

chapters

# Acts of the Apostles

July 28, 2024

- 1 *Stand by Me*
- 2a *You Light Up My*
- 2b *He's ALIVE*
- 3 *When Tomorrow Starts without Me*
- 4a *Got Friends in Low Places*
- 4b *LIAR – Lying to God*
- 5 *Why God's Wondrous Grace*
- 6-7 *Ballad of Green Beret—Stephen*
- 8 *I Feel Like Travellin' On*
- 9a *Calling*
- 9b *Healing*
- 10-11 *Including*
- 12 *Praying*



*Philip Baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch*  
Aelbert Cuyp (1620–1691)

**Acts 8:30**

**“Do you understand?”**





# Happy 55th Anniversary Sergio & Susan Ramos



# Early Church

	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Summary</b>
June 2	1	<i>Stand by Me</i>	Gift of Holy Ghost Coming
June 9	2a	<i>You Light Up My Life</i>	Pentecost—Gift of Holy Spirit
June 16	2b	<i>He's ALIVE</i>	1st Sermon Resurrection - Unified, Devoted, Shared
June 23	3	<i>When Tomorrow Starts</i>	Peter Heals Lame – 2nd Sermon Resurrection
June 30	4a	<i>Got Friends in Low Places</i>	Crocodile Bill & Peter to Rulers of Jerusalem
July 7	4b	<i>LIAR – Lying to God</i>	Shaken, Shared - Ananias & Sapphira's Lies
July 14	5	<i>Why God's Wondrous Grace</i>	Apostles Arrested & Gamaliel's Defense
July 21	6-7	<i>Ballad of Green Beret</i>	Stephen—Church's 1st Martyr
July 28	8	<i>I Feel Like Travellin' On</i>	Angel, Phillip, Candace
Aug 4	9a	Calling	Paul Blinded, then SEES
Aug 11	9b	Healing	Peter Heals Aenaes & Raises Tabatha
Aug 18	10	Including	Peter's Vision—EAT
Aug 25	11-12	Praying	Peter Freed from Prison





# Our Church



# Baptism – Obeying God

Chapters 8

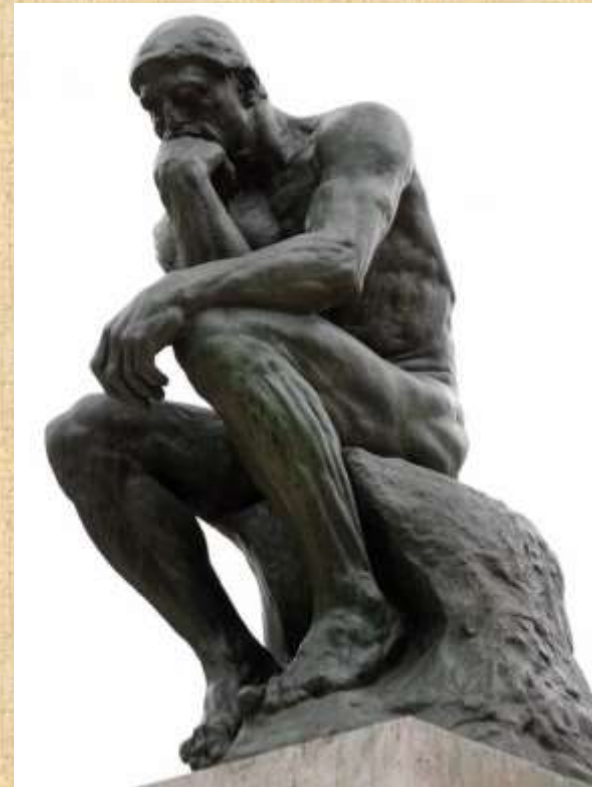
**8:1-3** Persecution, Paul Attacks Church, Imprisons Believers

**8:4-8** Philip to Samaria, Cast Out Demons & Heals Many

**8:9-25** Simon Sorcerer & Others Baptized, Peter & John to Jerusalem

**8:26-40** Angel Sends Philip to Ethiopian Eunuch

**8:30** – “Do you understand?”





Journey of Philip is a **Wild Ride** *traveling from the start*  
*Easy Rider* is **NOT** a movie for Church or Sunday School  
though *tame* by today's standards of *wild rides* ...

But it did help make the song "**Born to Be Wild**"  
the most iconic song for bikers ... *f o r e v e r*

Bare w me ... not gonna play it all ... **MAYBE I WILL NOT**  
but **IF** Philip had a **Harley** ... first lyrics *might* be his

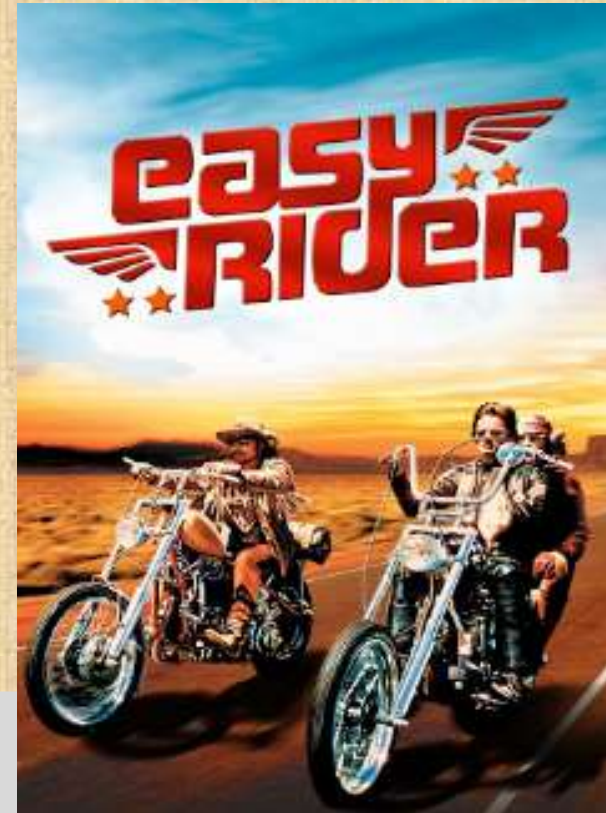
Get your motor runnin'  
Head out on the highway

Lookin' for adventure  
And whatever comes our way

Yeah, darlin', go make it happen  
Take the world in a **LOVE** embrace



**from the time we meet Philip ... *he's on the road***



Came out in 1969

## 8:1-3 Persecution, Paul Attacks Church, Imprisons Believers

- 1 On that day [Murder of Stephen] a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.
- 2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.
- 3 But Saul began to DESTROY the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men & women & *put them in prison*





