



**STARTING IN
JERUSALEM
LESSON 6**

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VERSE FOR THE

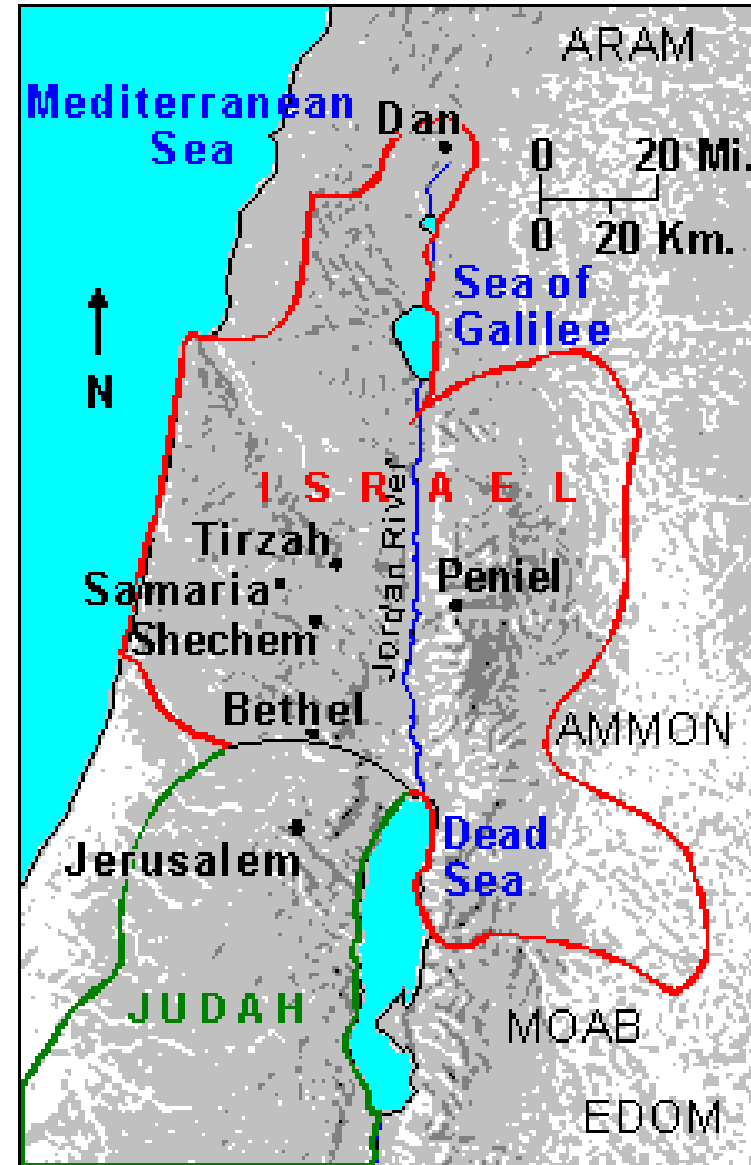
- **Acts 1:7-9** **JOURNEY** He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
- **AUTHORITY: EXOUSIA: the right to ac**
 1. given by someone to someone
 2. works within certain specified rules
 3. has established parameters

PERSECUTION BEGINS

- Acts 8:1-3 Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.
- **Acts 22:3-5** "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today. I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons, as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify.

THE MINISTRY OF PHILIP

- Not believed to be the disciple but one of the seven chosen administrators
- **Acts 8:5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them.**
- Neither Stephen or Philip had chosen easy places to start ministry





PHILIP HAD A MESSAGE!

- **Acts 8:6-8** The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. So there was much rejoicing in that city.
- **Both spiritual and physical healing was part of Philip's ministry**
- Often, spiritual forces of evil use people
- Often, spiritual forces of evil attack people

SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL

- **Ephesians 6:11-12** Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.
- **Matthew 12:28** But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.
- **1 Samuel 16:14** Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord terrorized him.

YOU CAN'T BUY GOD

- **Acts 8:9-10** Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God."
- **Acts 8:12-13** But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.
- **Acts 8:18-19** When Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit"

INTERESTING

OBSERVATIONS

- There is now an approach to spiritual warfare that didn't exist before. Why? How? (think about power, authority and covenant)
- **God moves through people in miraculous ways**
- **Satan counterfeits what God does**
- **Ezekiel 28:13-16** "You were in Eden, the garden of God....And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned...."

