

Acts 8:26-40



- 1 An angel of the Lord told Philip to go south to the desert road running from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip obeyed and on the road he saw a chariot. Inside was an important Ethiopian official in charge of the queen's treasury who had gone to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home. The Holy Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it.'



- 2 Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading aloud the words of the prophet Isaiah. (*Isaiah 53:7-8*).



- 3 'Do you understand what you are reading?' Philip asked.
'How can I unless someone explains it to me?' The Ethiopian replied.



- 4 He invited Philip to sit in the chariot with him.



- 5 The passage the Ethiopian was reading was about the Saviour God had promised to send. It read, 'He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.'



- 6 'In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.'



- 7 'Please tell me who the prophet is talking about,' the Ethiopian said, 'himself or someone else?'



- 8 'The prophet Isaiah is talking about Jesus,' Philip explained. Then he told him how Jesus had died and risen from the dead so anyone could have their sins forgiven.



- 9 As they travelled along the road the Ethiopian said, 'Look, here is some water. 'What can stop me being baptised?' He gave orders to stop the chariot.'



- 10 The Ethiopian went into the water where Philip baptised him. As Philip came out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took him away and he appeared at Azotus (Ashdod) where he preached in all the towns as he travelled north to Caesarea.



- 11 The Ethiopian went on his way home rejoicing.

