

Lesson 9 – May 1

Acts of the Apostles in the Early Church ***Obedient***



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
PreciousHeart.net/SS
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Early Church to Antioch

1. Mar 6	Entrusted	1:1-26	wait for gift
2. Mar 13	Empowered	2:1-15	Pentecost
3. Mar 20	Unified	2:41-47	Fellowship, Pray, Bread, giving
4. Mar 17	Resurrected!	Luke 24:1-12	Easter Evangelistic Emphasis
5. Apr 3	Courageous	3:1 – 4:31	Peter and John Bold
6. Apr 10	Integrity	4:32 – 5:16	Ananias & Sapphira
7. Apr 17	Faithful	5:17-42	Peter arrested, Gamaliel
8. Apr 24	Selfless	6:1 – 8:3	seven chosen & Stephen
9. May 1	Obedient	8:4-40	Angel, Phillip, Candace
10. May 8	Converted	9:1-31	Paul blinded, then sees
11. May 15	Bold	10:1 – 11:30	Peter raises Tabatha
12. May 22	Accepting	10:1 – 11:30	Peter's vision— <i>EAT</i>
13. May 29	Extraordinary	12:1-25	Peter freed from prison



Obedient

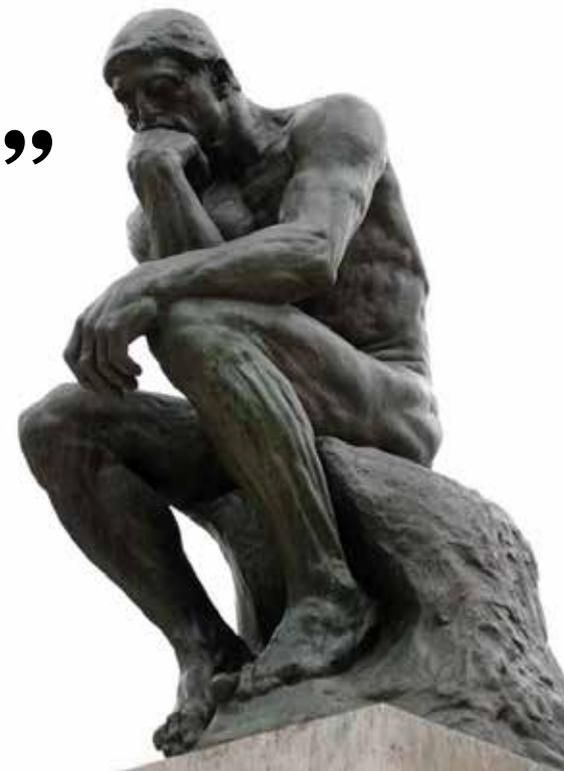
Chapters 8

8:26-29 **Compelled to Seek** – Angel to Philip to Candace

8:30-37 **Prepared to Share** – “Do you understand?”

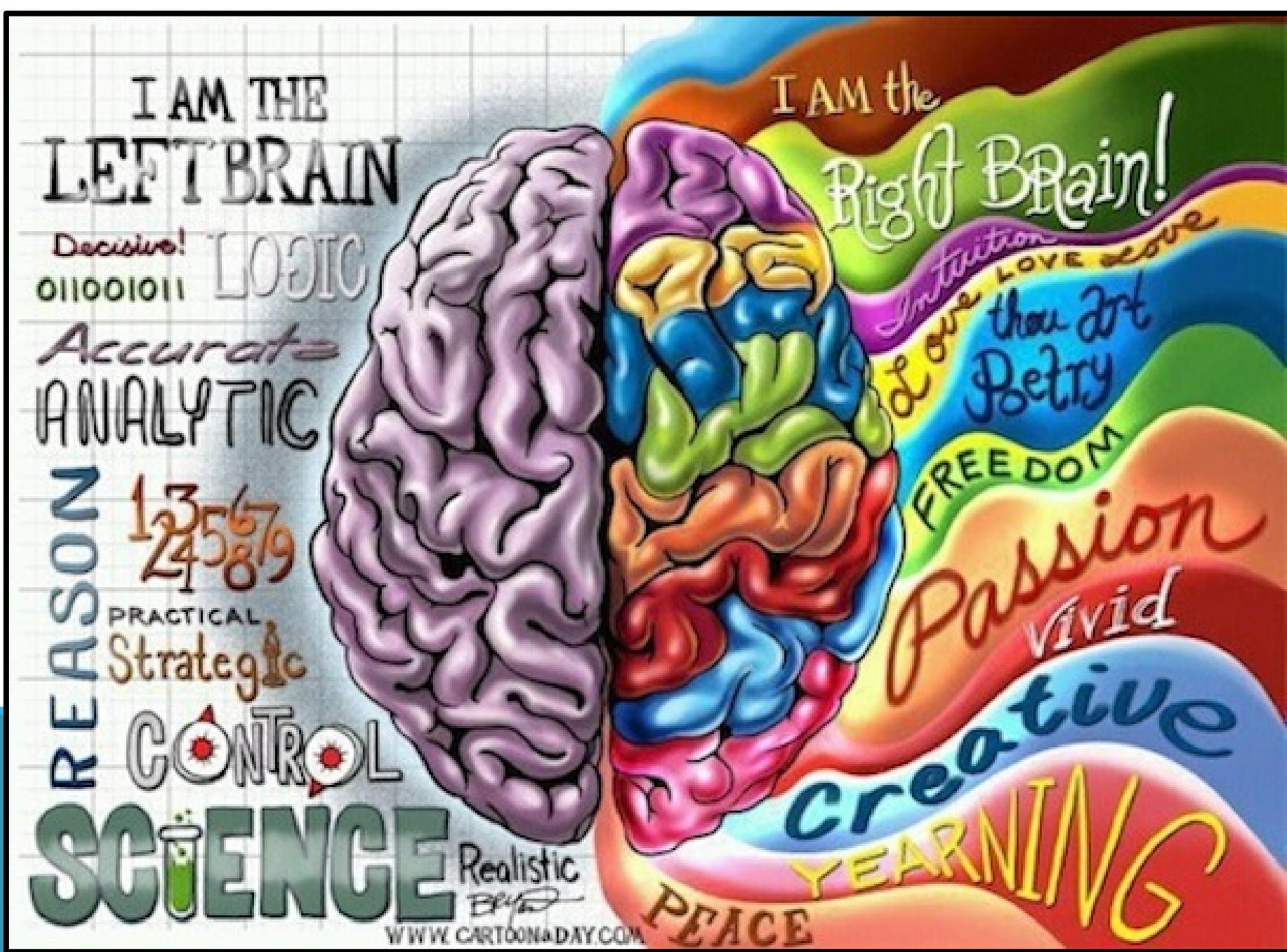
8:38-40 **Focused on Salvation** – Philip baptized Candace

8:30 – “Do you understand?”



Be careful

**Before you
jump**



Obedient

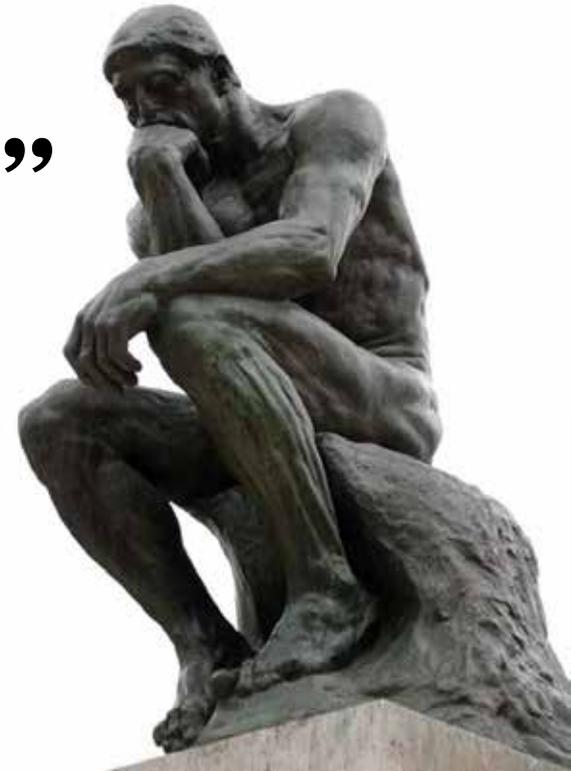
Are you sure you want to go here ...

One of most misused words in the Christian life ...

Obey ... Obedient

The STANDARD has been set high ... very high!

8:30 – “Do you understand?”



Obedient

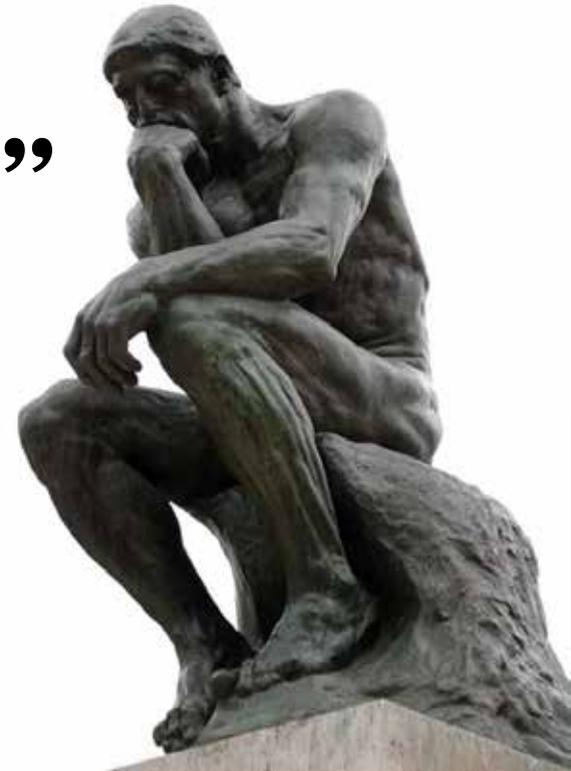
Are you sure you want to go here ...

What is the standard? How high is it?

Perfect Obedience

PERFECT Obedience

8:30 – “Do you understand?”



