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# 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

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



# Victory Lap (Acts 8: 25-26)

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- <sup>25</sup> 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.
- <sup>26</sup> **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.**) <sup>27</sup> **So he got up and went;**



# The Divine Hitchhiker

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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,** <sup>28</sup> and he was returning and sitting in his [i]chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> **Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this [i]chariot.”**



# How Will They Ever Know?

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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

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“HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER;  
AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS  
SILENT,  
SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH.

<sup>33</sup> “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

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- <sup>34</sup> The eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please *tell me*, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture **he preached Jesus to him.**
- <sup>36</sup> As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch \*said, **“Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?”** <sup>37</sup> [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.”] <sup>38</sup> 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 ...

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- <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, **the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away;** and the eunuch no longer saw him, **[o]but went on his way rejoicing.** <sup>40</sup> **But Philip [p]found himself at [a]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

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



# Relationship = Peace and Freedom

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- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY