

Acts Revisited

Chapter 8:26-40

Angel Speaks to Philip

- An angel of the Lord speaks to Philip (26)
- The angel's message was to "arise and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza" (26)
 - The angel used WORDS.
 - The angel talked with the evangelist, not the convert.
- Luke tells us this is a desert road (26)
- Desert means uninhabited
- Philip did what the angel told him to do (27)
- This conversion account has been called one of the "pattern conversions"
- Ethiopian was traveling the road
- Ethiopia was south of Egypt
- Eunuch means what you think it does, not simply a palace official
- This Ethiopian was a court official
- Of Candace, the queen of Ethiopia
- In charge of all her treasure
- Same word used in Matthew 13:44 where a man finds a treasure in the field and sells all he had to buy the field.
- The Ethiopian was in Jerusalem to worship (27)
- He was either a Jew or a proselyte.
- Was he there during one of the great pilgrimages to Jerusalem, like Pentecost?
- He was sitting in his chariot riding back home (28)
- He was reading from the prophet Isaiah (28)
 - He was reading while traveling as Deuteronomy 6:7 instructed.
 - It was the Greek translation of the old Hebrew Scriptures.
- Spirit speaks to Philip this time.
- The Spirit's message was to "go up and join the chariot". (29)
 - The Spirit used WORDS.
 - The Spirit talked with the evangelist, not to the convert.
- Philip did what the Spirit told him to do.
- Philip overheard the Ethiopian reading out loud from Isaiah. (30)

- Philip asked the Ethiopian if he understood what he was reading. (30)
- The Ethiopian was having trouble with this very difficult passage of Scripture. (31)
- The Ethiopian invites Philip to join the chariot and help him interpret this difficult passage. (31)
- The Ethiopian was reading from Isaiah (53:7-8)
 - He was led as a sheep to slaughter
 - As a lamb He was before His shearer silent and does not open His mouth
 - His judgment was taken away means that He was condemned without a fair trial.
 - Who shall relate His generation – who will appear in court to relate His case to them?
 - His life is removed from the earth – He was crucified and buried.
- The Ethiopian asks Philip if the prophet was talking about himself or someone else. (34)
- Some Jews said this passage pointed to the Messiah and others said it did not.
- Philip did not hesitate to answer the question (35)
 - Opened his mouth
 - Begin from this Scripture
 - Preached Jesus to him
- Came to some water on a desert road? (36) Again, deserted road – unpopulated.
- Preaching Jesus included baptism (36) Philip preached Jesus and the Ethiopian wanted to be immersed.
- McGarvey writes, “No inspired preacher of the Gospel ever preached Jesus without preaching the baptism that Jesus commanded; no Gospel preacher today can preach Jesus without preaching the command to be baptized.”
- Two other teachings about baptism from verse 36:
 - Baptism was an immediate act.
 - Baptism was into water.
 - Baptism is by immersion (the very meaning of the word).
- The good confession (37)
- Should it be in the text or not?
 - Some versions put brackets around it.
 - In the New International Version, it is not there.
- The Ethiopian ordered the chariot to stop which meant there was someone driving the chariot. (38)
- Both Philip and the Ethiopian went into the water. (38)
 - The word “into” is the same word used in Acts 2:38 – “eis”.
- Philip immersed the Ethiopian (38)
- Philip and the Ethiopian came up “out of the water (39)
 - Not an outward sign of an inward act – if so, why didn’t the Ethiopian wait and be immersed back in Ethiopia.
 - Not an immersion into the local assembly – if so, what local assembly?
 - Not saved then immersed, but rather immersed then saved.

- The Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away (39)
- Miraculous transport or the Spirit used WORDS (39)
- The Ethiopian saw Philip no more (39)
- The Ethiopian went on his way rejoicing (39)
- The feeling connected with salvation came after becoming a Christian, not before. It came after baptism.
- Philip found himself at Azotus – located on the Mediterranean Sea about 20 miles north of Gaza.
- Philip preached the Gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.
- Acts 21:8 seems to indicate that Philip settled down in Caesarea.

Doctrines from Chapter 8:26-40

- Find out where a prospect is at the plan of salvation (30)
- Once you find out, open your mouth (35)
- Began at the place where the prospect is at (35)
- Preach Jesus to the prospect (35)
- The feeling connected with salvation came after becoming a Christian, not before. It came after baptism. (39)