

jenaministries – Part 6 Bible Miracles

2. Philip Disappeared and Appeared Somewhere Else (Acts 8:26-40)

One miracle in the Bible that happened shortly after Jesus was crucified is particularly interesting, yet it's not talked about much.

The story starts with an angel of the Lord speaking to Philip, telling him to go down the desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza (**Scriptures 1. Angel of the Lord spoke to Philip Acts 8:26**).

Philip did as the angel said and headed down the desert road. He came upon an Ethiopian eunuch (an important official) sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. Again, Philip was spoken to by what the Bible calls "the Spirit" who told him to go to that chariot and stay near it (**Scriptures 2. Spirit tells Philip to Go Near the Chariot Acts 8:27-29**).

The Ethiopian must have been reading out loud, because Philip heard what he was reading and asked him if he understood what the prophet was talking about (**Scriptures 3. Philips explains the Gospel of Jesus Acts 8:30-35**). The Ethiopian did not understand what he was reading and asked Philip to come up in the chariot and explain it to him. As they were traveling, Philip had the honor of explaining the good news about Christ and salvation through him.

As they traveled down the road, they came upon some water. The Ethiopian expressed wanting to be baptized. They stopped by the water so Phillip could baptize him (**Scriptures 4. Ethiopian Asked to be Baptized Acts 8:36-38**).

That's when something astonishing happened. Philip baptized the Ethiopian. But when they came out of the water, Philip was gone. He had disappeared. The Ethiopian had seen a miracle and started praising God and rejoicing (**Scriptures 5. Philip Disappeared and Appeared at Azotus Acts 8:39-40**). Philip, however, appeared at Azotus (more than 50 miles away). He traveled around preaching the gospel in all the local towns until he reached Caesarea.

The way the angel of the Lord and the Spirit spoke to Philip with specific instructions is a miracle in itself. This was soon after Christ was crucified. The Holy Spirit must have been supremely strong and evident to his followers, and we can understand why. They were starting the Christian church. God had to lead them and give them wisdom and strength.

We today have that great privilege of hearing God through the Holy Spirit also. It takes a lot of work on our part. We must genuinely seek the Lord continuously to become close enough to hear his voice; but we can!

But to make a person disappear and appear somewhere else is extraordinary. Sounds like something from the future or a Sci-Fi movie. Goes to show, there are no boundaries to what God can do.

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2. Philip Disappeared and Appeared Somewhere Else

Scriptures 1. Angel of the Lord spoke to Philip:

Acts 8:26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."

Scriptures 2. Spirit tells Philip to Go Near the Chariot:

Acts 8:27-29 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

Scriptures 3. Philips explains the Gospel of Jesus:

Acts 8:30-35 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

Scriptures 4. Ethiopian Asked to be Baptized:

Acts 8:36-38 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot.

Scriptures 5. Philip Disappeared and Appeared at Azotus:

Acts 8:39-40 Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.