## 8. 3 Persecution: Paul Attacks Church, Imprisons Believers

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# Obedient

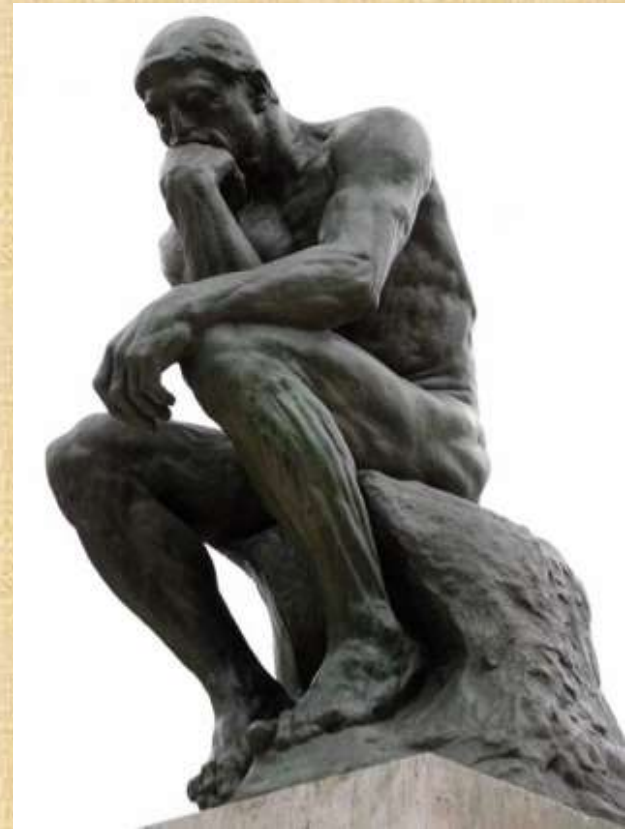
Are you sure you want to go here ...

One of most misused words in the Christian life ...

Obey ... or Impelled from Love to Serve

STANDARD has been set high ... very high!

| 8:30 – “Do you understand?”



# Obedient

Are you sure you want to go here ...

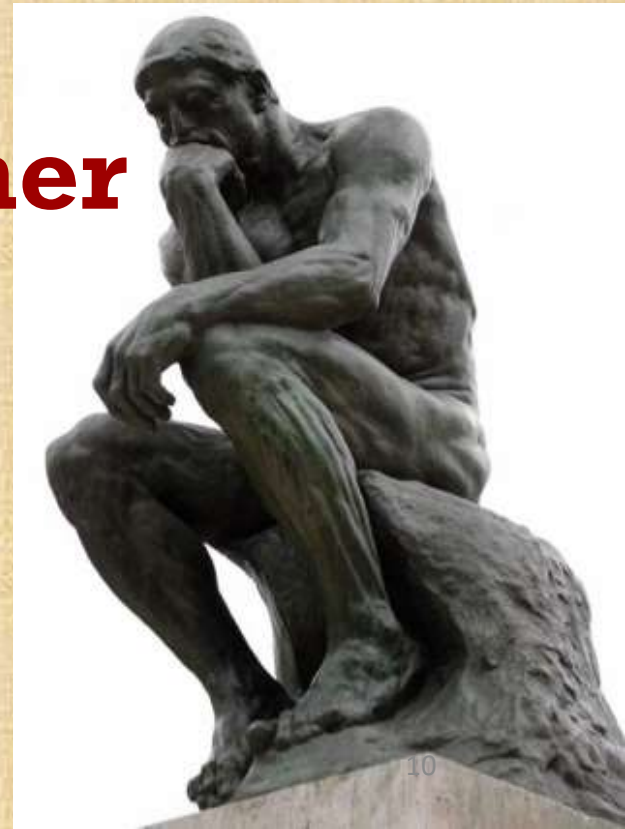
What is the standard? How high is it?

Good Obedience? . . . oh no ...

## **PERFECT Obedience**

*Since no one can* – **LOVE one Another**

| **8:30** – **“Do you understand?”**





# Baptism – Obeying God in FAITH

Baptism is an act of OBEDIENCE symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

**Symbolizes 3 events—*Past, Present, Future:***

- 1. Believer's Faith in Christ's Death, Burial, Resurrection** *what you* **Have Done**
- 2. Believer's Spiritual Death, Burial, Resurrection** **Are Doing**
- 3. Believer's Future Death, Burial, Resurrection** **Will Do**

## ***Baptist Faith and Message*** (1963 & 200) –

[www.PreciousHeart.net/Baptist\\_Faith.htm](http://www.PreciousHeart.net/Baptist_Faith.htm)

### **VII. Baptism & the Lord's Supper**

**Christian baptism** is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

**The Lord's Supper** is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.



Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26;  
Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7;  
Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.



# 8:4-8 Philip to Samaria, Cast Out Demons & Heals Many

4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

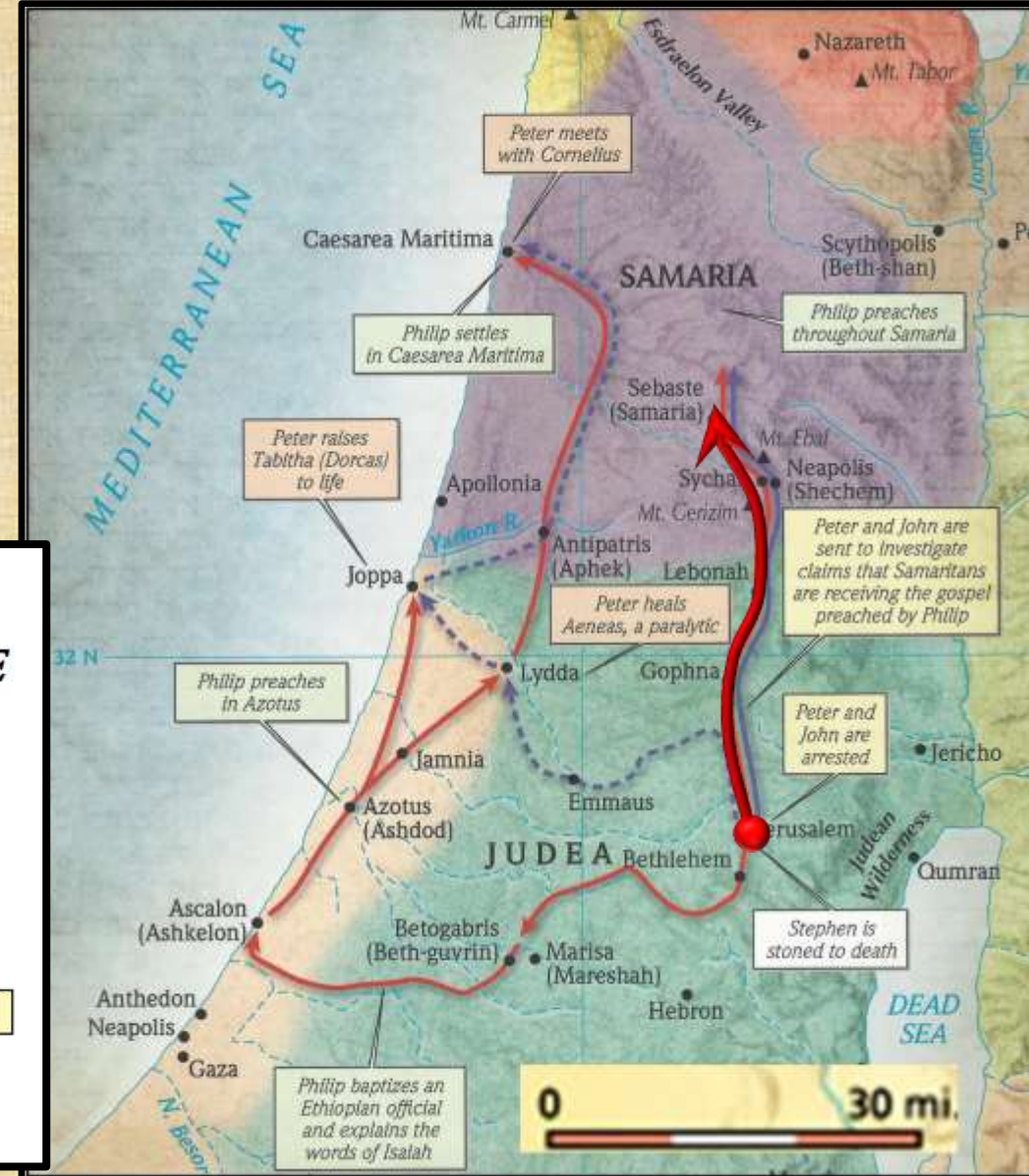
5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria & proclaimed the Messiah there.

