

A DEACON DELIVERS

Philip and an Ethiopian
Acts 8:26–40

An angel of the Lord told Philip the deacon to get up and go south on a road through the desert that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip went right away.

A rich man from Ethiopia was riding in a chariot. The rich man worked for Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of all of her treasure. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship and was on his way home. He was reading the Holy Scriptures from a scroll.

Then along came Philip, and the Spirit said, “Go!” So Philip ran to catch up to the chariot. **Philip heard the man reading a passage from Isaiah 53 and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”**

The man said, “No. I can’t understand unless someone helps me. Please help me. Come and sit with me.”

The Ethiopian read a passage of Scripture and said, “Tell me, who is the lamb?”

Philip said, “Jesus is the lamb.” Then Philip told him more of God’s Good News—that Jesus died and rose.

“Now I understand,” said the man from Ethiopia.

As they went along, the man saw water. “Look! Here is water! Philip, **can you baptize me?**” He stopped the chariot and they both went down to the water.



Philip baptized the man from Ethiopia. What a joyful day!

When they came out of the water, **the Spirit carried Philip away.**

The man from Ethiopia could not see Philip anymore but rejoiced and went on his way.

Philip found himself at Azotus, and he kept preaching the Gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Philip the Deacon

He is not the same Philip as the apostle Philip (one of the Twelve). Philip was a very popular name during this time period.

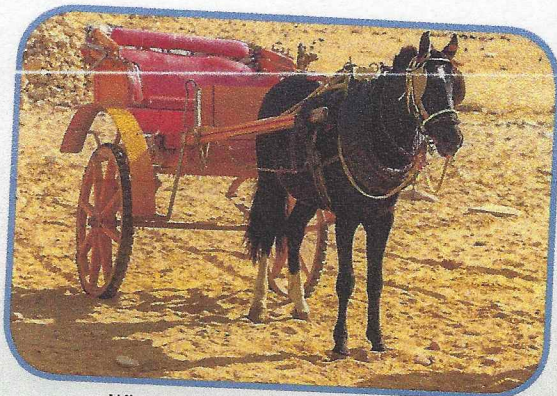
This Philip was chosen to be one of seven deacons, along with Stephen.



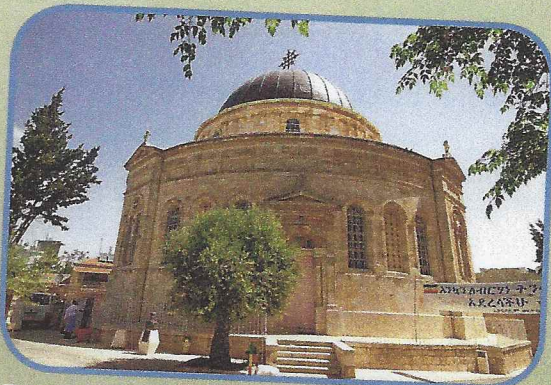
Even though his fellow deacon Stephen had been stoned to death, Philip continued to serve God’s people and follow the instructions of the Spirit.

Philip did mission work in Samaria.

Philip cast out demons and healed sick people, just like the apostles.



What would it be like to travel on the road outside Jerusalem?

