







South African released after nearly 6 years as al Qaeda hostage in Mali

By Laura Smith-Spark, Amanda Coakley and Sebastian Shukla, CNN O Updated 10:58 AM ET, Thu August 3, 2017











A file image, taken in 2015 from an undated video released by al Qaeda's media branch, allegedly shows Johan Gustafsson and Stephen McGown (R).

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ACTS 8:26-40 (PG. 1099)

NOW AN ANGEL OF THE LORD SAID TO PHILIP, "GO SOUTH TO THE ROAD-THE **DESERT ROAD-THAT GOES DOWN FROM** JERUSALEM TO GAZA." SO HE STARTED OUT, AND ON HIS WAY HE MET AN ETHIOPIAN **EUNUCH, AN IMPORTANT OFFICIAL IN** CHARGE OF ALL THE TREASURY OF CANDACE, 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."

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. THE EUNUCH WAS READING THIS PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE: "HE WAS LED LIKE A SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER, AND AS A LAMB BEFORE THE 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.

AS THEY TRAVELED ALONG THE ROAD, THEY CAME TO SOME WATER AND THE EUNUCH SAID, "LOOK, HERE IS WATER. WHY SHOULDN'T I BE BAPTIZED?"

AND HE GAVE ORDERS TO STOP THE CHARIOT. 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.

GOD ARRANGED THE APPOINTMENT

ACTS 8:26
NOW AN ANGEL OF THE LORD SAID TO PHILIP,
"GO SOUTH TO THE ROAD-THE DESERT ROADTHAT GOES DOWN FROM JERUSALEM TO
GAZA."

GOD TIMED THE ARRIVAL

ACTS 8:27

SO HE STARTED OUT, AND ON HIS WAY HE MET AN ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH, AN IMPORTANT OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF ALL THE TREASURY OF CANDACE, QUEEN OF THE ETHIOPIANS.

GOD ENDED THE APPOINTMENT

ACTS 8:39

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.

GOD MAY TOTALLY SURPRISE YOU

BE ATTENTIVE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

ACTS 8:29
THE SPIRIT TOLD PHILIP, "GO TO THAT
CHARIOT AND STAY NEAR IT."

BE WILLING TO DO WHAT IT TAKES

ACTS 8:30

THEN PHILIP RAN UP TO THE CHARIOT

BE A LISTENER

ACTS 8:30

... AND HEARD THE MAN READING ISAIAH THE PROPHET.

BE INQUISITIVE

ACTS 8:30
"DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE READING?" PHILIP ASKED.

BE PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT JESUS

ACTS 8:35
THEN PHILIP BEGAN WITH THAT VERY
PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE AND TOLD HIM THE
GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS.

BE AN INVITER

ACTS 8:38
AND HE GAVE ORDERS TO STOP THE
CHARIOT. THEN BOTH PHILIP AND THE
EUNUCH WENT DOWN INTO THE WATER AND
PHILIP BAPTIZED HIM.

Sunday, August 20,6pm Beach Baptism

Harry Tappen Beach 494 Prospect Ave in Glenwood Landing/Sea Cliff

If you have never been baptized as a believer, sign up online at ShelterRockChurch.com/baptism

If you would like to attend a class on baptism, email Jerry@ShelterRockChurch.com