*even though going north,  
all roads DOWN from Jerusalem*

## EXPANSION OF THE EARLY CHURCH IN PALESTINE

ACTS 4-11

- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ← Philip's routes
- ← Peter and John's routes
- ←-- Peter's routes



## **8:4-8 Philip to Samaria, Cast Out Demons & Heals Many**

**6** When the crowds heard Philip & saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said.

**7** For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of MANY, and MANY who were paralyzed or lame were healed.

**8** So there was great joy in that city.

**Notice they knew the distinction between**

- ✓ **Healing the Lame & Sick**
- ✓ **Casting Out Demons**





## 8:9-25 Simon Sorcerer & Others Baptized, Peter & John to Jerusalem

9-11 Simon ... sorcerer [Simon Magus] amazed all in Samaria ... “Great power of God” ...

### Many followed him

- ✓ “Magus” is Greek word for doing *sorcery* or *magic*
- ✓ “Magus” only used in Acts 8:9

*Peter's Conflict with Simon Magus*  
by Avanzino Nucci, 1620



***Peter's Conflict with Simon Magus***  
by Avanzino Nucci, 1620



**Relief of Simon Magus at the gate of  
the Basilica of Saint-Sernin, Toulouse.**





## **8:9-25 Simon Sorcerer & Others Baptized, Peter & John to Jerusalem**

**12 But when they believed Philip's good news of the kingdom of God & the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized....**

**13 Simon himself believed & was baptized.**

**Simon followed Philip everywhere,  
astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.**

**14-17 Apostles in Jerusalem heard ... sent Peter & John ... who placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.**

**Church began in Jerusalem with the "Apostles" leading  
Peter & John noted authorities**



## 8:9-25 Simon Sorcerer & Others Baptized, Peter & John to Jerusalem

18-19 Simon saw ... asked, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

20 Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could **BUY** the gift of God with money!

21 You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God.

From the beginning ... church is haunted by money  
NEEDS money to operate ... support staff ...

We will never see an end ...

Do NOT let Evil of a few turn you from God



*Peter's Conflict with Simon Magus*  
by Avanzino Nucci, 1620



**Simony** – named after  
Simon Magus

- ✓ Selling of Church Offices
- ✓ After cast out ... to Rome  
... honored as a God
- ✓ Simonians – heresy  
like Gnosticism
- ✓ Know God by degrees

*Peter's Conflict with Simon Magus*  
by Avanzino Nucci, 1620





## 8:9-25 Simon Sorcerer & Others Baptized, Peter & John to Jerusalem

22 Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that He may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.

23 For I see that you are FULL of bitterness & captive to sin.”

24 Then Simon answered, “Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me.”

Simon knew when fold his chair & scat ...



*Peter's Conflict with Simon Magus*  
by Avanzino Nucci, 1620



## 8:9-25 Simon Sorcerer & Others Baptized, Peter & John to Jerusalem

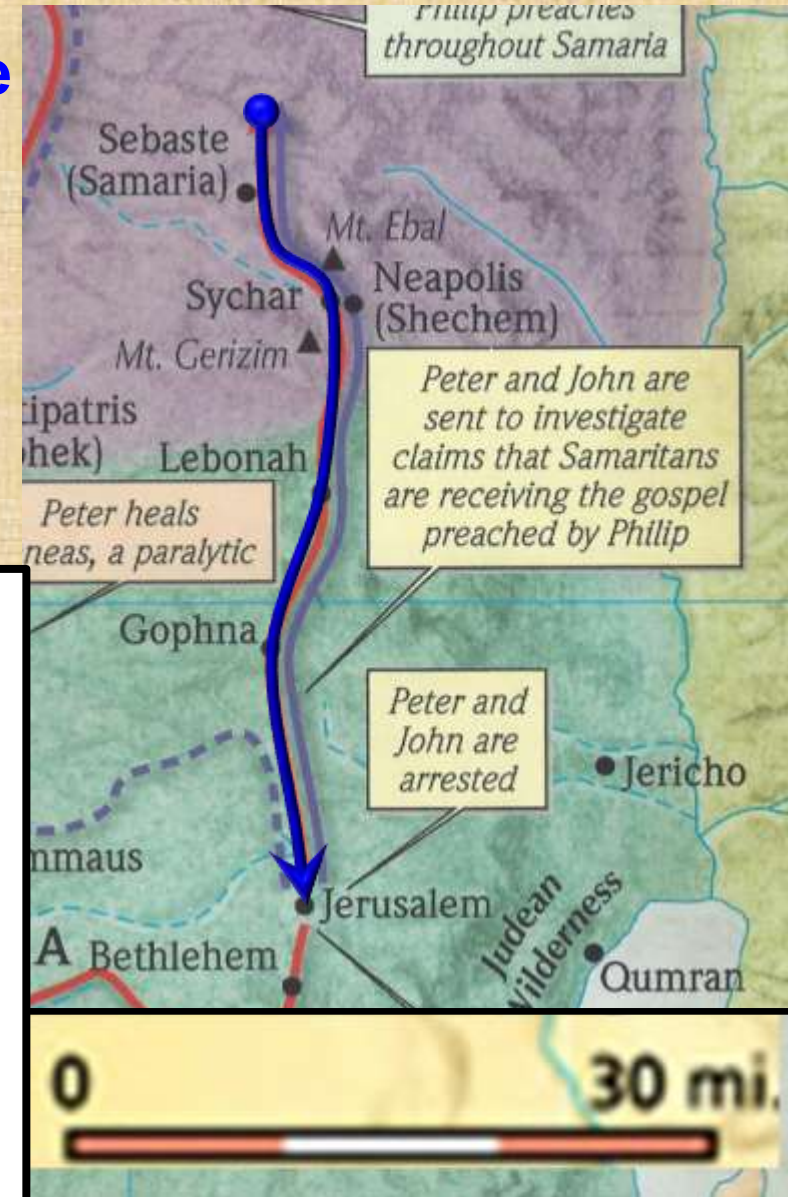
25 After – Peter & John – had further proclaimed the word of the Lord and testified about Jesus, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in *many Samaritan villages.*

Soon ... Philip will get a call to go WEST to Gaza to a Eunuch travelling from **Jerusalem**



**EXPANSION OF THE EARLY CHURCH IN PALESTINE**  
ACTS 4-11

- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ← Philip's routes
- ← Peter and John's routes
- ← Peter's routes





**Area of Study**  
**Acts 1-12**

**Greece**  
**Hellás**

**Rome**

- 500-300 **Golden Greece**
- 325 BC **Alexander**
- 200 BC **LXX**
- 72-71 BC **Spartacus**
- **Hellenism Dominates**  
... **Latin on Rise**
- 44 BC **J. Caesar killed**
- 31 BC **Battle of Actium**
- **Rome Dominates**
- AD 14 **Augustus Dies**
- AD 64 **Nero burns Rome**
- AD 70 **Temple Destroyed**
- AD 73 **Masada Falls**





Greece  
Hellás

Rome

Church is  
Spreading  
**FAST**

- 500-300 Golden Greece
- 325 BC Alexander
- 200 BC LXX
- 72-71 BC Spartacus
- Hellenism Dominant
- ... Latin on the rise
- 44 BC Julius Caesar
- 31 BC Battle of Actium
- Rome Dominant
- AD 14 Augustus
- AD 64 Nero burns Rome
- AD 70 Temple destroyed
- AD 73 Masada

Not long for  
it's in

**Rome**



Philip preaches throughout Samaria

Peter and John are sent to investigate claims that Samaritans are receiving the gospel preached by Phillip

Peter heals Aeneas, a paralytic

Peter and John are arrested

Stephen is stoned to death

Philip preaches in Azotus

Philip baptizes an Ethiopian official and explains the words of Isaiah



# Cultures in Conflict as Rome Dominates

- ✓ Hellenistic & Hebraic Jews in Jerusalem and beyond
- ✓ Jerusalem, heart of Judaism, under Roman Governor
- ✓ Paganism of Rome vs. expansion of Christianity
- ✓ Hellenism itself ... competes with Judaism
- ✓ Hellenism vs. Samaritan Judaism ?? – *don't know*
- ✓ Hellenism gives way to Roman expansion
- ✓ Expansion of Rome to its Fall in AD 400 to 476
- ✓ Insanity of Roman emperors contributes to decline
- ✓ Vicious Persecution of Church to AD 325 & Constantine



THE ROMAN EMPIRE  
AT ITS GREATEST EXTENT  
117 A.D.

Scale of Miles

0 100 200 300 400 500

0 100 200 300 400 500



As Philip to goes to  
Samaria, remember  
our journey thru Jeremiah

- ✓ 12 Tribes Divide after Solomon
- ✓ CITY of Samaria TOTALLY destroyed 722 B.C.
- ✓ Joshua built altar on Mt. Ebal
- ✓ Joshua 8 “copied the Law of Moses on stones as Israelites watched
- ✓ Then Joshua read the Law to them
- ✓ Holy *Places* still in Samaria *territory* in N.T. times dating back to c. 800 B.C.





Caesarea Maritima

Sebaste  
(Samaria)

Mt. Ebal

Neapolis  
(Shechem)

Mt. Gerizim

*Peter and John are sent to investigate claims that Samaritans are receiving the gospel preached by Philip*

*Peter heals Aeneas, a paralytic*

*Peter and John are arrested*

Apollonia

Yarkon R.

Sychar

Antipatris  
(Aphek)

