

Acts 8:26-40 (New International Reader's Version)

Philip and the Man From Ethiopia

²⁶An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip. "Go south to the desert road," he said. "It's the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷So Philip started out. On his way he met an Ethiopian official. The man had an important position. He was in charge of all the wealth of Candace. She was the queen of Ethiopia. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship. ²⁸On his way home he was sitting in his chariot. He was reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹The Holy Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot. Stay near it."

³⁰So Philip ran up to the chariot. He heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you're reading?" Philip asked.

³¹"How can I?" he said. "I need someone to explain it to me." So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³²Here is the part of Scripture the official was reading. It says,
"He was led like a sheep to be killed.

Just as lambs are silent while their wool is being cut off,
he did not open his mouth.

³³When he was treated badly, he was refused a fair trial.

Who can say anything about his children?

His life was cut off from the earth." (*Isaiah 53:7,8*)

³⁴The official said to Philip, "Tell me, please. Who is the prophet talking about? Himself, or someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began with that same part of Scripture. He told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶⁻³⁷As they traveled along the road, they came to some water. The official said, "Look! Here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized?" ³⁸He gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the official went down into the water. Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away. The official did not see him again. He went on his way full of joy. ⁴⁰Philip was seen next at Azotus. From there he traveled all around. He preached the good news in all the towns. Finally he arrived in Caesarea.

Matthew 28:8-10, 16-20 (New International Reader's Version)

⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb. They were afraid, but they were filled with joy. They ran to tell the disciples.

⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings!" he said.

They came to him, took hold of his feet and worshiped him.

¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee. There they will see me."

¹⁶Then the 11 disciples went to Galilee. They went to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him. But some still had their doubts.

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the

Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ²⁰Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."

Mark 16:14-16

¹⁴Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating. He spoke firmly to them because they had no faith. They would not believe those who had seen him after he rose from the dead.

¹⁵He said to them, "Go into all the world. Preach the good news to everyone. ¹⁶Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who does not believe will be punished.

John 3

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

¹There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus. He was one of the Jewish rulers. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. We know that God is with you. If he weren't, you couldn't do the miraculous signs you are doing."

³Jesus replied, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can see God's kingdom without being born again."

⁴"How can I be born when I am old?" Nicodemus asked. "I can't go back inside my mother! I can't be born a second time!"

⁵Jesus answered, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can enter God's kingdom without being born through water and the Holy Spirit. ⁶People give birth to people. But the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised when I say, 'You must all be born again.'

⁸"The wind blows where it wants to. You hear the sound it makes. But you can't tell where it comes from or where it is going. It is the same with everyone who is born through the Spirit."

Acts 1

Jesus Is Taken Up Into Heaven

¹Theophilus, I wrote about Jesus in my earlier book. I wrote about all he did and taught ²until the day he was taken up to heaven. Before Jesus left, he gave orders to the apostles he had chosen. He did this through the Holy Spirit. ³After his suffering and death, he appeared to them. In many ways he proved that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of 40 days. During that time he spoke about God's kingdom.

⁴One day Jesus was eating with them. He gave them a command. "Do not leave Jerusalem," he said. "Wait for the gift my Father promised. You have heard me talk about it.
⁵John baptized with water. But in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

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