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## THE QUEST FOR TRUTH & GOD'S AMAZING INTERVENTION

**I**t was the hottest midday in Gaza and the sunburnt in the sky in all his fury. Rarely anyone would venture to travel to Gaza, the desert at that hour of the day. But during that hot midday, a large, richly laden caravan and a stately furnished chariot carrying a great man of authority, who was in charge of all the treasure of the queen of Ethiopia was traveling along the road to Gaza. He had come all the way from Ethiopia to worship the God of the Hebrews at Jerusalem traversing over thousand six hundred miles on road when in the Roman world the average distance that people would travel on road was just twenty miles a day. This speaks volumes about his untiring pursuit in search of truth.

However, his visit to Jerusalem Temple did not make any difference in his life. At the Temple, he found only ceremonies, sacrifices, and rituals; but not eternal life. So, he was heading back to Ethiopia through the desert, which pictures the spiritual thirst of his soul. But he continued to cling to the Word of God.

At that very hour, God said to Philip, one of His servants, "Arise and go toward the south unto the way that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza, which is a desert". And Philip hastened to Gaza without a moment's hesitation; and behold there was the Ethiopian eunuch, sitting in his stately chariot reading from the prophetic book of Isaiah chapter fifty-three. When Philip drew near, he heard the Ethiopian reading, "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and a Lamb dumb before His shearer, so opened He not His mouth: in His humiliation, His judgment was taken away: and who

shall declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth". The passage gives a graphic presentation of the Messiah's sufferings and His vicarious death on the cross for the salvation of man.

Philip joined him in his chariot at his request, opened his mouth and began at the same Scripture, and preached to him Jesus (Acts 8:35). Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of Isaiah chapter fifty-three. We all have sinned and are heading towards eternal hellfire. Because of our sin, none of us can merit eternal life through our own efforts or good deeds. But the Lord Jesus, to satisfy God's holy justice, out of His love for us, became our substitute and bore the penalty we deserve and died on the cross. Jesus bore God's wrath on the cross and shed His precious blood for the remission of our sins. He rose again from the grave, ascended to heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God. He will soon return to take us unto Himself. The Ethiopian heard the true way of salvation and confessed, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." He thus received the Lord Jesus as his Lord and Saviour then and there publicly confessed Him, and experienced newness of life. His desert experience has turned into a paradise experience when Christ came into his life and he went on his way rejoicing!

Dear reader, do you have the assurance of salvation in your heart? Are your sins washed by the blood of the Lord Jesus, shed for the remission of your sins? If not, come to the Lord Jesus Christ right now, confess your sins to Him, and be washed by His precious blood and be saved!

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