

PHILIP, MEET MR. EUNUCH

Reference: **Acts 8:26-39**

Pastor Larry Webb

Philip had just experienced evangelistic success in Samaria when God instructed him to go toward Ethiopia to meet an important government employee identified only as a Eunuch. This Eunuch served the Queen Mother of Ethiopia and he was responsible to oversee the kingdom's finances. Philip found this man and his entourage in the desert returning home. The Eunuch was reading from a scroll containing the Old Testament book of Isaiah. This Eunuch couldn't understand what he was reading so Philip joined him and explained to him the particular Messianic passage he was reading from **Isaiah 53:7, 8**.

The Eunuch was confused because he didn't understand who the prophet Isaiah was talking about. Philip then shared that it was the promised Messiah (Jesus) that the prophet spoke about (some seven centuries before Jesus birth).

There was a facsimile of an oasis in the desert and an actual water source so this Eunuch asked Philip what he needed to do to be eligible to be baptized? Philip then explained to him that in order to receive salvation he needed to first believe on Jesus from his whole heart. Philip's answer supports the biblical practice of "credobaptism".

Definition: _____ is the practice of baptizing only those people that have made an earlier decision to believe on Jesus and receive salvation.

The Eunuch responded '*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*' and that confession meant this Eunuch believed two things about Jesus:

- First, he believed Jesus was the **Christ**, meaning that Jesus was the promised Jewish _____.
The word translated "*Christ*" is from the Greek word "*Christos*" and means the anointed one or the Messiah.
- Second, he believed Jesus was the **Son of God**, meaning that Jesus was _____ manifesting Himself in _____.

Footnote: That is the exact same confession about Jesus that Simon Peter made.

Reference: **Matthew 16:13-16** (see screen)

There are three basic modes of baptism that are practiced:

- _____ means to pour.
- _____ means to sprinkle.
- _____ means to fully submerge someone under the water.

It's interesting the Greek language had a word that meant pouring and that word was _____.

The Greek language also had a word that meant sprinkling and that word was _____.

But in each passage where baptism is mentioned neither one of those words is used because biblical baptism is immersion. The biblical passages that address the subject of baptism use a different word all together and that word is _____ and that word meant "to dip, to plunge underneath, to submerge, to overwhelm, or envelope with a fluid, **to immerse.**"