

# Acts 8:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

## Analysis

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The Ethiopian eunuch was a 'man of great authority' under Candace, queen of Ethiopia, with charge over her treasury. Despite his power and wealth, he sought God, traveling to Jerusalem to worship. His status as a eunuch meant he couldn't fully join the Jewish community (Deuteronomy 23:1), yet Isaiah prophesied eunuchs would have a place in God's house (Isaiah 56:3-5). His reading Isaiah while returning shows sincere spiritual hunger. Reformed theology sees God's electing grace reaching across barriers - race, social status, and physical condition - to save whom He will.

## Historical Context

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Ethiopia (Greek Aithiops) likely refers to Nubia/Kush, south of Egypt in modern Sudan. 'Candace' was a dynastic title for queens, like 'Pharaoh.' Ethiopian Jews existed from ancient times, possibly tracing to Solomon and Sheba or to Jewish merchants and exiles.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

### Study Questions

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1. How does the eunuch's conversion demonstrate that no one is beyond God's saving reach?
2. What does his journey to Jerusalem reveal about authentic spiritual hunger?
3. How does God bring salvation to those physically or socially excluded from religious community?

### Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἀναστὰς ἐπορεύθη· καὶ οὐδεὶς ἀνὴρ Αἰθιόπων

**And he arose and went And behold a man of Ethiopia**

G2532 G450 G4198 G2532 G2400 G435 G128

εὐνοῦχος δυναστης Κανδάκης τῆς βασιλίσσης

**an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen**

G2135 G1413 G2582 G3588 G938

Αἰθιόπων ὃς ἦν ἐπὶ πάσης τῆς γάζης αὐτῆς ὃς

**of Ethiopia who had the charge of all treasure her who**

G128 G3739 G2258 G1909 G3588 G3956 G1047 G846 G3739

ἔληλύθει προσκυνήσων εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ

**and had come for to worship to Jerusalem**

G2064 G4352 G1519 G2419

### Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 68:31** (Parallel theme): Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God.

**Zephaniah 3:10** (Parallel theme): From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.

**Psalms 87:4** (Parallel theme): I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me: behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this man was born there.

**Jeremiah 38:7** (Parallel theme): Now when Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, one of the eunuchs which was in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the dungeon; the king then sitting in the gate of Benjamin;

**Matthew 12:42** (Parallel theme): The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

**John 12:20** (Worship): And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:

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