

THE BOOK OF  
**ACTS**  
LIFE IN THE SPIRIT



Acts 8:26-8:40

Message + Mission + Multiply

## Acts 8: 26 NIV

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



# Question

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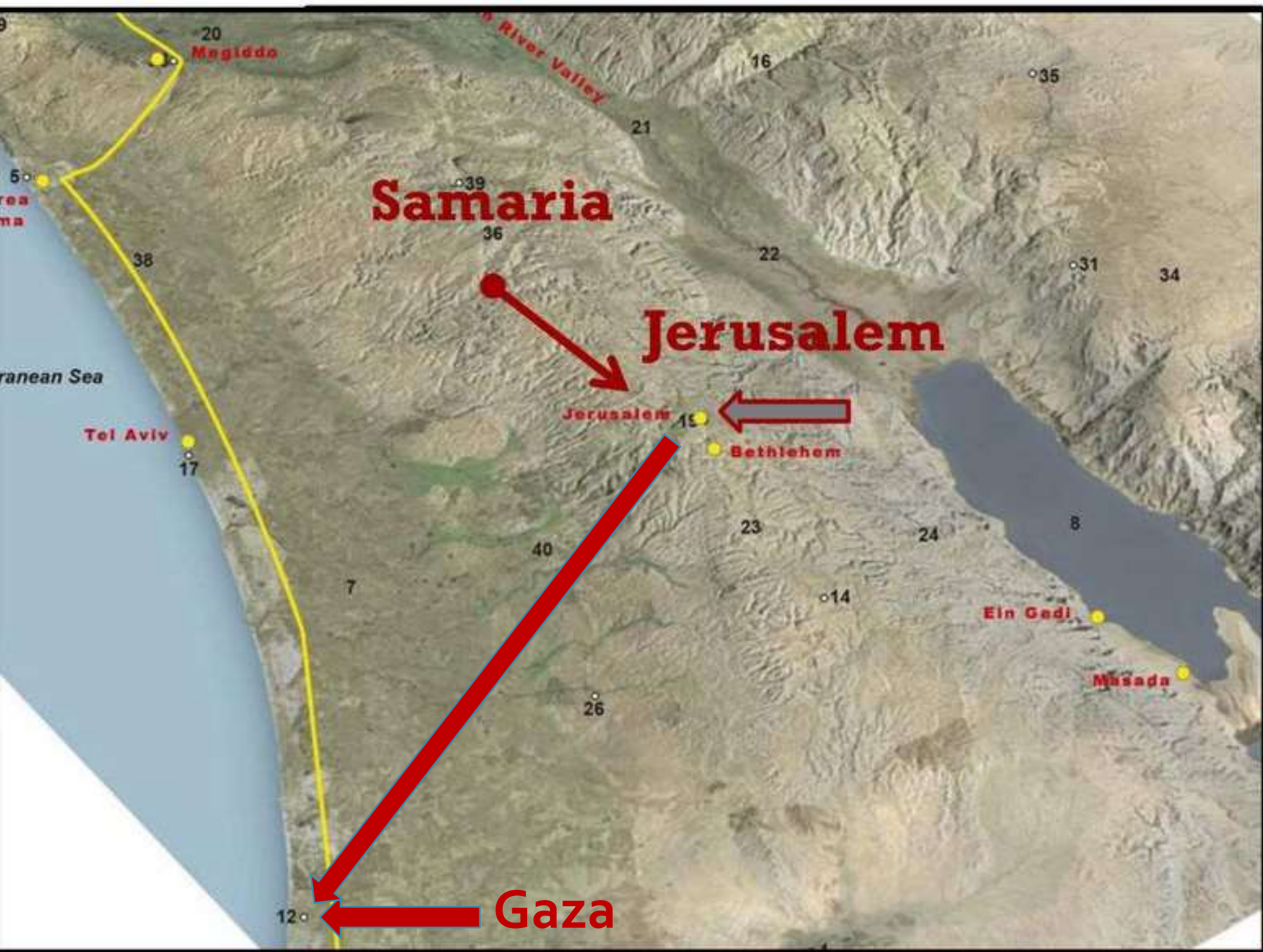
What kind of road is  
Philip headed to?

## Acts 8: 26 NIV

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











## Acts 8: 27 NIV

*So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”).*



# Question

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Does it sound like  
there was any  
hesitation to make  
this long trip through  
the desert?

## Acts 8: 27 NIV

So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”).



# Question

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On his way to where?

## Acts 8: 26 NIV

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



# Question

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What can we learn  
from this?



Sometimes it's about the

*journey*

and not so much about the

*destination.*



# Question

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Where was the eunuch  
from?

In biblical times Ethiopia referenced all of Africa south of Egypt. This covers all portions of Northern Africa, Ethiopia, Libya and beyond. We don't know exactly where he was from, just the region.



# Question

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What was the  
Ethiopian eunuch's  
job?

## Acts 8: 27 NIV

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So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”).



The name Kandake or Candace is not a proper name, it's a title like Pharaoh, for the queen mother. So the eunuch is working for the queen mother and managing the finances for the Ethiopian Kingdom.

Being made a eunuch was common practice for those working closely with the Queen. He has great authority and would be considered today to be the CFO for the entire Kingdom of Ethiopia.



## Acts 8: 27 NIV

*So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”).*

## Acts 8: 27-28 NIV

*This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.*



# Question

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What does the fact that this man made a 1,000 mile trip from his homeland to Jerusalem to worship God tell us about him?

# Ethiopian Eunuch

1. Was searching for God



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*Please turn to  
Jeremiah 29:13*

## Jeremiah 29: 13 NIV

*You will seek me and find  
me when you seek me  
with all your heart.*



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*Please turn to  
Matthew 7: 8*

## Matthew 7: 8 NIV

*For everyone who asks  
receives; the one who  
seeks finds; and to the one  
who knocks, the door will  
be opened.*



# Question

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How is this different  
from Simon the  
sorcerer?

## Acts 8: 27-28 NIV

*This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.*



# The Scroll of Isaiah

Note this indicates the great wealth the eunuch had as only the priests typically had access to the scrolls. They were meticulously copied copied letter by letter.

## Process for creating copies of the Old testament by the Jewish Scribes

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- They could only use clean animal skins, both to write on, and even to bind manuscripts.
- Each column of writing could have no less than forty-eight, and no more than sixty lines.
- The ink must be black, and of a special recipe.
- They must verbalize each word aloud while they were writing.



- They must wipe the pen and wash their entire bodies before writing the word "Jehovah," every time they wrote it.
- There must be a review within thirty days, and if as many as three pages required corrections, the entire manuscript had to be redone.

- The letters, words, and paragraphs had to be counted, and the document became invalid if two letters touched each other.
- The middle paragraph, word and letter must correspond to those of the original document.



## Acts 8: 27-28 NIV

*This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.*

## Acts 8: 29 NIV

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



# Question

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Do you think Philip knew at this point that this was the destination for his journey?

## Acts 8: 29 NIV

*Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.*



# Question

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How quickly did Philip travel to the chariot?

## Acts 8: 29 NIV

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



# Question

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What do you think  
Philip thought when  
he heard the eunuch  
reading the Word of  
God?

## Acts 8: 29-30 NIV

*“Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.*



# Question

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Where was the eunuch  
searching for God?

# Ethiopian Eunuch

1. Was searching for God
2. Searching in the Word



# Question

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Where do we find the  
explanation of the  
Word today?

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*Please turn to  
Colossians 1: 24-29*



# Colossians 1: 24-29 NIV

*Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.*

## Colossians 1: 24-29 NIV

*I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people.*



## Colossians 1: 24-29 NIV

*To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

# Colossians 1: 24-29 NIV

*He is the one we proclaim,  
admonishing and teaching  
everyone with all wisdom, so  
that we may present  
everyone fully mature in  
Christ. To this end I  
strenuously contend with all  
the energy Christ so  
powerfully works in me.*



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*Please turn to  
Ephesians 3: 7-11*

## Ephesians 3: 7-11 NIV

*I became a servant of this  
gospel by the gift of God's  
grace given me through the  
working of his power.  
Although I am less than  
the least of all the Lord's  
people,*



## Ephesians 3: 7-9 NIV

*this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.*

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*Please turn to*  
*John 14: 23-26*



## John 14: 23-26 NIV

*Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."*

## John 14: 23-26 NIV

*Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.*



## John 14: 23-26 NIV

*“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

## Acts 8: 30 NIV

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*“How can I,” he said,  
“unless someone explains  
it to me?” So he invited  
Philip to come up and sit  
with him.*



# Acts 8: 31 NIV

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*This is the passage of  
Scripture the eunuch was  
reading:*

**(Isaiah 53: 7-8)**

## Acts 8: 32-33 NIV

*“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.*



## Acts 8: 32-33 NIV

*In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.*

*Who can speak of his descendants?*

*For his life was taken from the earth.”*

## Acts 8: 34 NIV

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



# Question

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How do you think Philip felt when he heard those words from the Eunuch?

