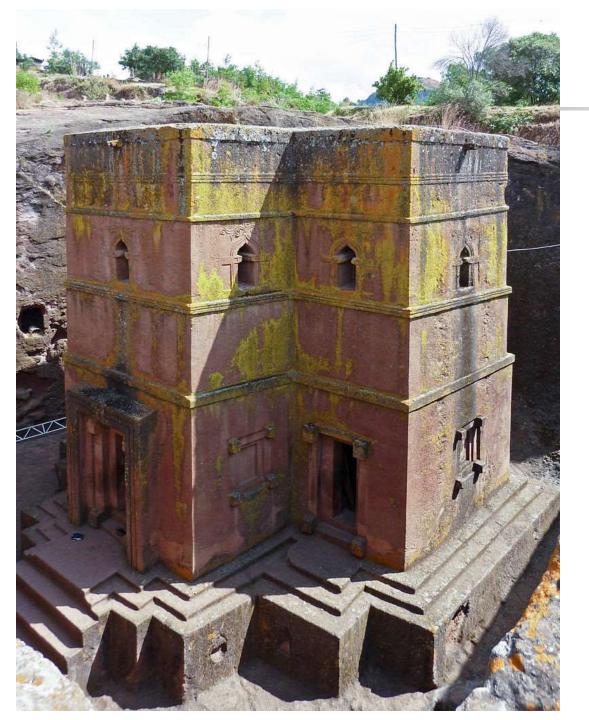
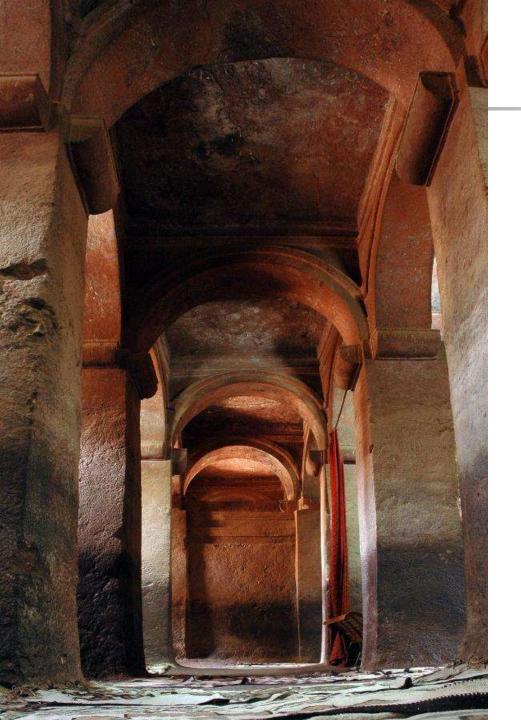
Divine Hitchhiking



- Bet Giyorgis Church (Church of St. George) in Lalibela, Ethiopia
- Carved out of solid rock in quarry bed, completely hollowed out inside
- One of 11 churches arranged to form a rough map of Jerusalem
- Work said to have started in approximately 1200 AD, and taken 24 years, with the help of angels



- Scholars think that is impossible, but no one knows how they were carved or where all of the excess rock went
- Testimony to the zeal of Ethiopian Christians to honor God
- Today, we get the rest of the story ...

Top Priority – the Holy Spirit

¹⁴ Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, ¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized [e]in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

Victory Lap (Acts 8: 25-26)

- ²⁵ So, when they had solemnly testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they started back to Jerusalem, and were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.
- ²⁶ But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (^[h]This is a desert road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went;

The Divine Hitchhiker

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, ²⁸ and he was returning and sitting in his ^[i]chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this ^[j]chariot."

How Will They Ever Know?

³⁰ Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?"

Isaiah 53

"HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH. ³³ "IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY; WHO WILL ^[k]RELATE HIS ^[]GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH."

We Only Have One Message

- ¹ ³⁴ The eunuch answered Philip and said, "Please *tell me*, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.
- ³⁶ As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁷ [^m]And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] ³⁸ And he ordered the ^[n]chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

A Day in the Life ...

³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip **away;** and the eunuch no longer saw him, ^[0]but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip ^[p]found himself at ^[g]Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

We are all just Divine Hitchhikers

The Holy Spirit will give you the ability to tell what you have experienced - with miraculous results!!!!

Relationship = Peace and Freedom

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- Iavishly blessed by God,

and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY