

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

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

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

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

Ἄγγελος δὲ κυρίου ἐλάλησεν πρὸς Φίλιππον λέγων,

the angel And of the Lord spake unto Philip saying

G32

G1161

G2962

spake

unto

Philip

saying

G5376

G3004

Ἄναστηθι καὶ πορεύου κατὰ μεσημβρίαν ἐπὶ τὴν ὁδὸν

Arise and go toward the south unto the way

G450

G2532

G4198

G2596

the south

unto

G3588

the way

G3598

τὴν καταβαίνουσαν ἀπὸ Ἱερουσαλὴμ εἰς Γάζαν αὕτη

G3588 that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza which

G2597

from

Jerusalem

unto

Gaza

which

G1519

G1048

G3778

ἐστὶν ἔρημος

is desert

G2076

G2048

Additional Cross-References

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.

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