

# Acts 8:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

## Analysis

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The 'angel of the Lord' spoke to Philip with specific instructions: go south toward Gaza on the desert road. This divine direction shows God's sovereignty in evangelism - orchestrating circumstances to bring gospel to the Ethiopian eunuch. Philip's immediate obedience (v.27) demonstrates Spirit-led responsiveness. Reformed theology sees God's providence directing both the witness (Philip) and the seeker (the eunuch) to the appointed meeting. The specificity ('this is desert') emphasizes the unlikely nature of this encounter apart from divine orchestration.

## Historical Context

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The road from Jerusalem to Gaza was about 50-60 miles, passing through desert terrain. This ancient trade route connected Africa to the Mediterranean, used by merchants and travelers from Egypt, Ethiopia, and beyond.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does God sovereignly orchestrate circumstances to advance His gospel?
2. What does Philip's immediate obedience teach about following the Spirit's leading?
3. Why does God sometimes send us to unlikely or remote places for ministry?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἄγγελος δὲ κυρίου ἐλάλησεν πρὸς Φίλιππον λέγων,  
**the angel** **And** **of the Lord** **spake** **unto** **Philip** **saying**  
G32 G1161 G2962 G2980 G4314 G5376 G3004

Ἀνάστηθι καὶ πορεύου κατὰ μεσημβρίαν ἐπὶ τὴν ὁδὸν  
**Arise** **and** **go** **toward** **the south** **unto** <sup>G3588</sup> **the way**  
G450 G2532 G4198 G2596 G3314 G1909 G3598

τὴν καταβαίνουσιν ἀπὸ Ἱερουσαλὴμ εἰς Γάζαν αὕτη  
<sup>G3588</sup> **that goeth down** **from** **Jerusalem** **unto** **Gaza** **which**  
G2597 G575 G2419 G1519 G1048 G3778

ἐστὶν ἔρημος  
**is** **desert**  
G2076 G2048

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 5:19** (References Lord): But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

**Hebrews 1:14** (Parallel theme): Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

**Acts 27:23** (Parallel theme): For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

**2 Kings 1:3** (Resurrection): But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is

it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron?

**Acts 12:23** (References Lord): And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

**Acts 10:7** (Parallel theme): And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;

**Acts 10:22** (Parallel theme): And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.