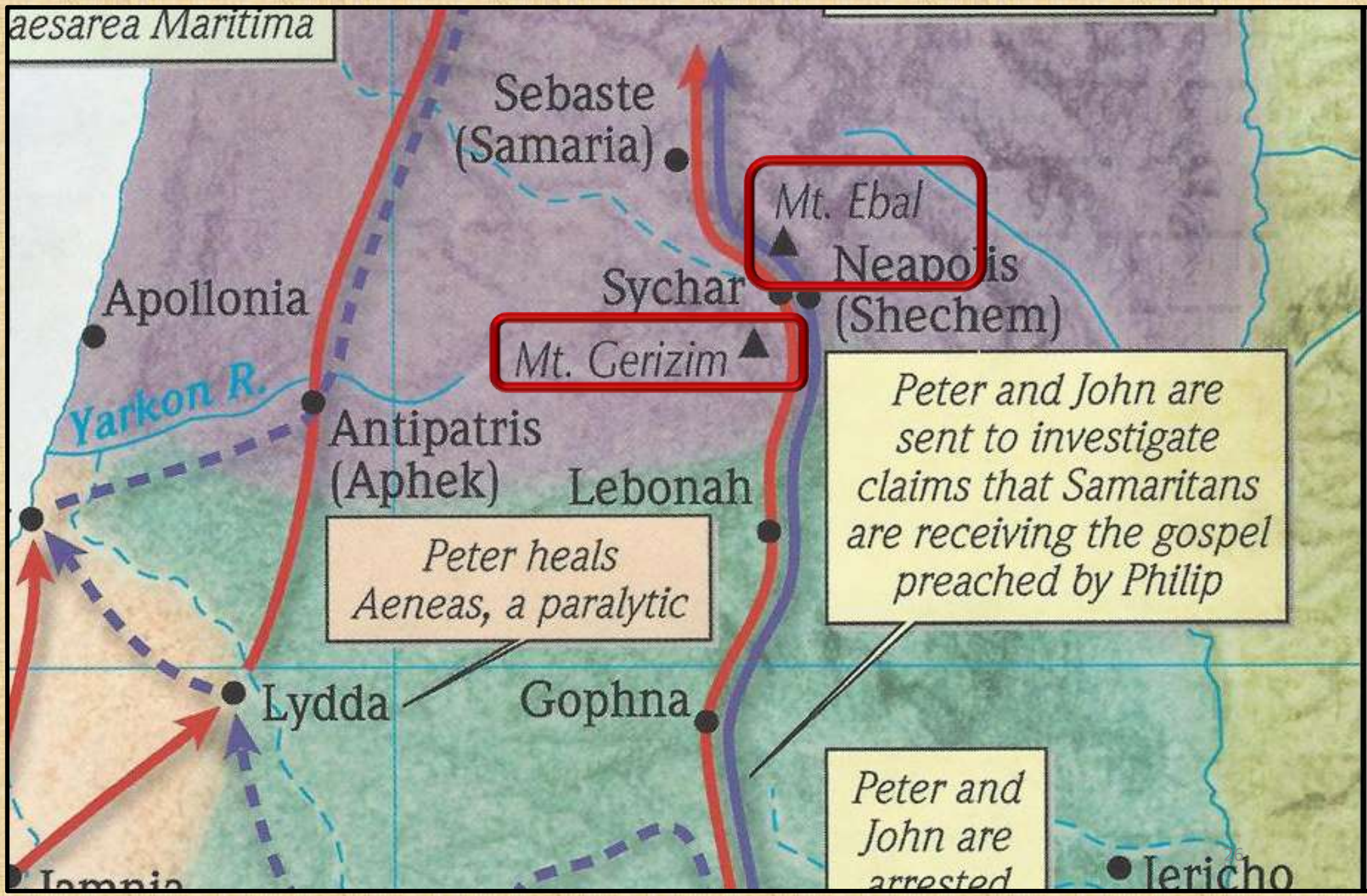
Lebonah

Lydda

Gophna

Jerusalem

Jericho





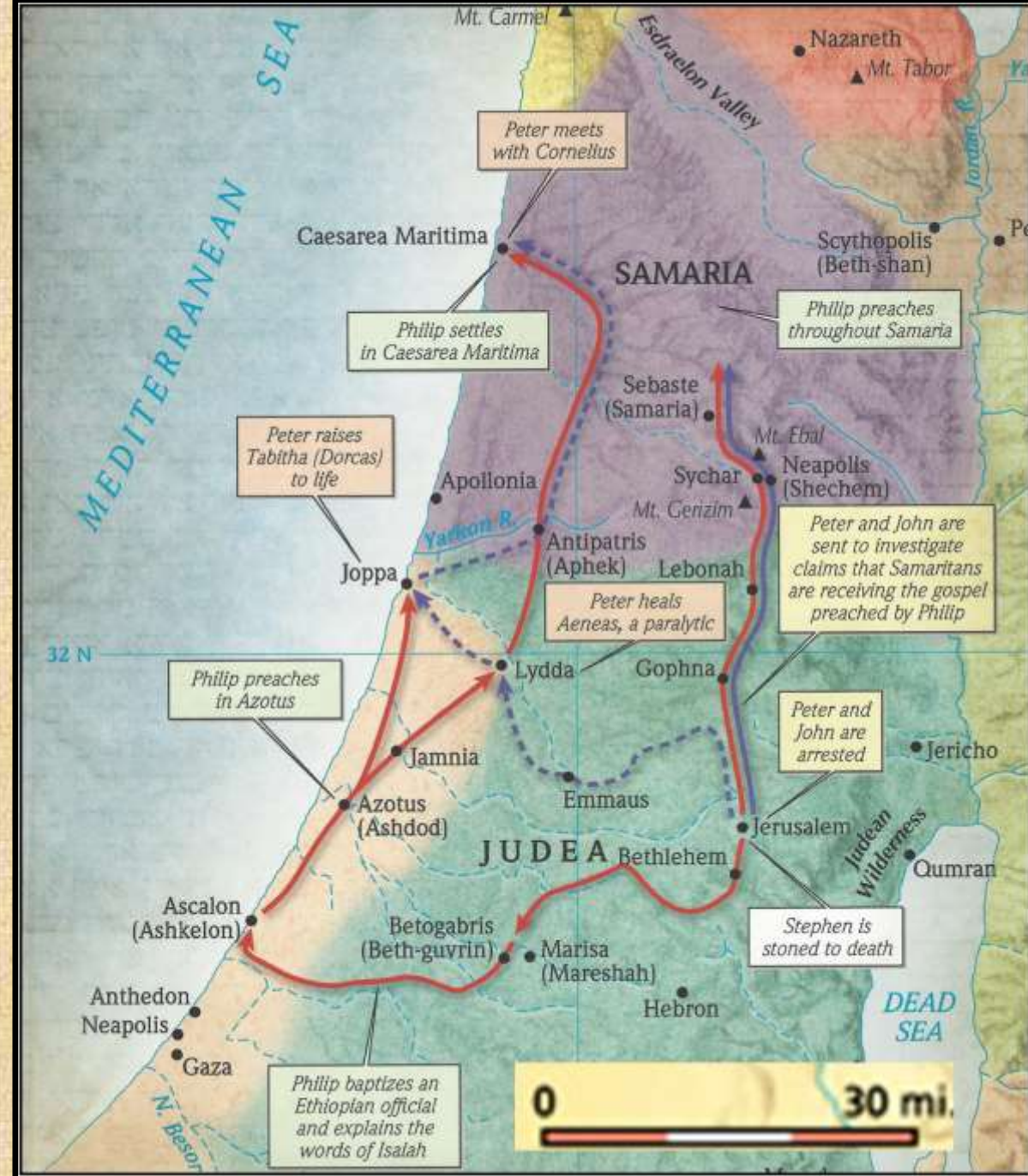
# Mt. Gerizim





# Samaria & Gerizim

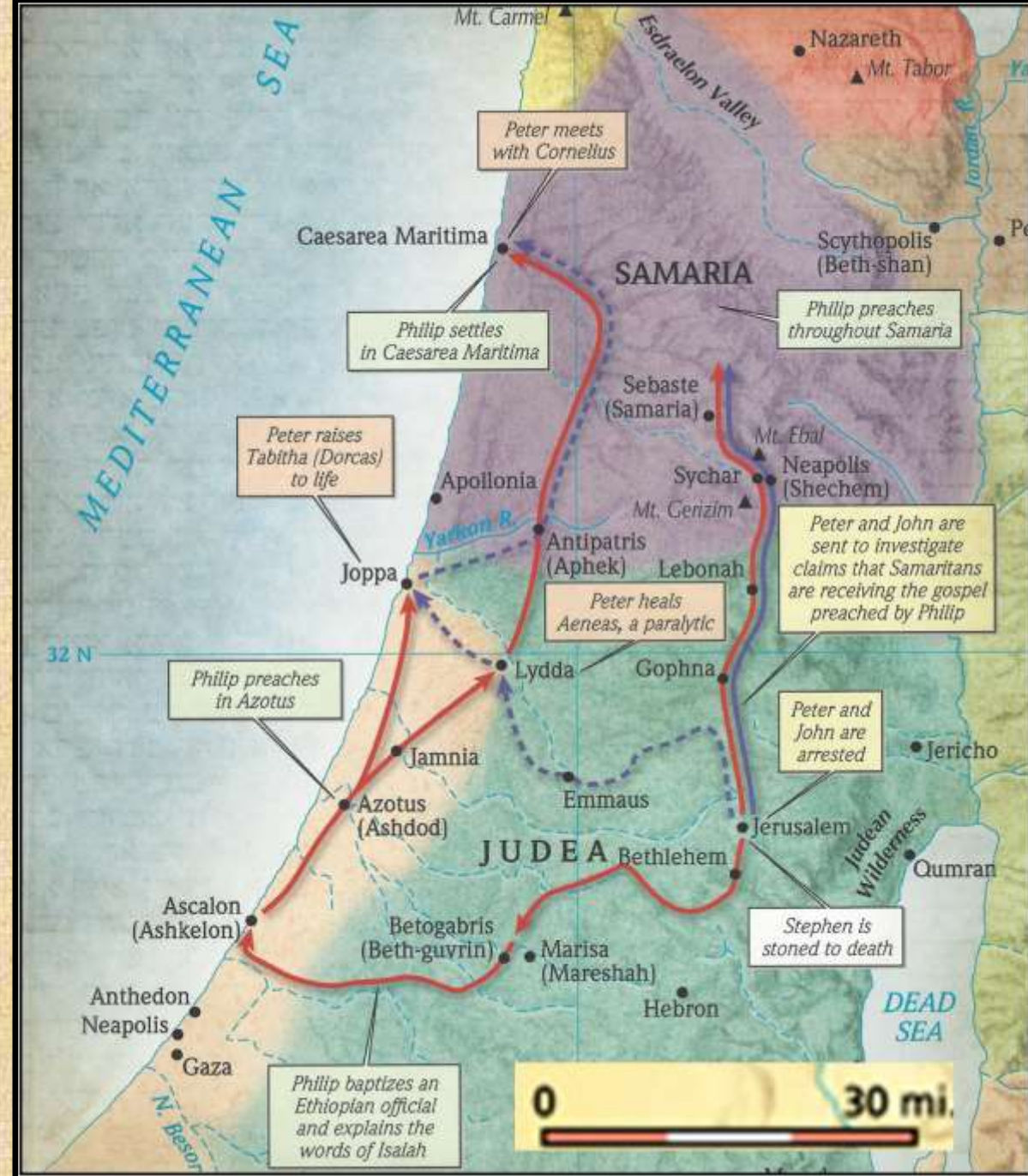
- ✓ 960 Solomon Temple
- ✓ 722 Assyria captures Samaria  
10 Tribes of Israel  
totally destroy city
- ✓ 586 Nebuchadnezzar takes  
Jerusalem – captivity
- ✓ 539 Cyrus allows return
- ✓ 323 Alexander dies
- ✓ Jerusalem vs. Samaria





# Samaria & Gerizim

- ✓ 323 Alexander dies and Hellenism spreads
- ✓ 200 BC LXX, Septuagint O.T. trans into Greek
- ✓ 168 Antiochus IV aligns with Hellenistic Jews against traditional
- ✓ 164-63 Maccabees revolt
- ✓ Conflict between Jerusalem and Samaria entrenched by A.D. 33



# Samaria & Gerizim

- ✓ Samaritan = Guardian
- ✓ Samaritan Pentateuch similar to Rabbinic or Masoretic Text
- ✓ Samaritans claimed true descendants of lost tribes
- ✓ Both claimed God's favor and banned contact
- ✓ ... lot of hate to Samaritans

ever been hated?

*really hated?*



**Mt. Gerizim**





## 8:1-25 Context – Angel to Philip to Candace

**Jerusalem** Apostles send Peter & John who baptize  
& confront Simon Magnus

After visiting many villages, Peter & John return Jerusalem  
Apparently, as Peter and John visit,

Philip is sent south again, to Jerusalem then to Gaza

Only as he is **ON THE WAY** does the Spirit tell Philip



*Philip Baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch  
Aelbert Cuyp (1620–1691)*



