

New Revised Standard Version	New American Standard Bible	International Children’s Bible
<p><sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.</p>	<p><sup>26</sup>But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, “Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert <i>road</i>.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup>and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup>Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>And he said, “Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.</p>	<p><sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip. The angel said, “Get ready and go south. Go to the road that leads down to Gaza from Jerusalem—the desert road.” <sup>27</sup>So Philip got ready and went. On the road he saw a man from Ethiopia, a eunuch. He was an important officer in the service of Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians. He was responsible for taking care of all her money. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and <sup>28</sup>now he was on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot and reading from the book of Isaiah, the prophet. <sup>29</sup>The Spirit said to Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran toward the chariot. He heard the man reading from Isaiah, the prophet. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He answered, “How can I understand? I need someone to explain it to me!” Then he invited Philip to climb in and sit with him.</p>
<p><sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:  “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  so he does not open his mouth.  <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.  Who can describe his generation?  For his life is taken away from the earth.”</p>	<p><sup>32</sup>Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this:  “<i>He was led as a sheep to slaughter;  And as a lamb before its shearer is silent,  So He does not open His mouth.</i>  <sup>33</sup>“<i>In humiliation His judgment was taken away;  Who will relate His generation?  For His life is removed from the earth.</i>”</p>	<p><sup>32</sup>The verse of Scripture that he was reading was this:  “<i>He was like a sheep being led to be killed.  He was quiet, as a sheep is quiet while its  wool is being cut.</i>  He said nothing.  <sup>33</sup>He was shamed and was treated unfairly.  He died without children to continue his  family.  His life on earth has ended.”</p>
<p><sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to</p>	<p><sup>34</sup>The eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please <i>tell me</i>, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip</p>	<p><sup>34</sup>The officer said to Philip, “Please tell me, who is the prophet talking about? Is he talking about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Philip began</p>

**Acts 8:26-40**

**Has Christianity lost its magic?**

He spoke, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.  
<sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”  
<sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.  
<sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.  
<sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. <sup>36</sup>As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” <sup>37</sup>[And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”] <sup>38</sup>And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

to speak. He started with this same Scripture and told the man the Good News about Jesus.  
<sup>36</sup>While they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The officer said, “Look! Here is water! What is stopping me from being baptized?” <sup>37</sup>[Philip answered, “If you believe with all your heart, you can.” The officer said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”] <sup>38</sup>Then the officer commanded the chariot to stop. Both Philip and the officer went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away; the officer never saw him again. The officer continued on his way home, full of joy. <sup>40</sup>But Philip appeared in a city called Azotus and preached the Good News in all the towns on the way from Azotus to Caesarea.

Acts 8:36 Other ancient authorities add all or most of verse 37, *And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he replied, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”*

Acts 8:37 Early manuscripts do not contain this verse.

8:37 **Philip...God.** Some Greek copies do not contain the bracketed text.

Isaiah 53:7-8

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
 yet he did not open his mouth;  
 like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
 and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
 so he did not open his mouth.  
 By a perversion of justice he was taken away.  
 Who could have imagined his future?  
 For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
 stricken for the transgression of my people.

Isaiah 53:7-8

He was oppressed and He was afflicted,  
 Yet He did not open His mouth;  
 Like a lamb that is led to slaughter,  
 And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers,  
 So He did not open His mouth.  
 By oppression and judgment He was taken away;  
 And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living  
 For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due*?

Isaiah 53:7-8

He was beaten down and punished.  
 But he didn't say a word.  
 He was like a lamb being led to be killed.  
 He was quiet, as a sheep is quiet while its wool is being cut.  
 He never opened his mouth.  
 Men took him away roughly and unfairly.  
 He died without children to continue his family.  
 He was put to death.  
 He was punished for the sins of my people.

Consider the following (from <http://www.gotquestions.org/eunuch-eunuchs.html>)

In Matthew 19:12, Jesus identifies three types of eunuchs. He says there are eunuchs who were born that way, there are eunuchs who have been made that way, and there are those who choose to live that way. The eunuchs of the Bible were usually castrated males or those incapable of reproduction due to a birth defect. A eunuch could also be someone who performed work typical of eunuchs, although he remained perfectly capable of having sex (i.e., “eunuch” was simply a title). The purpose of intentional castration was to induce impotence and remove sexuality. It was a common practice in ancient times for rulers to castrate some of their servants and/or advisers in order to subdue and pacify them. It was especially common to castrate men who tended the royal harem.

Natural eunuchs include those who are born with a physical defect, but they also comprise those who are born with no real desire for marriage or sex. Forced eunuchs are those who have been castrated for whatever reason. Voluntary eunuchs are those who choose to forego marriage and remain single (and therefore celibate) in order to serve God.

Some argue that Jesus was referring to homosexuals when He mentioned eunuchs who were “born that way.” However, the Bible never uses the words *homosexual* and *eunuch* interchangeably.

1. Verse 26: Where did Philip go? Why? How is the road described? Why is this significant?
2. Verse 27-28: Who was along the road? Why was he there? Where had he been and why? Where is he going?
3. How is the man Philip meets described? Why are these descriptions important?
4. Verse 29: What does Philip do? Why? How does this mirror verse 26?
5. Verse 30-31: What is the man reading? What does Philip ask him and what is his reply?
6. What does Philip do? Why? How is this different from verses 26 and 29?
7. Verses 32-33: What (or who) is the focus of this passage? Why is the man confused?
8. Verse 34-35: What does the man ask? How does Philip answer?
9. Verse 36: What do they see? What does the man ask? What does this imply about the content of Philip’s answer in verse 35?
10. Verse 37: What happened to verse 37?
11. Verse 38: What did the man and Philip do?
12. Verses 39-40: What happened to Philip? How did the man react? Where did Philip end up? How did he react?
13. If you were the man, how would you have reacted? If you were Philip, how would you have reacted? Has modern Christianity lost its magic?