

# Acts 8:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

## Analysis

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**But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.** Philip's reappearance at Azotus and continuing evangelistic journey demonstrate faithful stewardship of miraculous opportunities and methodical gospel advance.

Was found at Azotus (Old Testament Ashdod) indicates Philip's supernatural transportation covered significant distance—roughly 20 miles north from Gaza road. The passive voice (was found) emphasizes divine action; Philip didn't travel by normal means but was placed there by Spirit. This miracle authenticated his ministry and positioned him for next assignment.

Passing through he preached in all the cities shows methodical evangelism. Rather than resting after miraculous experience, Philip continued proclaiming gospel. The phrase in all the cities indicates comprehensive strategy—urban evangelism moving northward along coastal plain. Faithful ministers use every opportunity, whether miraculous or ordinary, to advance Christ's kingdom.

Till he came to Caesarea establishes Philip's base for subsequent ministry. Caesarea, Roman provincial capital, became important Christian center. Philip remained there long-term (Acts 21:8), showing Spirit directed not just momentary assignments but long-term placement. God's providence guides both dramatic interventions and steady, faithful ministry.

## Historical Context

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The coastal cities from Azotus to Caesarea included ancient Philistine territory—Ashdod, Joppa (Jaffa), and Roman administrative center Caesarea Maritima. This region represented mixed Jewish-Gentile population, preparing Philip for increasing Gentile ministry emphasis.

Caesarea Maritima, built by Herod the Great, served as Roman provincial capital with significant Gentile population. Philip's settlement there positioned him at crossroads of Jewish-Gentile interaction, foreshadowing Acts' increasing focus on Gentile mission. This journey around 35-37 CE established Christian communities along Palestine's coastal region, creating networks for gospel's further spread. Philip remained in Caesarea decades later, hosting Paul (Acts 21:8-9), demonstrating faithful long-term ministry in assigned location.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How should believers balance extraordinary spiritual experiences with faithful ongoing ministry?
2. What does Philip's comprehensive city-by-city evangelism teach about methodical gospel strategy?
3. In what ways does God direct His servants through both supernatural intervention and providential placement?
4. How should ministers view long-term assignment in one location versus constant mobility?
5. What strategic value exists in establishing gospel witness in both rural and urban centers?

## Interlinear Text

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Φίλιππος δὲ εὐρέθη εἰς Ἄζωτον καὶ διερχόμενος  
**Philip** **however** **was found** **at** **Azotus** **and** **passing through**  
G5376 G1161 G2147 G1519 G108 G2532 G1330

εὐηγγελίζετο τὰς πόλεις πάσας ἕως τοῦ ἐλθεῖν  
**he was proclaiming the gospel** **the** **towns** **all** **until** G3588 **coming**  
G2097 G3588 G4172 G3956 G2193 G2064

αὐτὸν εἰς Καισάρειαν  
**he** **to** **Caesarea**  
G846 G1519 G2542

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 21:8** (Parallel theme): And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

**Acts 10:1** (Parallel theme): There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

**Acts 23:33** (Parallel theme): Who, when they came to Caesarea, and delivered the epistle to the governor, presented Paul also before him.

**Acts 23:23** (Parallel theme): And he called unto him two centurions, saying, Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, and horsemen threescore and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the night;

**Acts 25:4** (Parallel theme): But Festus answered, that Paul should be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself would depart shortly thither.

**1 Samuel 5:1** (Parallel theme): And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Eben-ezer unto Ashdod.