Obedient

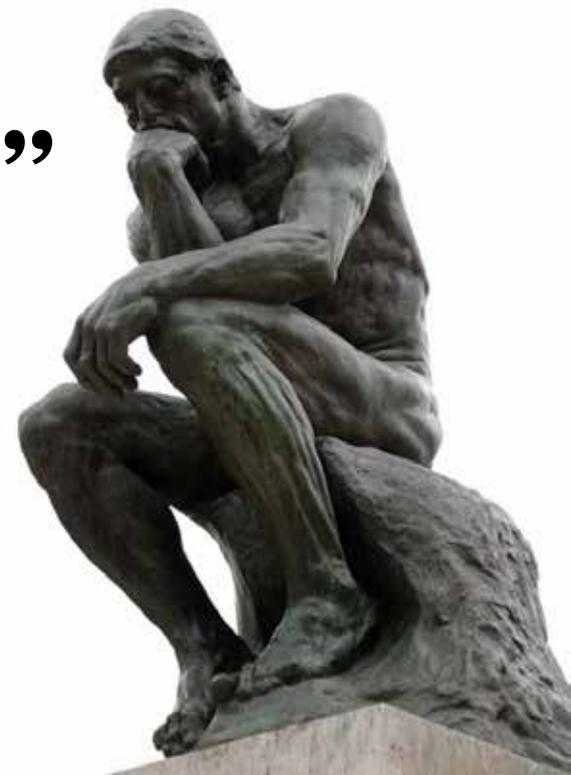
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8:38-40 **Focused on Salvation** – Philip baptized Candace

8:30 – “Do you understand?”



Key Doctrine – Baptism

Baptism is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's **faith** in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the **believer's death** to sin, the burial of the old life, and the **resurrection** to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

Symbolizes: 1. **Believer's Faith** in Christ's
Death, Burial, Resurrection

2. **Believer's Spiritual** Death, Burial, Resurrection

3. **Believer's Future** Death, Burial, Resurrection



VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.



Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26;
Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7;
Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

8:26-29 Compelled to Seek – Angel to Philip to Candace

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.” ²⁷So 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, ²⁸and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”



8:1-25 Context – Angel to Philip to Candace

8:1-4 – Saul begins his persecution, house to house

8:5-8 – Philip goes DOWN to a city in Samaria

8:9-13 – Philip captivates Sorcerer Simon

**8:14-25 – Jerusalem sends Peter and John who baptize
and confront Simon**

8:26-40 – Spirit sends Philip to Gaza, and he meets Candace



8:1-25 Context – Angel to Philip to Candace

8:1-4 – Saul begins his persecution, house to house

ü **8:2 – “Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply.”**

ü **8:3 – Saul house to house, dragging people out**

ü **8:4 – Those scattered, “preach the word” everywhere**

8:5-8 – Philip goes DOWN to a city in Samaria

ü **Signs and people pay attention**

ü **With “shrieks” demons leave, paralyzed and lame healed**

GREAT JOY in that city



8:1-25 Context – Angel to Philip to Candace

8:9-13 – Philip captivates Sorcerer Simon

- ü Simon called “Great Power of God” with many followers**
- ü Philip proclaimed “Good News” and many baptized**

13 Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.



8:1-25 **Context – Angel to Philip to Candace**

**8:14-25 – Jerusalem sends Peter and John who baptize
and confront Simon**

- ü **Apostles “heard” Samaria accepted the “word of God” –
then they—the Apostles—sent Peter and John**
- ü **Had not received the Spirit ... placed hands on them**
- ü **Simon saw, offered money, and Peter rebukes
“May your money perish with you.”**
- ü **Simon repents ... or *appears to repent***

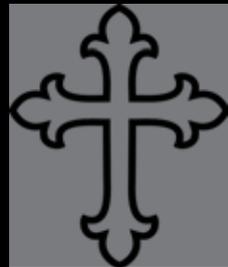
**after visiting many villages,
Peter and John return**



Simon Magus by Avanzino Nucci, 1620

- ü **Simony – selling church**
- ü **After cast out ... to Rome
... honored as a God**
- ü **Simonians – heresy
like Gnosticism**
- ü **Know God by degrees**





Area of Study

Acts 1-12



**Greece
Hellás**

Rome

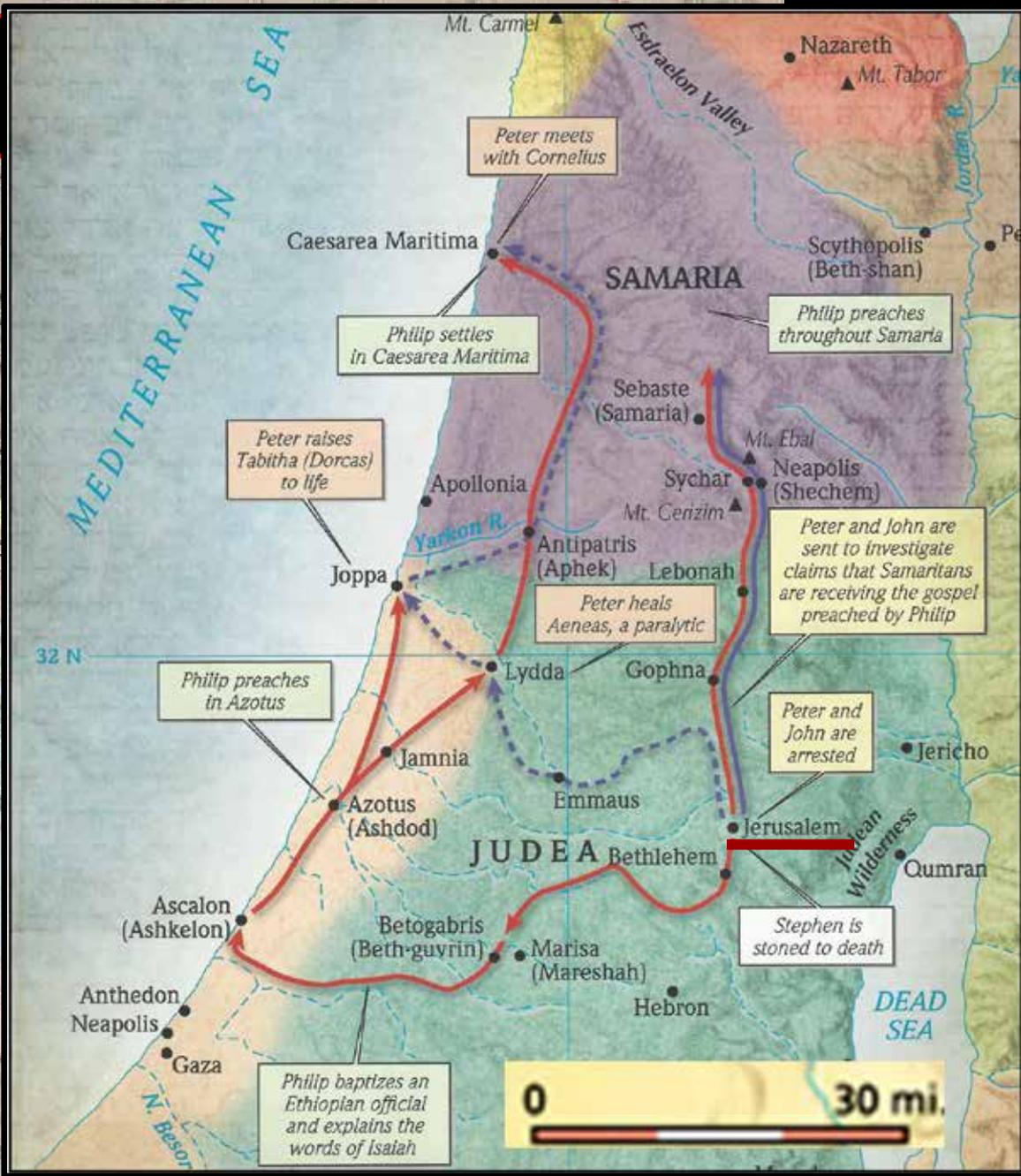
- 500-300 Golden Greece
- 325 BC Alexander
- 200 BC LXX
- 72-71 BC Spartacus
- *Hellenism Dominates*
... *Latin on Rise*
- 44 BC J. Caesar killed
- 31 BC Battle of Actium
- *Rome Dominates*
- AD 14 Augustus Dies
- AD 64 Nero burns Rome
- AD 70 Temple Destroyed
- AD 73 Masada Falls



Rome

**Greece
Hellás**

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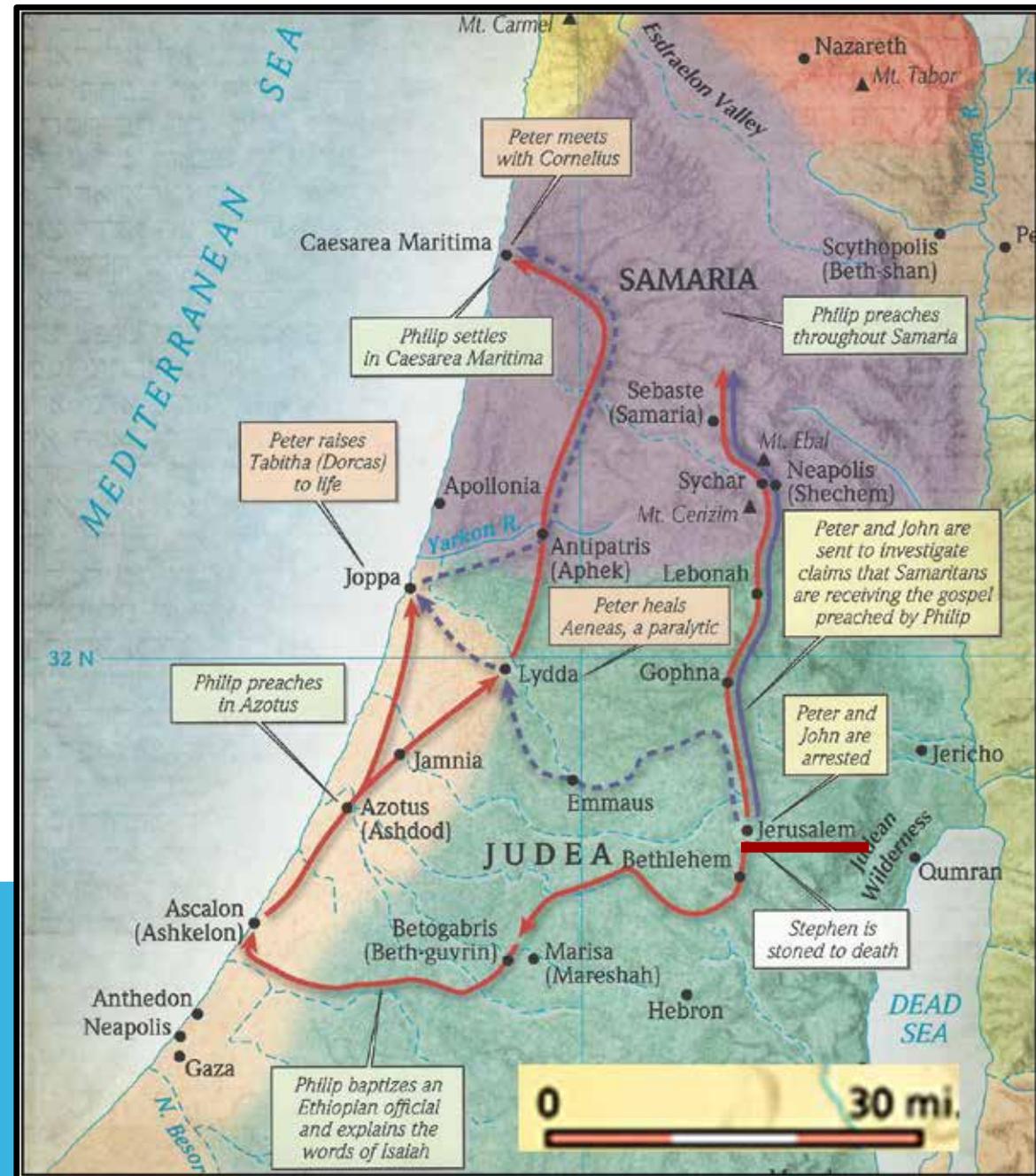


Road to Samaria ...

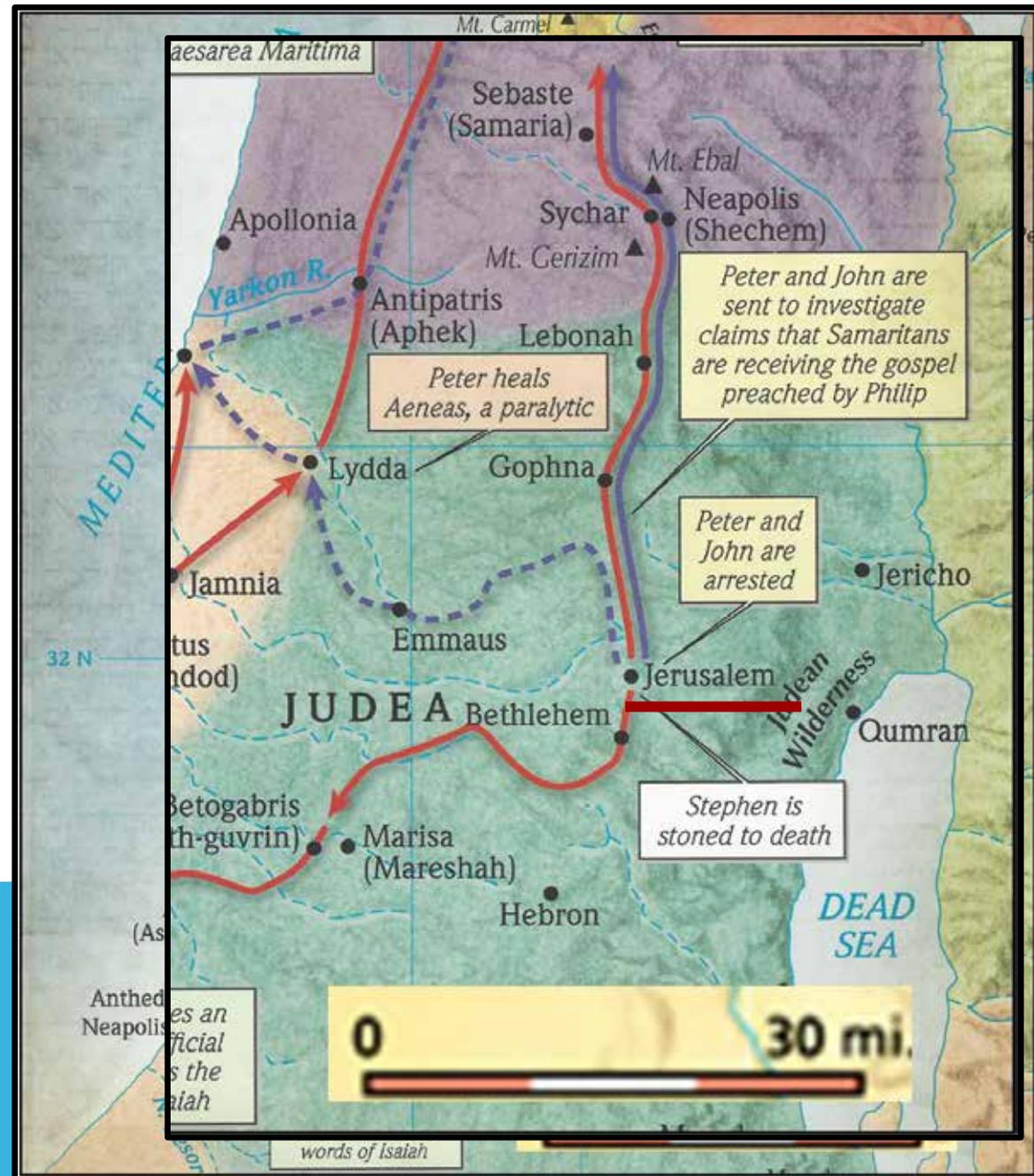
Via persecution that scattered the sensible

Long history

Philip heads north



Road to Samaria ...
Via persecution that
scattered the sensible
Long history
Philip heads north



Cultures in Conflict

- ü **Hellenistic and Hebraic Jews in Jerusalem and beyond**
- ü **Jerusalem, heart of Judaism, under Roman Governor**
- ü **Paganism of Rome vs. expansion of Christianity**
- ü **Hellenism itself ... competes with Judaism**
- ü **Hellenism vs. Samaritan Judaism ?? – *don't know***
- ü **Hellenism gives way to Roman expansion**
- ü **Expansion of Rome to its Fall in AD 400 to 476**
- ü **Insanity of Roman emperors contributes to decline**



Samaria and Mt. Gerizim

12 Tribes

Divide after
Solomon

Mt. Ebal faced
Joshua read law
in valley

Holy Place



Samaria and Mt. Gerizim

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**Samaritan
Mt. Gerizim**

12 Tribes

**Divide of
Solomon**

Mt. Ebal

**Joshua
in valley**

Holy Place

Mt. Gerizim - *today*



Samaria & Gerizim

- ü 960 Solomon Temple
- ü 723 Assyria captures 10 Tribes of Israel
- ü 586 Nebuchadnezzar takes Jerusalem - captivity
- ü 539 Cyrus allows return
- ü 323 Alexander dies
- ü Jerusalem vs. Samaria



Mt. Gerizim



Samaria & Gerizim

- ü 323 Alexander dies and Hellenism spreads
- ü 200 BC LXX, Septuagint
- ü 168 Antiochus IV aligns with Hellenistic Jews against traditional
- ü 164-63 Maccabees revolt
- ü Conflict between Jerusalem and Samaria entrenched



Mt. Gerizim



Samaria & Gerizim

ü Samaritan = Guardian

ü Samaritan Pentateuch
similar to Rabbinic
or Masoretic Text

ü Claimed true descendants
of lost tribes

ü Both claimed God's favor
and banned contact

... lot of hate to Samaritans

ever been hated?

really hated?



Mt. Gerizim



8:1-25 Context – Angel to Philip to Candace

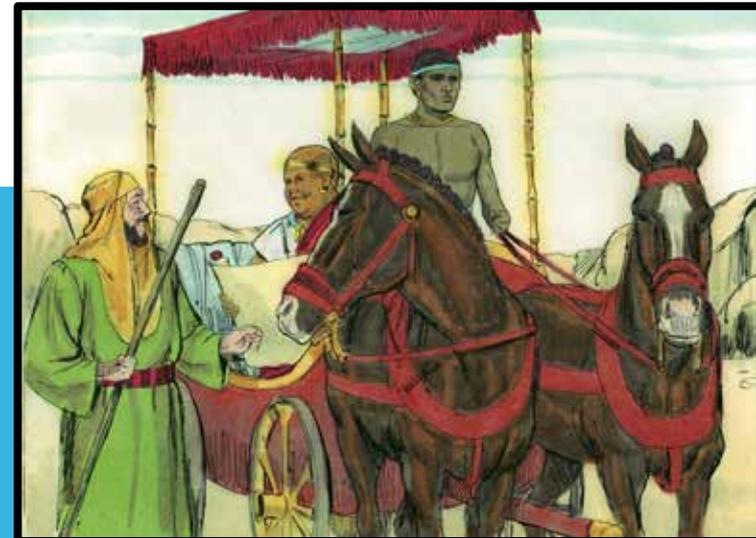
**Jerusalem sends Peter and John who baptize
and confront Simon Magnus**

After visiting many villages, Peter & John return Jerusalem

Apparently, as Peter and John visit,

Philip is sent south again, to Jerusalem to Gaza

Only as he is **ON THE WAY does the Spirit tell Philip**



8:26-29 Compelled to Seek – Angel to Philip to Candace

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.” ²⁷ 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”).