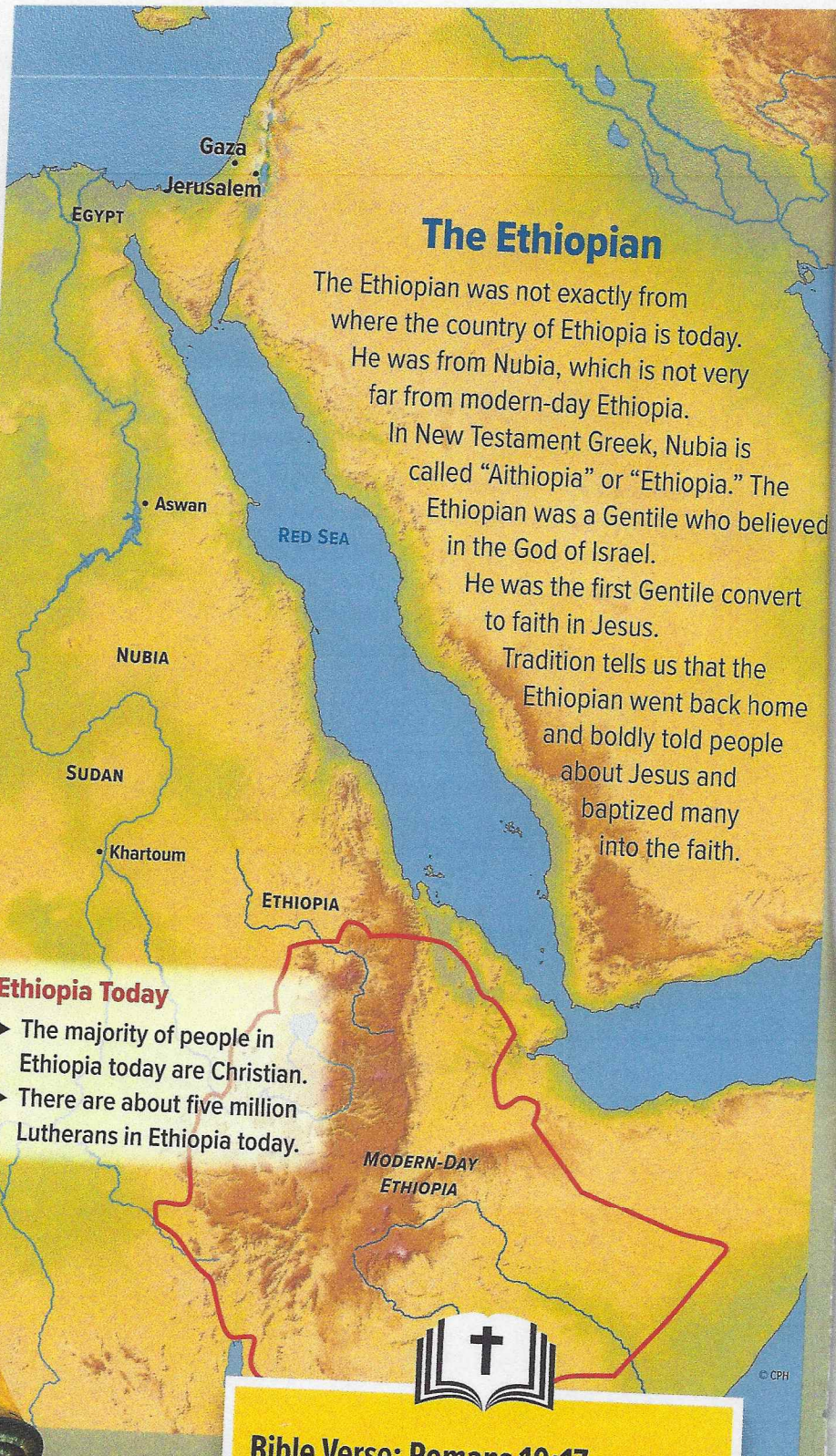


There are still Ethiopian churches in Jerusalem today.



Reading in Bible Times

- ▶ People at this time almost always read aloud.
- ▶ Because of the difficulties of ancient writing people were trained to read out loud, not silently.
- ▶ Sometimes the words did not have spaces between them and vowels might be left out.
- ▶ How do you read the Bible?



The Ethiopian

The Ethiopian was not exactly from where the country of Ethiopia is today. He was from Nubia, which is not very far from modern-day Ethiopia. In New Testament Greek, Nubia is called "Aithiopia" or "Ethiopia." The Ethiopian was a Gentile who believed in the God of Israel. He was the first Gentile convert to faith in Jesus. Tradition tells us that the Ethiopian went back home and boldly told people about Jesus and baptized many into the faith.

Ethiopia Today

- ▶ The majority of people in Ethiopia today are Christian.
- ▶ There are about five million Lutherans in Ethiopia today.



Bible Verse: Romans 10:17

Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Scripture Connections

Find and read this Old Testament passage to read the same passage that the Ethiopian man was reading.

- ▶ Isaiah 53:7-8

A DEACON DELIVERS—PHILIP AND AN ETHIOPIAN

Unit 3, Lesson 11

Brought to Faith

Directions: The Holy Spirit works through Word and water to bring us to faith in Jesus, our Savior. Using the diagram below, compare the Ethiopian's Baptism with yours. In the areas of the circles that do not intersect, describe the differences between the Ethiopian's Baptism and your Baptism. In the area where the circles intersect, describe how both Baptisms are the same.

