

35 AD – THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH IS BAPTISED

“And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” (Isaiah 2 v 4)

EVENTS IN 35 AD

Acts is chronological. The revival in Samaria occurred in **34 AD** (see our paper [34 AD](#)), and the conversion of **Saul** took place in **36 AD** (see our paper [36 AD](#)), so logically we infer the divine appointment of **Philip** with the **Ethiopian eunuch** took place in **35 AD**. This is confirmed in the spiritual numbers – which fit magnificently to the story in Acts and the prophecy in Isaiah.

THE CONTEXT

Saul was working under the authority of the high priests in Jerusalem to suppress the church. The Christians had scattered to the villages of Judah. After this there was an awakening of Samaritans to faith in **Jesus**.

THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH

We don't know if he was Ethiopian. We know he was an important official in the court of **Candace**, queen of the Ethiopians. We know he was in charge of the Treasury. We know he had been to Jerusalem to worship and was sitting in his chariot on the return trip home when **Philip** met him. It is possible he was an ethnic Hebrew of the Jewish faith who lived in Ethiopia.

PHILIP THE EVANGELIST

Philip had been led by the Spirit to head down this road. On it he met the Ethiopian reading Isaiah **53** – the account of the **Suffering Servant**. **Philip** asked if he could help explain the passage. **Philip** told him the good news about **Jesus**.

The **Ethiopian eunuch** said **‘Look, here is some water. Why shouldn't I be baptised?’** And so they went down to 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 **Ethiopian eunuch** did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

PROPHECY OF ISAIAH 2 V 4

“And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” (Isaiah 2 v 4)

In **34** AD a remarkable thing happened – the Samaritans, an outcast ethnic minority in the Holy Land, believed the gospel and were accepted into the brotherhood of the faith.

In **35** AD another remarkable thing happened – the gospel of **Jesus Christ** spread to a foreign nation. The **Ethiopian eunuch** became a witness for Jesus when he returned to Ethiopia. The Ethiopian monarchy became an early center of the Christian faith.

“he shall judge among the nations”

The progenitor state to Ethiopia, called Aksum, declared Christianity to be its state religion in 330 AD when **King Ezana** converted. Aksum was the first nation to put the Cross on its coins. By 350 **King Ezana** ruled over a huge African nation: 1.25 million sq. km.

“they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks”

Ethiopia was the only non-animist area of Africa that kept the Christian faith during the expansion period of Islam. They preferred the plowshares and pruning hooks of Christian teaching to the violent creed of Islam which relied on swords and spears to force confessions.

“nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more”

Rather than fight the Moslems during the period of Islamic domination, the Ethiopians retreated to the hills and moved their capital inland. North-west of Aksum in the territory of the modern state of Sudan the Christian states of Makuria and Alodia lasted until the 13th century before adopting Islam.

Ethiopian Christianity survived a variety of African rulers and colonial powers. Today the Ethiopian Orthodox Church has 40 to 45 million members and there are another 14 million Protestants. Christians make up 60% of the population.

It all started on the road down to Gaza from Jerusalem when **Philip** listened to the Holy Spirit and started a conversation with a visitor from a foreign land.

SPIRITUAL NUMBER ANALYSIS

For a mind that has wisdom please read on. See truth from another perspective.

PART ONE

Chapter **2** of Isaiah is the **2nd** chapter of The Prophets.

The spiritual number **2** means 'Division' or 'Discern'

This verse in Isaiah corresponds to 35 AD in the Book of Acts in which an official from a foreign government 'Discerned' the gospel of **Jesus Christ**, was saved, and was baptized.

PART TWO

Isaiah **2 v 4** is the **17,690th** verse in the whole Bible starting at Gen **1 v 1**.

The number **17,690 = 61 x 290**

The spiritual meaning of **61** is 'Messiah, King of the Jews'

The spiritual meaning of **290** is 'Holy One of Israel'

The **eunuch** was a Jew. He had just returned from a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. **Philip** was able to show him who was the God he worshiped. **Jesus** is the Messiah, the King of the Jews, the Holy One of Israel. Here we see a remarkable parallel between the text in Acts and the spiritual number of Isaiah 2 v 4 based on its location in the Bible starting with Gen 1 v 1.

PART THREE

Isaiah **2 v 8** is the **35th** verse of The Prophets starting at Isaiah **1 v 1**.

The spiritual meaning of **35** is 'Suffering Servant'

How do we know Jesus is the Messiah? He fulfilled the prophecy the **eunuch** was reading that the Messiah would first suffer for the sin of the people and then be glorified (Isaiah 53):

“He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter... he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.” (Isaiah 53:7-8)