Greek Lesson

ü **Kappa**

ü **Alpha**

ü **Delta**

ü **Easy to see English from Greek here**

Κανδόακη

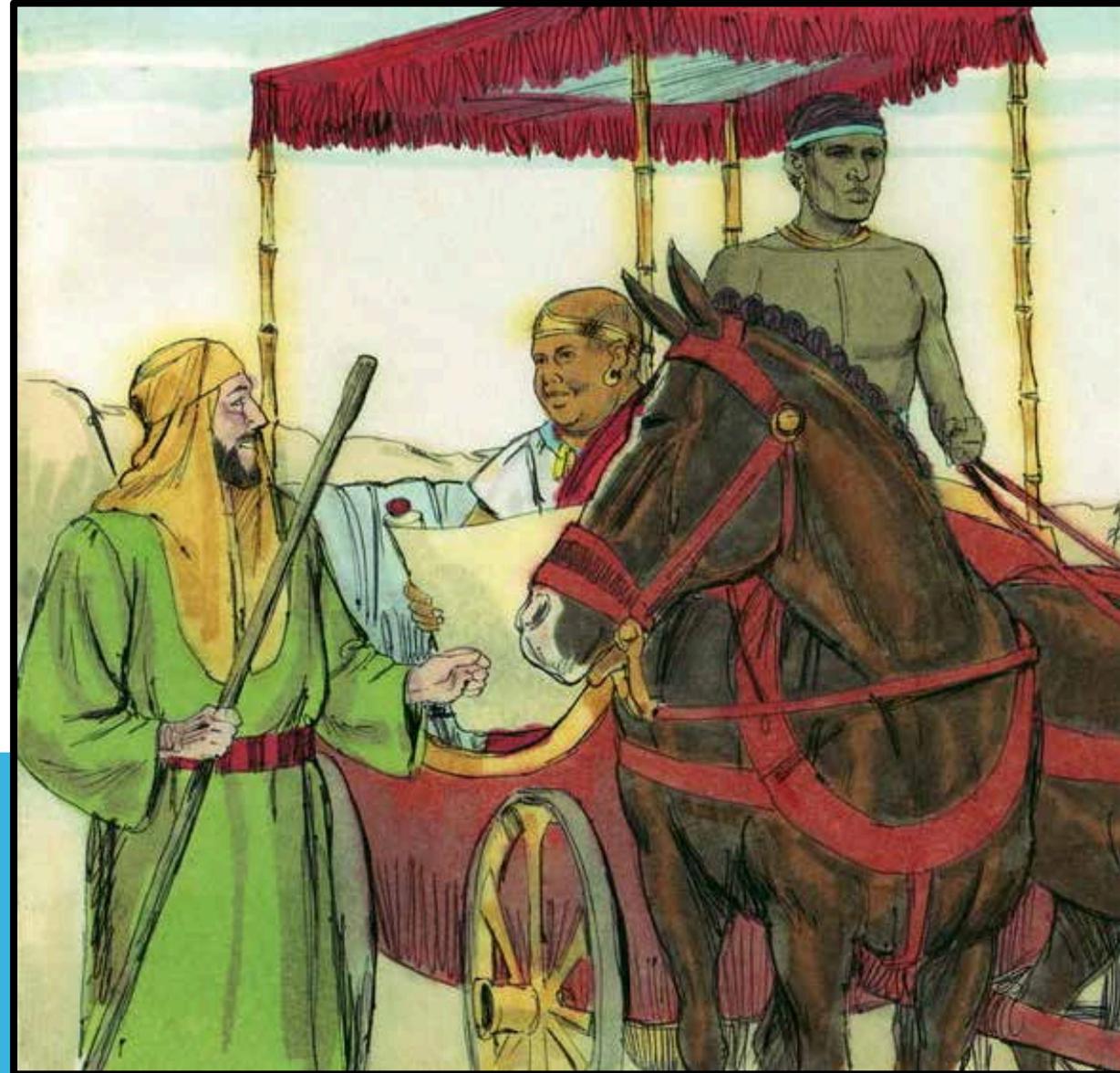
Kandake

Candace



Kandake/Candace Meaning

- ü **Queen – Ethiopia, more of what we know as Nubia**
- ü **Pharaoh, Ptolemy, Ceasar**
- ü **Some refer to her as Queen of Sheba**
- ü **Several female rulers,
- several armed women,
- one ruler during Augustus**



Kandake/Candace Meaning

- ü **Queen – Ethiopia, more of what we know as Nubia**
- ü **Pharaoh, Ptolemy, Ceasar**
- ü **Some refer to her as**



Isaiah 45:14

This is what the LORD says: “The products of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush, and those tall Sabeans—they will come over to you and will be yours; they will trudge behind you, coming over to you in chains. They will bow down before you and plead with you, saying, ‘Surely God is with you, and there is no other; there is no other god.’ ”

Kandake/Candace Meaning

- ü Queen – Ethiopia, more of what we know as Nubia
- ü Pharaoh, Ptolemy, Ceasar
- ü Some refer to her as

Isaiah 45:14

This is what the LORD says: “I will break the merchandise of Cush, and will come over to you and will be behind you, coming over to you down before you and plead with you, and there is no other



Ancient Ethiopian Queen triumphing over Captives.

Kandake/Candace Meaning

- ü Queen – Ethiopia, more of what we know as Nubia
- ü Pharaoh, Ptolemy, Ceasar
- ü Some refer to her as



Isaiah 45:14

This is what the merchants of Ethiopia will come over behind you, and they will bow down before you, and they will say, 'The Lord is with you, and there is no other



K n d a h a i . s e m .

Hieroglyph for Candace.



Ancient Ethiopian Queen triumphing over Captives.

Kandake/Candace Meaning

- ü **Queen – Ethiopia, more of what we know as Nubia**
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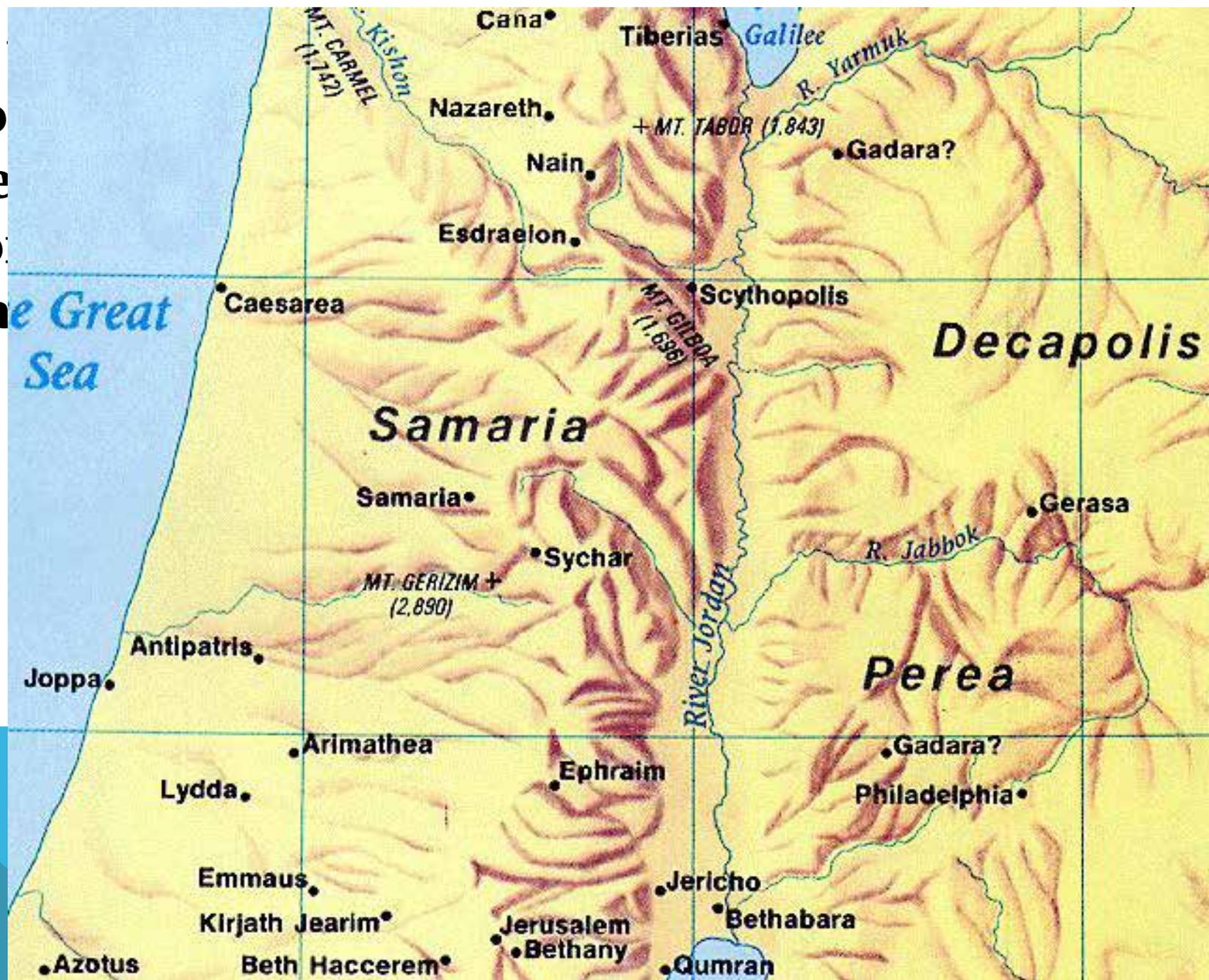


Both Church Fathers Irenaeus and Eusebius ascribe to Candace's minister her own conversion and subsequent spread of Christianity throughout her kingdom