WHERE IS THE BATTLE?

■ **Matthew 7:15-23** "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

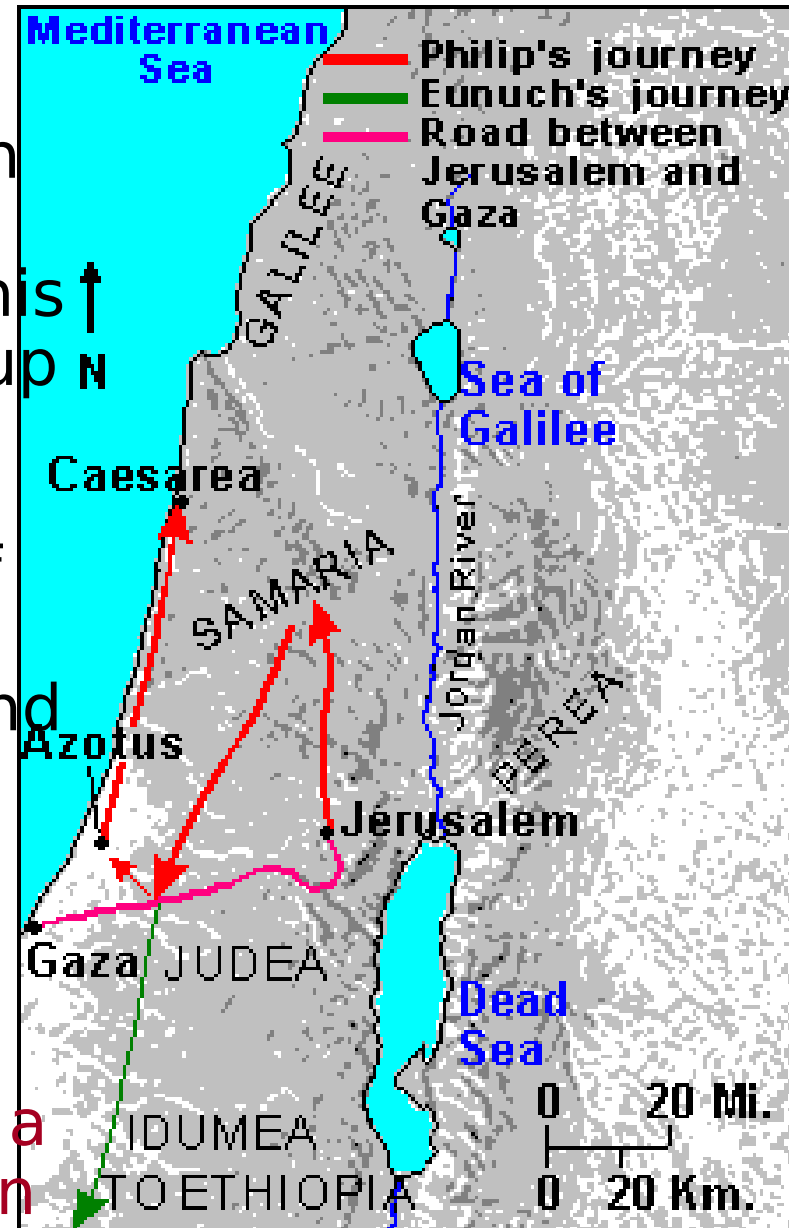
DEMONS RECOGNIZE JESUS

- Mark 1:34 And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.
- **Acts 19:13-16** But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

PHILIP'S ONGOING MINISTRY

Acts 8:26-28 But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of The Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Candace was a title used by a Nubian tribe in current Sudan



CHANCE ENCOUNTER?

- **Acts 8:32-33** Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: "He was led as a sheep to slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He does not open His mouth. In humiliation His judgment was taken away; Who will relate His generation? For His life is removed from the earth."
- **Acts 8:39** When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.
- Snatched: *harpazo*: to catch up, to snatch away

WHEN GOD SAYS GO...

- Matthew 8:13 And Jesus said to the centurion, "**Go**; it shall be done for you as you have believed."
- Matthew 9:13 "But **go** and learn what this means: 'I desire compassion, and not sacrifice,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."
- Matthew 18:15 "If your brother sins, **go** and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother."
- Matthew 28:19 "**Go** therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit..."
- Acts 9:11 And the Lord said to him, "Get up and **go** to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying..."