## 8:26-40 Angel Sends Philip to Ethiopian Eunuch

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip,  
“Go south to the road—the desert road—  
that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

*Philip Baptizing the  
Ethiopian Eunuch  
Aelbert Cuyp (1620–1691)*





## Greek WORD

- ✓ **Kappa**
- ✓ **Alpha**
- ✓ **Delta**
- ✓ **Easy to see English from Greek here**



*Philip Baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch*  
Aelbert Cuyp (1620–1691)

## Kandake/Candace

- ✓ Queen – Ethiopia, more of what we know as Nubia
- ✓ Pharaoh, Ptolemy, Ceasar
- ✓ Some refer to her as Queen of Sheba
- ✓ Several female rulers,
  - several armed women,
  - one ruler during Augustus



Isaiah 45:14

This is what the LORD says: “The products of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush, and those tall Sabeans—they will come over to you and will be yours; they will trudge behind you, coming over to you in chains. They will bow down before you and plead with you, saying, ‘Surely God is with you, and there is no other; there is no other god.’”

*Philip Baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch*  
Aelbert Cuyp (1620–1691)





# Kandake/Candace Meaning

- ✓ Queen – Ethiopia, more of what we know as Nubia
- ✓ Pharaoh, Ptolemy, Ceasar
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*Philip Baptizing the Ethiopian*  
*Aelbert Cuyp (1620–169)*



**Ancient Ethiopian Queen triumphing over Captives.**



K n d a h a i . sem.

Hieroglyph for Candace.