## Acts 8: 35 NIV

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



## Acts 8: 37 NIV

*As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?"*

# Question

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What type of road  
were they traveling  
on?





# Question

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Where did the eunuch  
hear about baptism?



## Question

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What are the chances of spotting water deep enough to be baptized next to a desert road?

## Acts 8: 38 NIV

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*And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch **went down into the water** and Philip baptized him.*



## Acts 8: 39 NIV

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

## Question

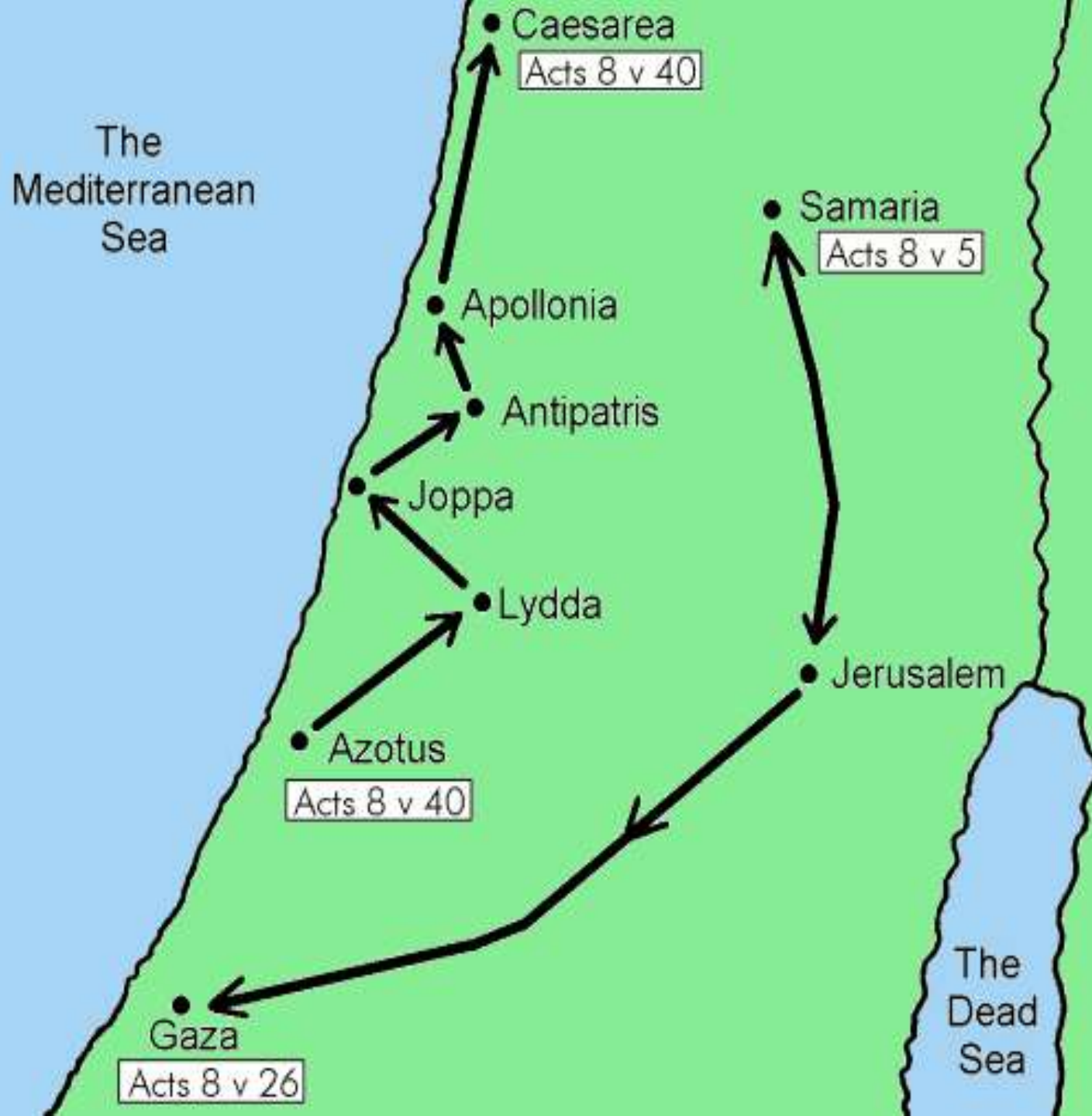
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What does the fact that water was found next to a desert road and Philip was not taken away until the eunuch was baptized tell us about the importance of baptism?



## Acts 8: 40 NIV

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





## Question

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What was Philip  
doing in every town  
on his journey to  
Caesarea?

# Next Week

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Please read

Acts 9: 1-31