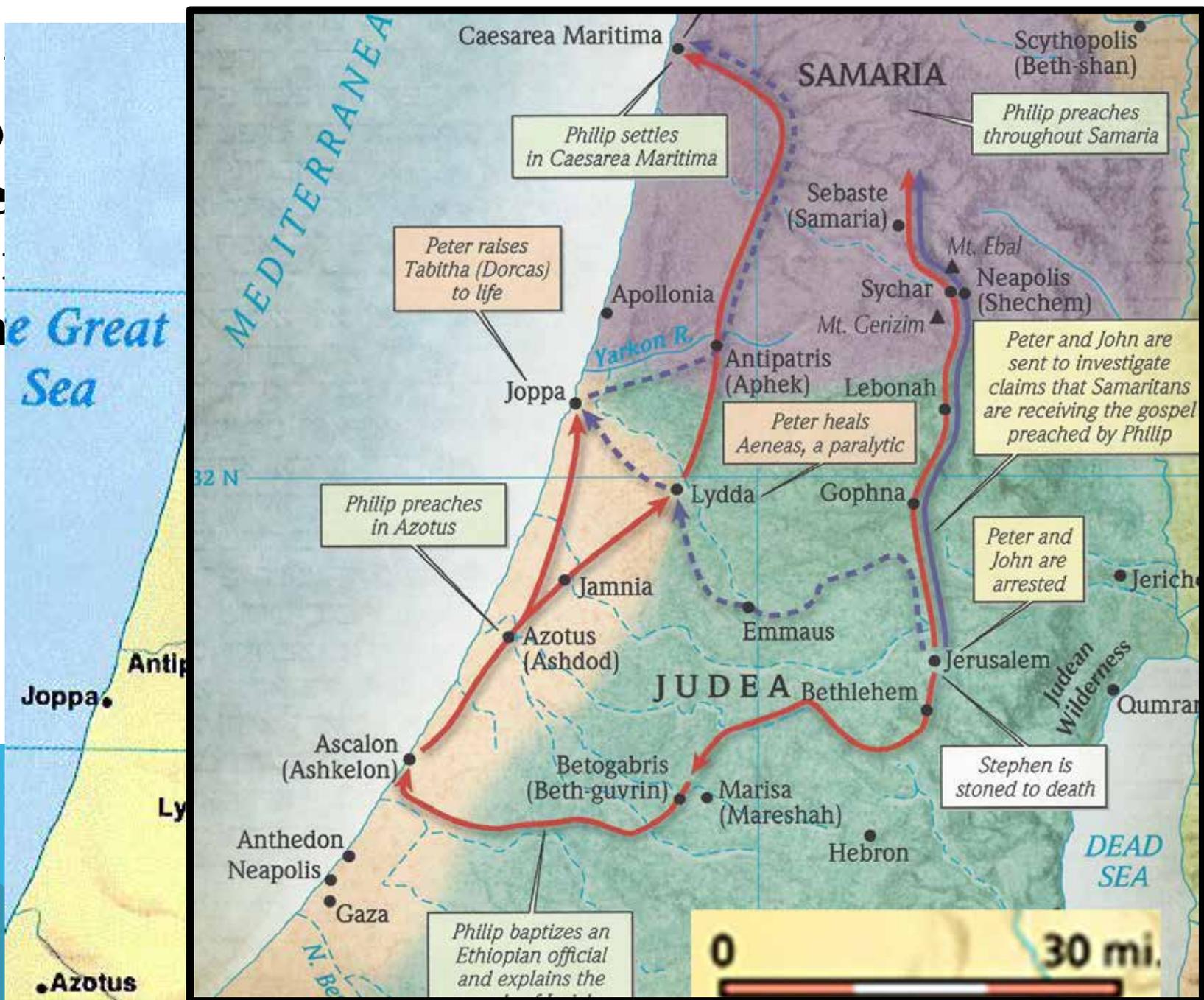
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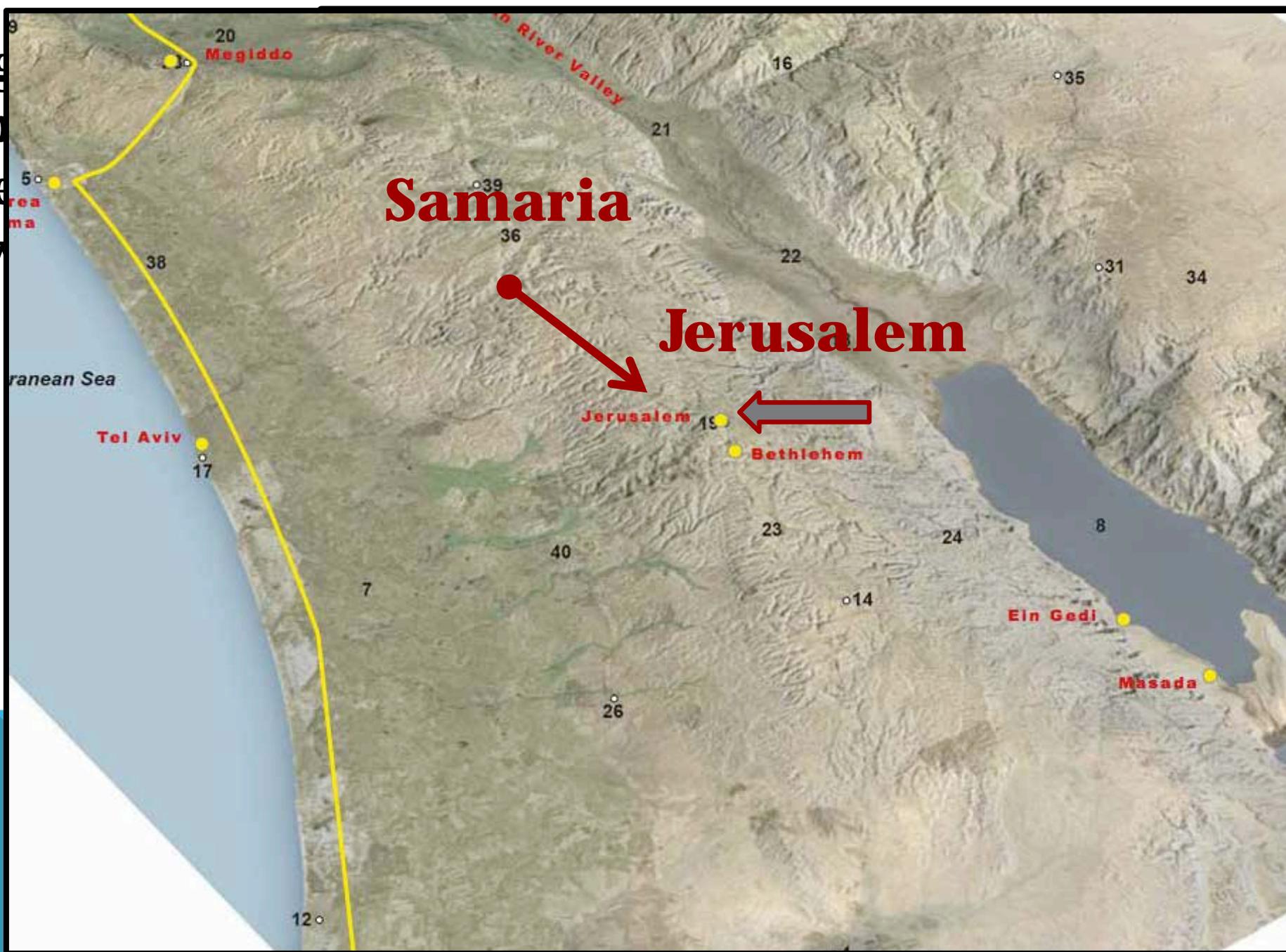
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said to Philip, “Go
the road—the dese
that goes down fro
Jerusalem to Gaza



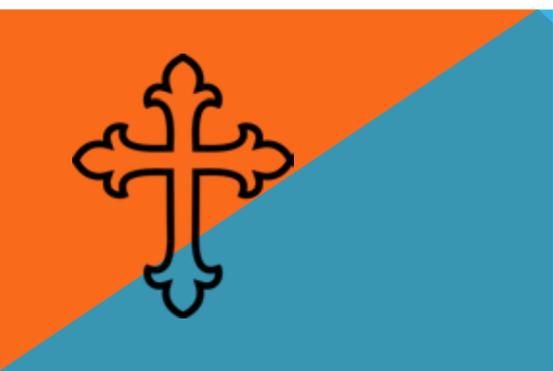
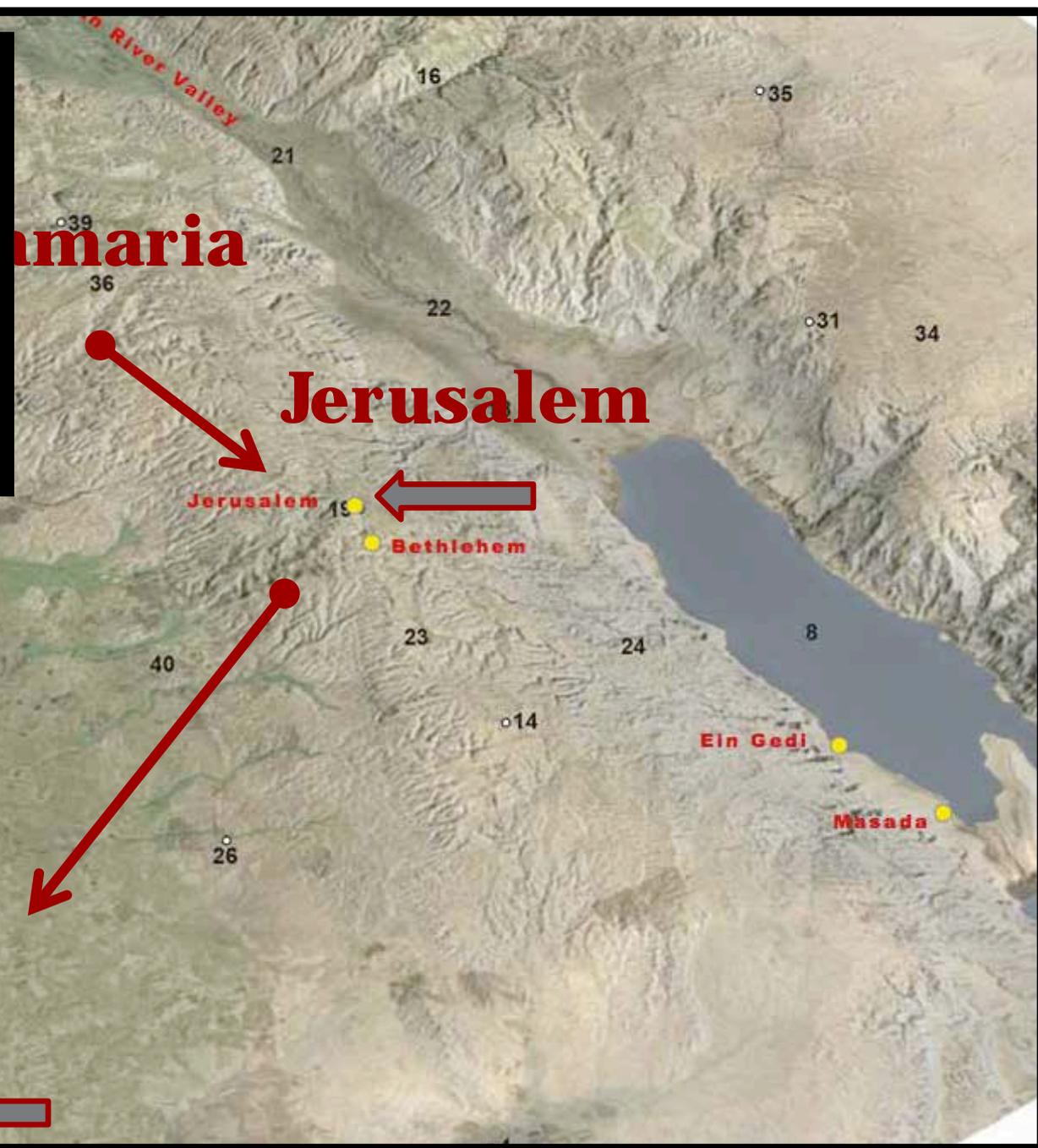
26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go down the road—the desert road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."