*Philip Baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch*  
Aelbert Cuyp (1620–1691)





**Both Church Fathers Irenaeus (A.D. c. 130-202) & Eusebius (A.D. c. 260-339) ascribe to Candace's minister her own conversion and subsequent spread of Christianity throughout her kingdom in Africa**



*Philip Baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch  
Aelbert Cuyp (1620–1691)*



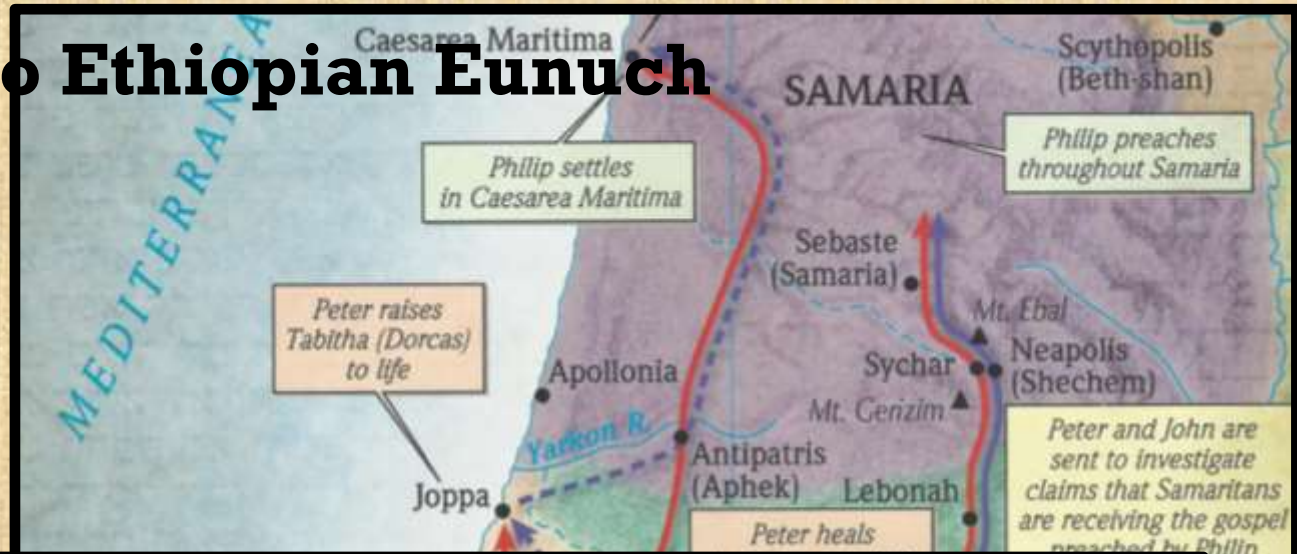


# 8:26-40 Angel Sends Philip to Ethiopian Eunuch

8:26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip,

“Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

Imagine with a song ...





Loretta Lynn on her *Gospel Spirit* album gave us  
Marvelous song ...

*I Feel Like Travellin' On* (2004)

My heavenly home is bright and fair  
I feel like traveling on  
No pain nor death can inner there  
I feel like traveling on



Philip's has **GOT** to go ...



Not just obedience ... but **LOVE** for others

## 8:26-40 Angel Sends Philip to Ethiopian Eunuch

27 So Philip started out ... met an Ethiopian a eunuch,  
an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake  
(which means “queen of the Ethiopians”).

This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,

28 on his way home ... in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah ...

29 The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

Spirit is communicating CLEARLY to Philip

We think in a way *unique* to the N.T. era

Though Spirit certainly SPEAKS today



*Philip Baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch*  
*Aelbert Cuyp (1620–1691)*





## **8:26-40 Angel Sends Philip to Ethiopian Eunuch**

**30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet.**

**“Do you understand what you are reading?”**

**31 “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?”**

**So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.**

**We need to HELP others too**

**Have YOU asked that question?**

**Helped another to UNDERSTAND?**



*Philip Baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch  
Aelbert Cuyp (1620–1691)*



Loretta Lynn on her *Gospel Spirit* album gave us  
Marvelous song ...

*I Feel Like Travelling On (2004)*

Its glittering towers the sun outshines  
I feel like traveling on

That heavenly mansion shall be mine  
I feel like traveling on



Imagine the Eunuch told Philip of Great Pyramids of Giza

Philip told Mr Eunuch of his  
greater heavenly home





## 8:26-40 Angel Sends Philip to Ethiopian Eunuch

32 “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.

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

from Isaiah 53:7-8

**hey, he's reading his Bible  
on his way home ....**



*Philip Baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch  
Aelbert Cuyp (1620–1691)*



## **8:26-40 Angel Sends Philip to Ethiopian Eunuch**

**34 The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”**

**35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.**

**What was it like to hear that FULL long story?**

**Relaxing in a luxurious chariot?**

**Sipping finest Egyptian wine?**





## 8:26-40 Angel Sends Philip to Ethiopian Eunuch

8:38 And Eunuch gave orders  
to stop the chariot.

Then both Philip & the eunuch  
went down into the water

**Philip baptized him.**

*Baptism of the Eunuch*  
Rembrandt, c. 1626







***Philip Baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch  
Aelbert Cuyp (1620–1691)***





***Philip Baptizes the Ethiopian  
by Maerten Jacobz van Heemskerck (16th Century).***

Loretta Lynn on her *Gospel Spirit* album gave us  
Marvelous song ...

*I Feel Like Travelling On* (2004)

**Philip's feelin' pretty darn good ...**

**The Lord has been so good to me**

**I feel like traveling on**

**Until that blessed home I see**

**I feel like traveling on**

**Yes I feel like traveling on**



**Philip ... after baptism ... HITS the road again**



**39** When they came up out of the water, Spirit of the Lord  
**suddenly took Philip away,**  
and the eunuch did not see him again ... went on his way rejoicing.

Word can be “Snatched away” 1x in NT – 14 uses in 10 variations

Literally  
**Grab**

- ✓ Matt 11:12 “violent men *snatch, take by force*”
- ✓ John 6:15 “men take *by force* make Jesus king”
- ✓ Matt 12:29 & Acts 23:10 property or man “*taken away by force*”

Figuratively  
**Grab**

- ✓ Matt 13:19 “evil one *snatches* them away”
- ✓ John 10:12 “wolf *snatches / catches* them”
- ✓ John 10:29 “No one will *snatch* them out of my hand”
- ✓ Jude 1:23 “save others, *snatching* them out of the fire”

Spiritually  
**Grab**

- ✓ Rev 12:5 “her child *caught up* to Lord”
- ✓ 1 Thess 4:17 “remain shall be *caught up* together”
- ✓ 2 Cor 12:2 “man was *caught up* to the third heaven”

