone explains it (Rom. 10:14)

vs. 35- Phillip Explained this was re: Jesus



3) Declaration (36-40)

Public Sign of Private Decision

Baptism!

Vs. 37- Sinner's Prayer- "I Believe!"

Vs. 38-39 Phillip Baptized Him

vs 39- Spirit "caught away Phillip-found at Azotus.....Preaching to all the towns.



- **Simeon Bachos returned to the palace and immediately shared the Gospel with the Kandake herself. She is often cited as the first royal convert outside of the Roman influence.**
- **Because of his position, Christianity didn't start in the "slums" of Ethiopia—it started in the Sovereignty. It trickled down from the palace to the people.**
- **This explains why, by the 4th century, when Frumentius arrived to formally organize the Church, he found a people who already possessed a deep, ancient "memory" of the God of the Eunuch.**



- **4th Century St. Frumentius, a shipwrecked Christian from Tyre, became the first Bishop of Ethiopia. He converted King Ezana, making Christianity the state religion around 330 AD.**

Middle Ages :While much of North Africa fell to various conquests, Ethiopia remained a "Christian Island," carving the world-famous Rock-Hewn Churches of Lalibela out of solid stone.





Next Week: Love and Loaves