26 Now an angel said to Philip the road—the one that goes down from Jerusalem to



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.”



Obedient

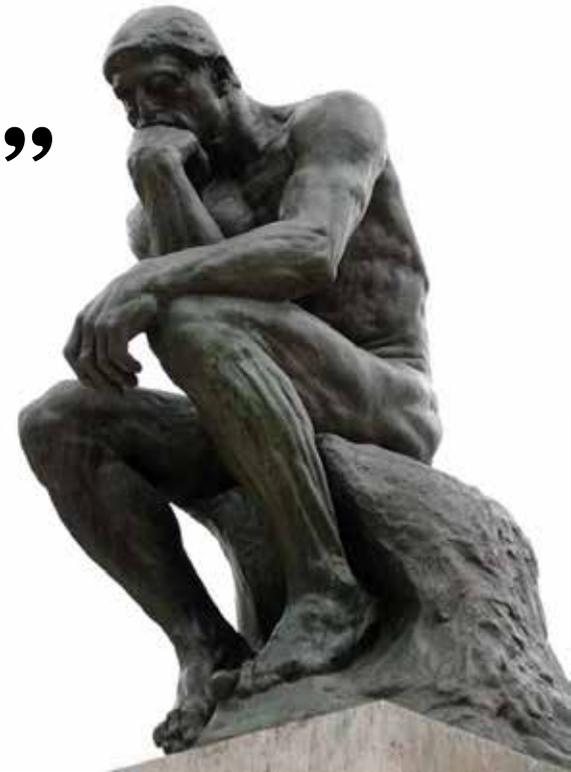
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8:30-37 **Prepared to Share – “Do you understand?”**

8:38-40 **Focused on Salvation – Philip baptized Candace**

8:30 – “Do you understand?”

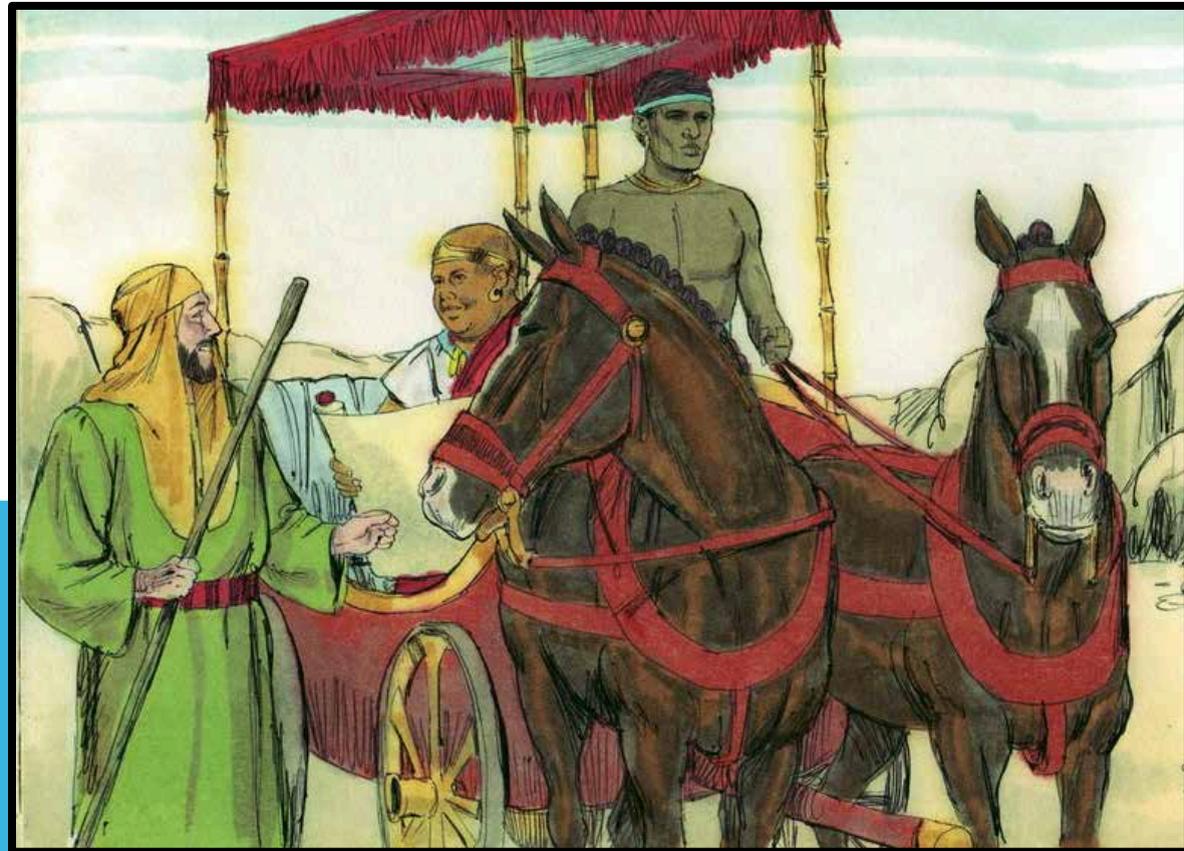


8:26-29 Compelled to Seek – Angel to Philip to Candace

This man—*important official of Kandake*—had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.

**²⁹The Spirit told Philip,
“Go to that chariot and
stay near it.”**

Philip – just a strolling along



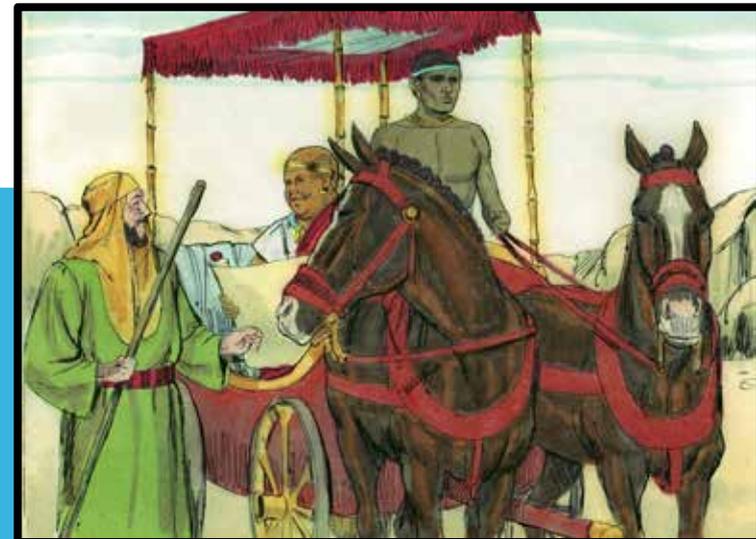
8:30-37 Prepared to Share – “Do you understand?”

³² “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. ³³In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

from Isaiah 53:7-8

**hey, he's reading his Bible
on his way home**

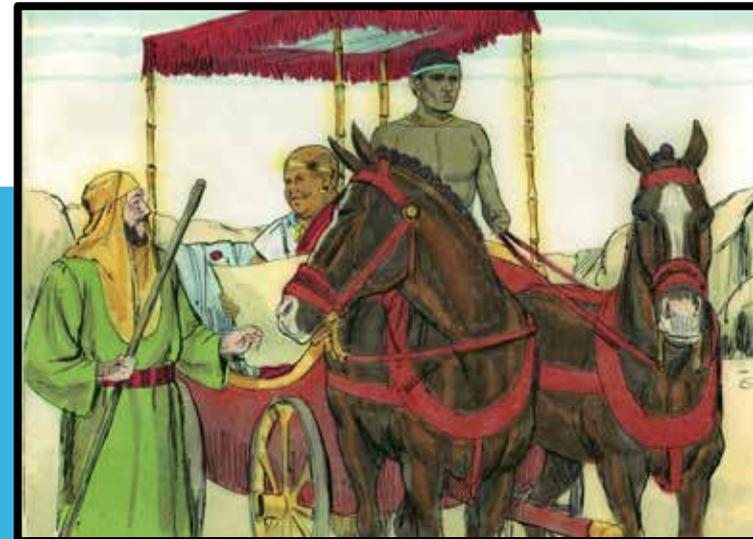


8:30-37 Prepared to Share – “Do you understand?”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

What was it like to hear that story?

from Philip *in the Spirit*



8:38-40 Focused on Salvation – Philip baptized Candace

³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

**Baptism of the Eunuch
Rembrandt, c. 1626.**



8:38-40 Focused

**38 And he gave order
and the eunuch was
baptized him.**



**Candace
oth Philip
nd Philip**

**Baptism of the Eunuch
Rembrandt, c. 1626.**



8:38-40 Focused on Salvation – Philip baptized Candace

39 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.

40 Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Ø 20-30 Miles?

Ø Woodville – Jasper?