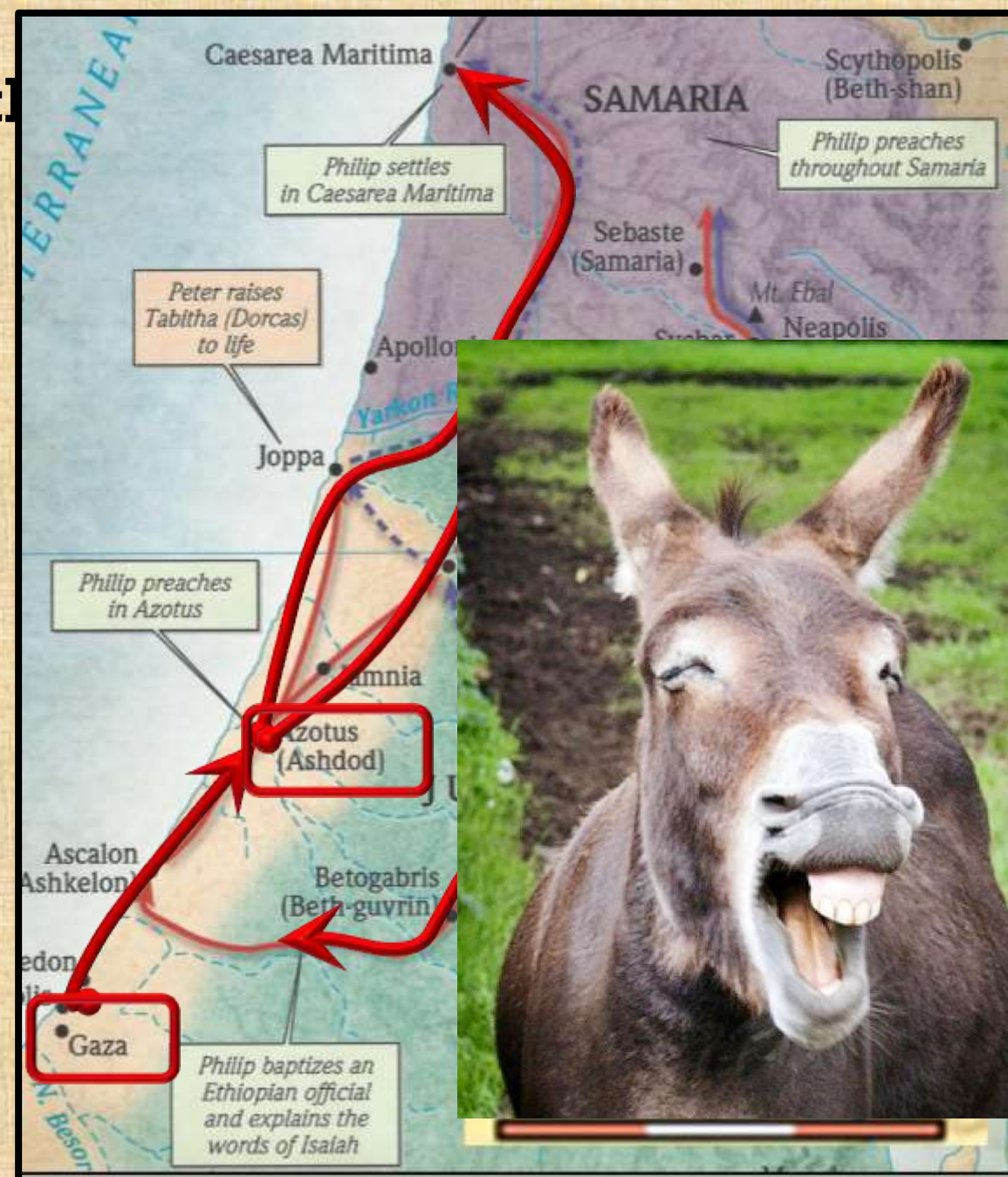
We kinda believe it was spiritual – don't just disappear in a desert

# 8:26-40 Angel Sends Philip to Ethiopia

**40 Philip, however, appeared at Azotus & traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.**

**Philip – just got to get on the road again  
What? – another 50 miles to Caesarea?  
Like to Beaumont & back**

**on Foot or  
on Donkey's back**





# Obedient – to God

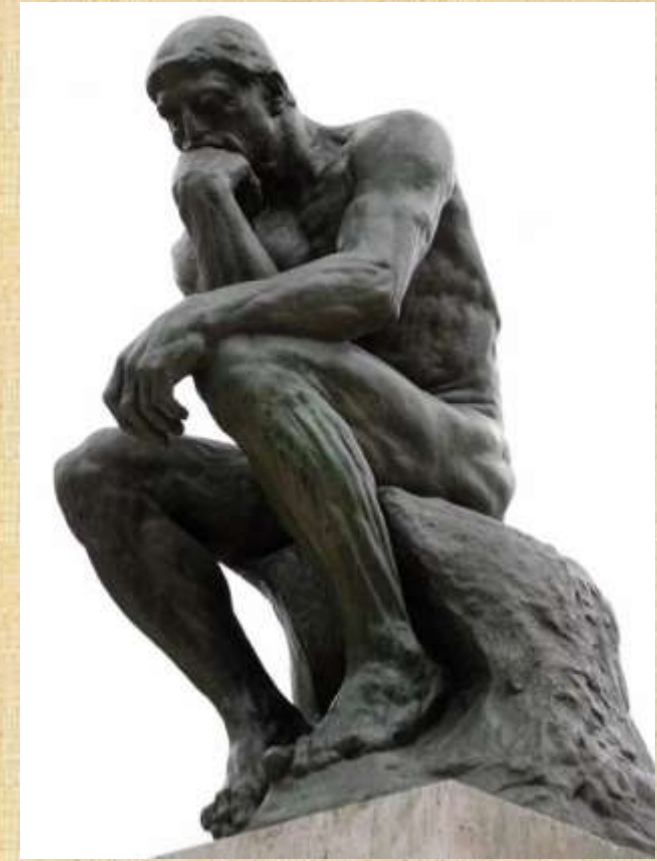
**Standard – Perfect Obedience**

**Command – to go, to do, to try ... *try to care***

**Example – to be patient, kind, long-suffering, *to Love***

| “Do you understand?”

**sure you do ....**



# Obedient – to God

Obedience in the New Testament is less about rules  
more, much more about *principles* & *good relations* & *honor*

**Two Great  
Commands**

**Golden Rule**

**Parables**

et cetera

et cetera



*Christ and the Woman of Samaria*  
c. 1580-82, by Paolo Veronese







*Christ and the Woman of Samaria*  
c. 1580-82, by Paolo Veronese

# Obedient – to God

Obedience in the New Testament is less about rules more, much more about *principles* & *good relations* & *honor*

**the outcast**

**treat the ..... *hated***

**how YOU treat the  
*Samaritan***



*Christ and the Woman of Samaria*  
c. 1580-82, by Paolo Veronese





# Obedient – to God

Obedience in the New Testament is less about rules  
more, much more about *principles* & *good relations* & *honor*

**Lesson?**

**Not Check List**

**But are you**

**WILLING ? ?**



**as he was willing**

Acts 8:30 Then Philip RAN ... heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet.

“Do you understand what you are reading?”

31 “How can I,” he said, “unless SOMEONE explains it to me?”

So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

We need to HELP others too

Have YOU asked that question?



**Helped another to UNDERSTAND?**

Do YOU feel like



**travellin' on?  
for the Lord**

