



# The Doctrine of Baptism - Part 1

**TITLE : " What doth hinder me to be Baptized ? "**



**Text: Acts. 8:26-36 NIV:**

## **Philip and the Ethiopian**

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"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,

28 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.

29 The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

31 "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

32 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.

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

34The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?"

35Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

36As 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?"

## **I. Introduction: Studying the Theology of Baptism:**

Can a multitude of people come into true public worship and be received by our Lord Jesus Christ?

### **I.E. Blacks, Whites, Hispanics, Jews, .....**

**B.** Does God have a "chosen" people?

**C.** Does God have a "special" people?

**D.** Does God hear and answer the prayers of a "select few"?

## **II. The emphatic answer:**

**A.** God loves all His children, and therefore, we will all be heard. Yes, all of us are special to our Lord because we are all unique!

**B.** Churches, are to follow the example of our Lord and welcome anyone who seeks fellowship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

### **III. Do you hear the train coming?**

As we eagerly await the coming of our Lord Jesus, there is an opportunity to join His train and become like the Philipians, Stephen, and Paul of yesteryears!

**B. JESUS SAYS: “Get aboard before the final call is made!”**

### **IV. The African Scholar:**



**V.27:** He was from Ethiopia, which is in Africa. There are numerous dialects spoken within Africa.

**V.27:** He went to Jerusalem to worship.

**We find that this man knew the Hebrew language.**

**B. V.28:** He was reading the words of “Esais.”

**He also read the Greek language.**

**V.30: The Questions He Presents Phillip:**

1. Philip whom Esais speaking of?
2. What hinders me from getting baptized?

**D. Intellectuals ask questions!**

**V. A view at the different Dogmas:**

- A. The requirements, or the who and hows of baptism:
- B. What the Lutherans require:
- C. What the Catholics require:
- D. What the Jehovah's witness require:
- E. What the Mormons require:
- F. What the Lord Jesus Christ requires:

**VI. Who was this African scholar?**

**V.26-28**

## **We begin by understanding who “Philip” was:**

**Acts: 6:1-7 NIV:**

### **The Choosing of the Seven**

1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them

4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also **Philip**, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

**Philip**, one of the seven original deacons in Jerusalem. The selection of the first deacons was brought about because of murmuring between the Grecians and the Hebrews, over the neglectfulness of Grecian widows by the Jews.



We find that this dispute escalated from a state of murmuring ( a strife felt in the heart, quietly) to open hostility between the two groups. Consequently, the twelve disciples were overwhelmed and came up with the idea of allowing the people to choose their own deacons (table servers).

Philip was one of the first deacons, and the second most renowned, behind Stephen.

## **Acts 6: 6-7 NIV:**

6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

7 **So the word of God spread.** The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

## **Stephen Seized**

8 Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

**V9.** Stephen had an eye for the entire world. While we find that the Apostles had an eye for the Hebrews.

9 **Opposition arose**, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called) Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia who began to argue with Stephen.

**\*\* Stephen went into Black churches, and spread the message of salvation and many were getting saved.**

**Our Philip is in Samaria preaching and teaching the Message of Salvation!**

## VII. The abruptness of God



**Acts 8:26 NIV:**

### **Philip and the Ethiopian**

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."

Phillip is instructed to depart immediately for the South because someone urgently needed saving.

**V. 26:** Philip witnesses a Black man riding in a chariot.

**\*\* The distance between Ethiopia and Jerusalem was 1,500 miles. \*\***



## **Philip left behind a Great work for the Lord!**

**V 30:** We find the Ethiopian reading the word of God, but he's stumped.

He was reading a scroll with no numbers, chapters, footnotes, no comparative verses, no commentaries, just the Word of God, in the original language.

**V 27:** He was Black; Ethiopia; the scriptures employ the Greek word: **Aithiops**.

The composition of this word means: **Ai-** Burnt.

**Thiops** Means: Face.

The Bible is telling us that the person, that Phillip saw, was a person whom had a dark face

## VIII. " A PROSELYTE OF THE GATE "



- A. The book of Deuteronomy espouses that a man with a sexual disorder wasn't allowed inside the church. So, the eunuch couldn't enter the church. Therefore he was being spiritually fed bits and pieces, of what he could hear from the outside of the Church.
- B. We have a man whom had just travelled 1,500 miles, to hear the word of God.
- C. He buys a scroll, to worship the Lord.

**V. 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"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,

**He was a man of wealth, as he was the national treasurer of Ethiopia.**



**D. V.36** 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?"**

1. Water: a pool of water, or a body of water.
2. **The eunuch**, not Phillip said: See here is water!
3. What hinders me to be Baptized?
4. What stops me from worshipping with you?
5. Does the color of my skin stop me ?
6. What keeps me from being a follower of Christ Jesus ?
7. What hinders me from being a Christian ?
8. **The reason why he asks the aforementioned questions:**

**Jewish synagogues had a line that if from that point forward you passed said line, as a gentile you would be stoned to death immediately !**

## **IX. Materiality vs God :**



### **A. The Eunuch had:**

- 1. Wealth.**
- 2. High ranking position in government.**
- 3. The best of foods.**
- 4. The best car (Chariot).**
- 5. The finest linen.**
- 6. The best of homes.**

**B. However, he found himself being a slave to materiality and that made him spiritually barren!**

**C. Man made religions and rites that keep men from God, but Christianity is **INCLUSIVE!****

**D. What God requires:**

**Acts 8:37 NIV:**

<sup>37</sup>And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.



## How do we obtain the Forgiveness of our Sins?



How do we get right with God, regardless of our individual sins?

Just say this Prayer and all of your sins will be forgotten, and you will have Eternal life, with Christ Jesus, in Heaven:

Lord Jesus, I repent of all my sins, and I ask you to come into my life a be my Lord and Savior.

Friends, if you prayed that prayer, I believe that you are born again, and you have ever lasting life, get in a good bible teaching church, and may you keep growing, in the Lord, and may HE use you to help save many souls for His Kingdom !

In, Jesus Mighty Name!

Rev. Jesus Del Rio, Ed