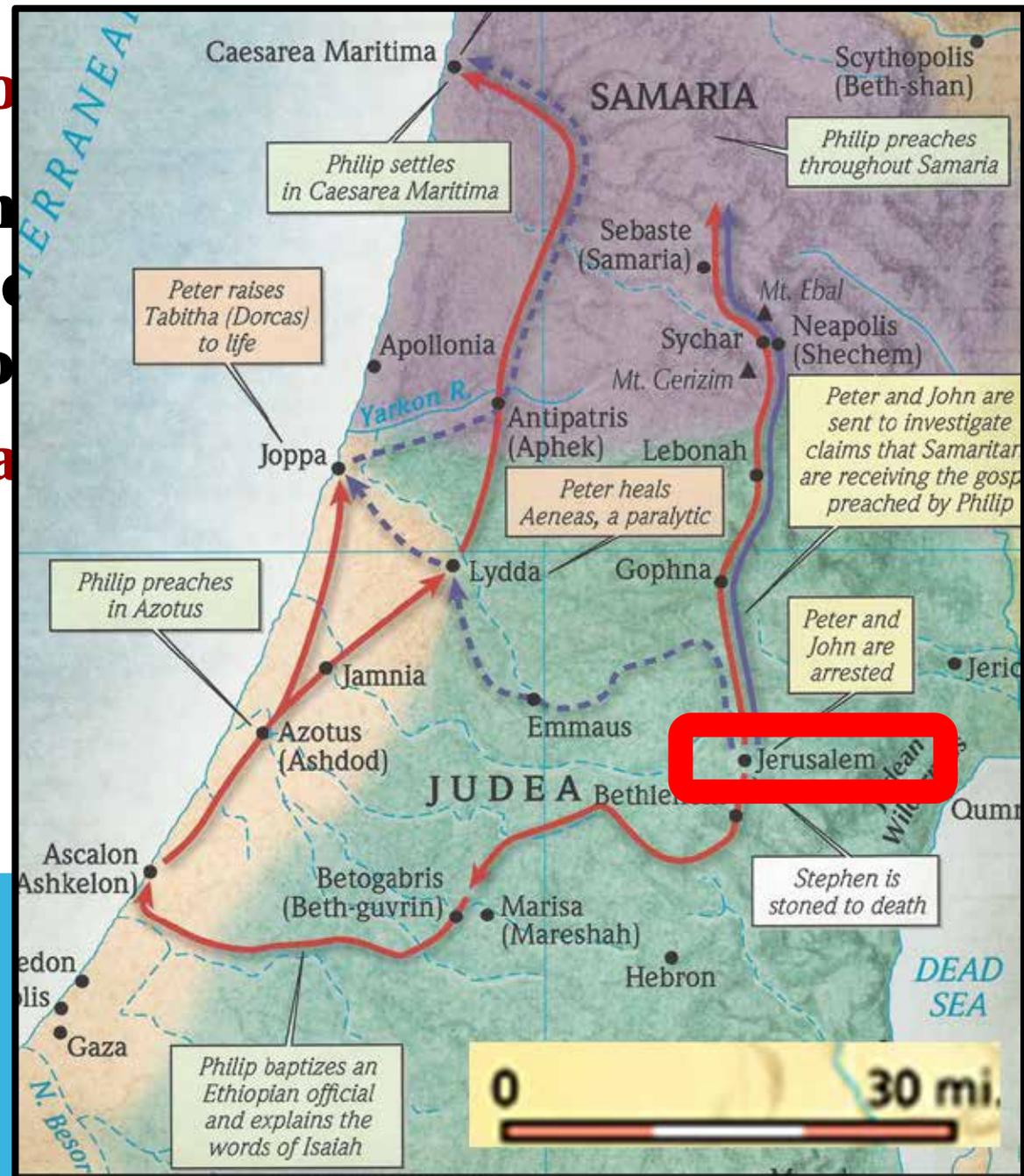
8:38-40 Focused on Salvation

39 When they came up out of the temple, they suddenly took Philip away, and again, but went on his way rejoicing.

40 Philip, however, appeared again in Caesarea, preaching the gospel in all the cities.

Ø 20-30 Miles?

Ø Woodville - Jasper?



8:38-40 Focused on **Caesarea**

39 When they came up out of the wilderness, they suddenly took Philip away, and again, but went on his way rejoicing.

40 Philip, however, **appeared** again, preaching the gospel in all **Caesarea**.

Ø 20-30 Miles?

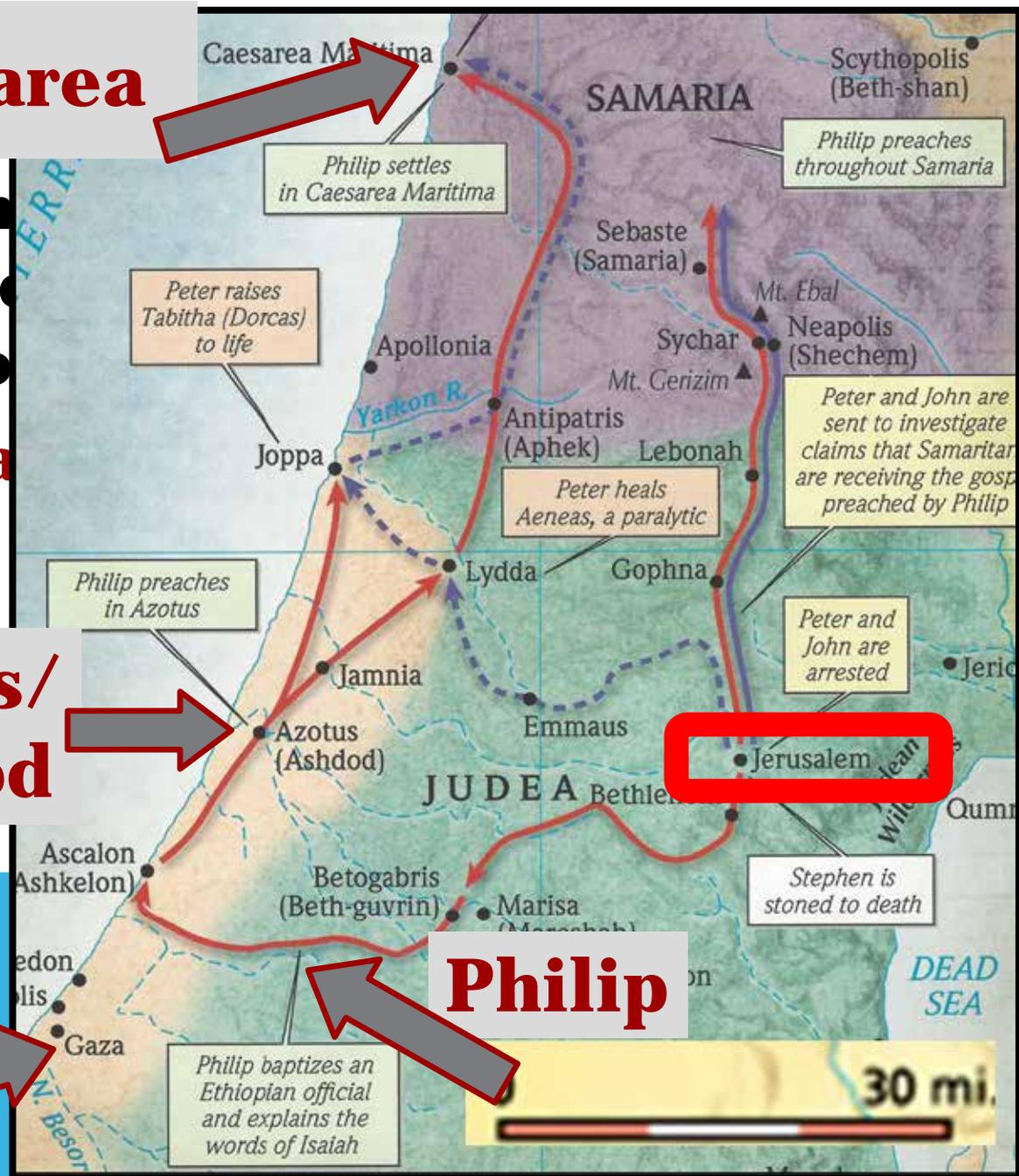
Ø Woodville - Jasper?



Gaza

**Azotus/
Ashdod**

Philip



8:38-40 Focused on Caesarea

Spirit ***SUDDENTLY*** took Philip away

⁴⁰ Philip, however, **appeared at Azotus** and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached **Caesarea**.



Gaza

Philip



8:38-40 Focused on Salvation – Philip baptized Candace

³⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Where are you **willing to go?**

Samaria? . . . or strange road to Gaza?

Ferguson?

to Warren, Lufkin ... or your neighbor?



Where are you willing to go?

8:38-40 Focused on Salvation – Philip baptized Candace

³⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Where are you **willing to go?**

Samaria? . . . or strange road to Gaza?

Ferguson?

to Warren, Lufkin . . . or you

ahh ... obedient



Where are you willing to go?

Really ... *really* want to be careful here

Where are you willing to go?

asking ... hinting ... wondering

Who do you HATE ... *really* hate?

told yah ... you might not like this

Those Apostles ... very *ahh* ... obedient

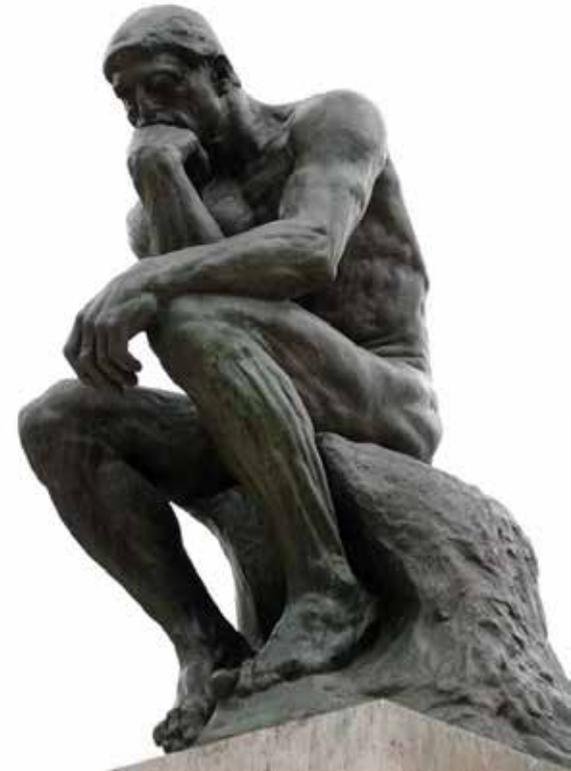


Where are you willing to go?

Obedient

Compelled to Seek –
Prepared to Share –
Focused on Salvation –

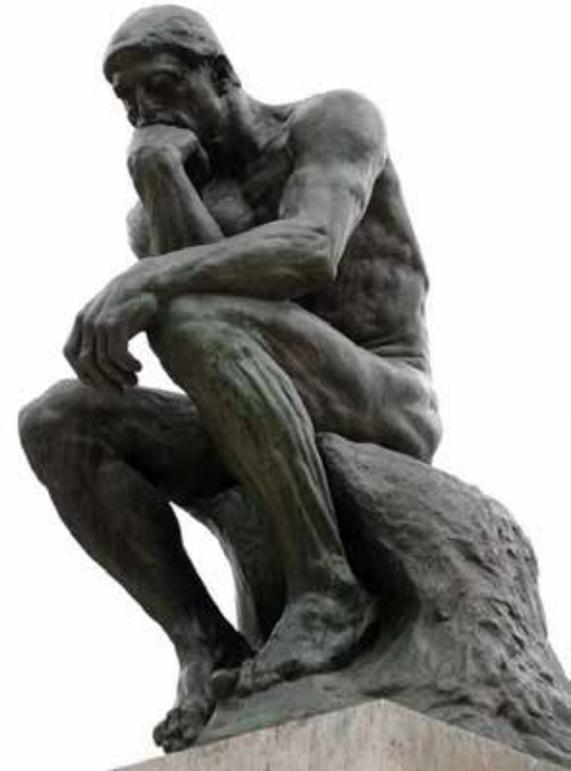
am I compelled to anything?
am I prepared to share?
can I focus upon salvation?



Obedient

Compelled to Seek –
Prepared to Share –
Focused on Salvation –

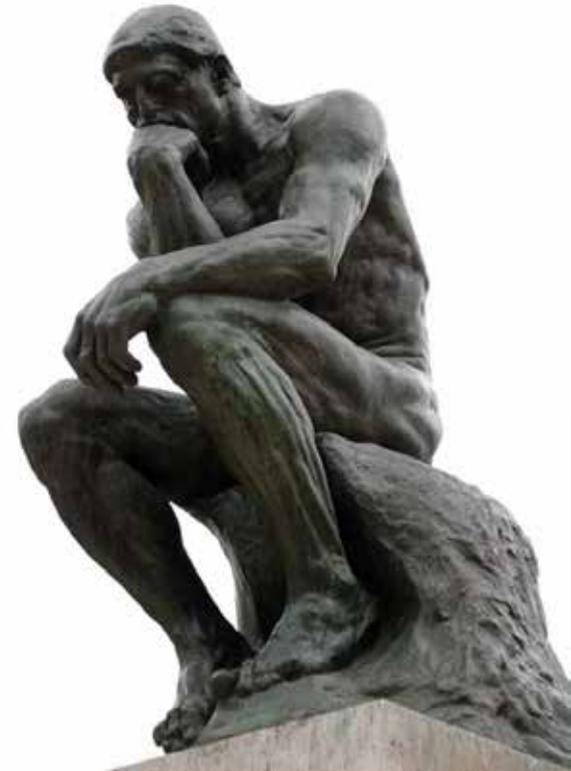
am I compelled to anything? you?
am I prepared to share? you?
can I focus upon salvation? you?



Obedient

Standard – Perfect Obedience
Command – to go, to do, to try ... *try to care*
Example – to be patient, kind, long-suffering, to Love

“Do you understand?”

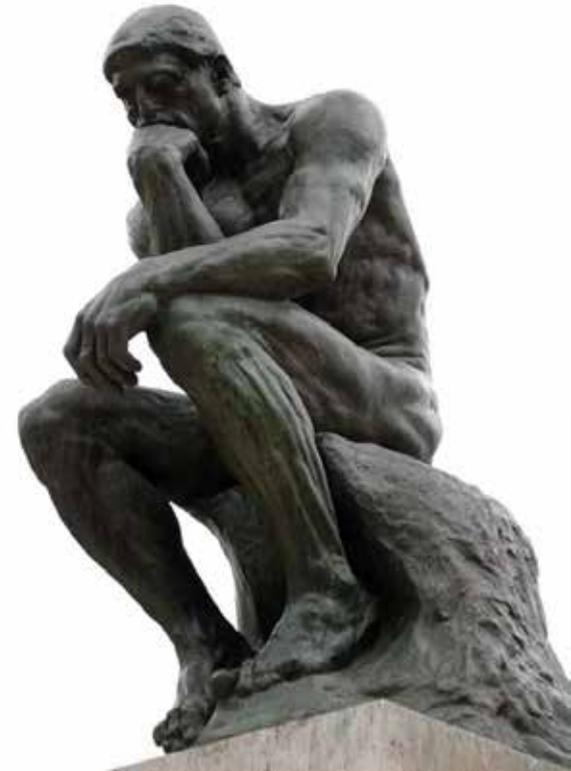


Obedient

- Standard** – Perfect Obedience
- Command** – to go, to do, to try ... *try to care*
- Example** – to be patient, kind, long-suffering, to Love

“Do you understand?”

sure you do



Obedient

Obedience in the New Testament is less about rules more, much more about principles and a relationship

ü **Two Great Commands**

ü **Golden Rule**

ü **Parables ...
et cetera
et cetera**



Obedient

Obedience in the New Testament is less about rules more, much more about principles and a relationship

ü **how you treat the outcast**

ü **treat the *hated***

ü **how treat the *Samaritan***



Obedient

Obedience in the New Testament is less about rules more, much more about principles and a relationship

Lesson?

Not Check List



Obedient

Obedience in the New Testament is less about rules more, much more about principles and a relationship

Lesson?

Not Check List

But are you

WILLING??



Obedient

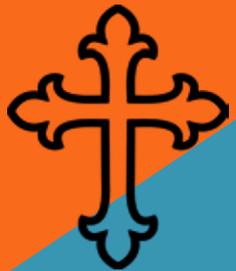
**Obedience in the New Testament is less about rules
more, much more about principles and a relationship**

Lesson?

Not Check List

But are you

WILLING??



On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

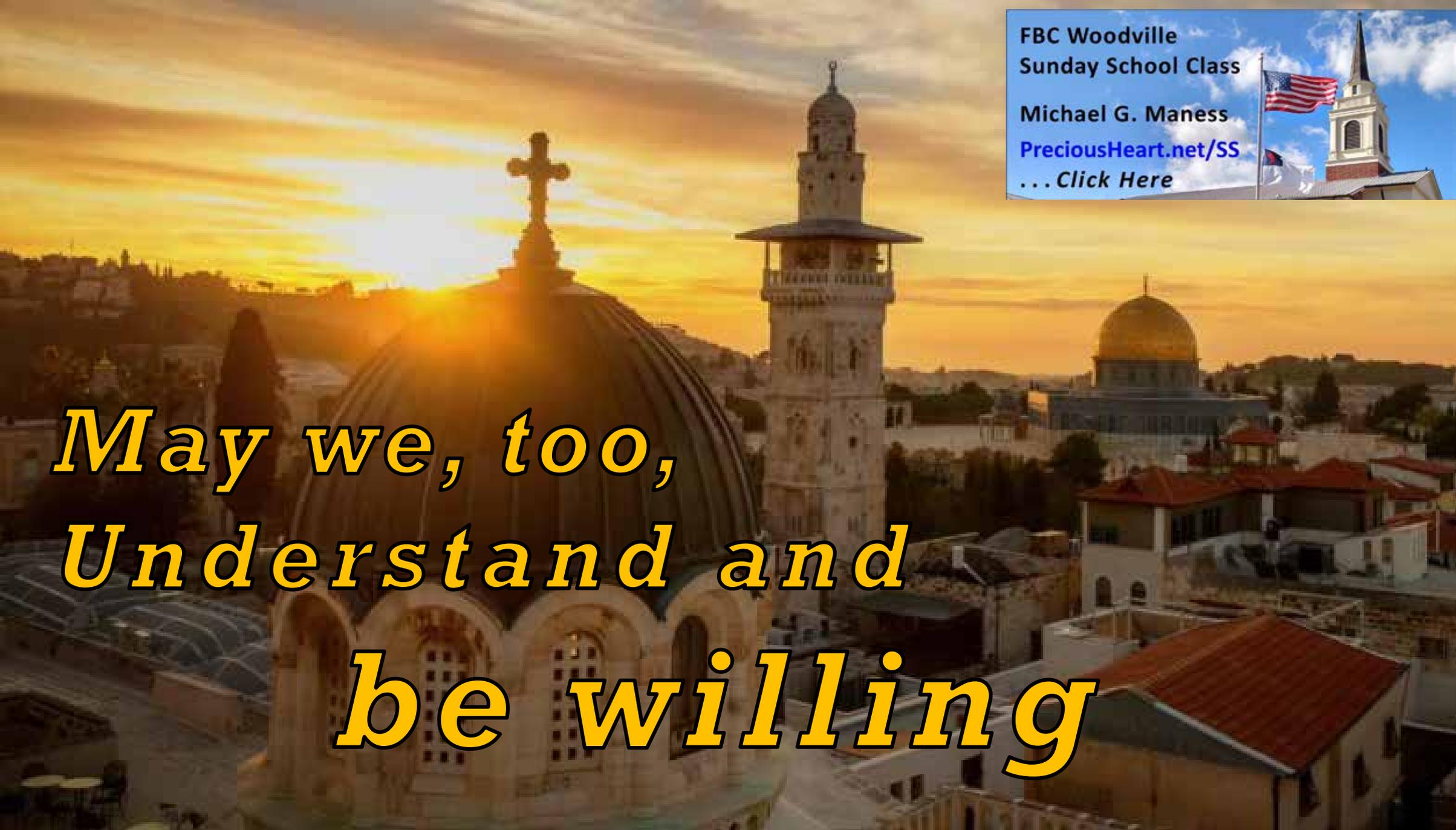
**about rules
relationship**



s willing



*May we, too,
Understand and*



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
PreciousHeart.net/SS
... *Click Here*

*May we, too,
Understand and
be willing*