

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: November 8, 2020
**Fulfilled – “He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain...”**
Acts 8:26-36, Isaiah 53

1. Read Acts 8:26-36. What was going on at the time of this story in Acts?
 - a. Jesus was born, lived, taught, died, was buried, and rose again...then His Spirit fell on the faithful in Jerusalem and gave them boldness to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - b. Acts is the story of the of the early church and its expansion beyond Jerusalem and the original disciples.
 - c. The church started out as primarily Jews who were putting their trust in Christ, but as Acts progresses, it becomes the story of Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles and the expansion of the church into the rest of the world.
 - d. Stephen has just been stoned (while people laid their cloaks at the foot of a man named Saul) and a great persecution has begun. Everyone but the apostles were scattered (diaspora).

2. Why, according to verse 27, was the Ethiopian on this road? _____

What was the Ethiopian doing as he road in the chariot? _____

What do you think we can conclude about the Ethiopian, based on the answers to these questions? _____

3. What question did the Ethiopian ask Philip about the passage he was reading, according to verse 34? _____

4. What is the answer?
 - a. Many modern Jews consider this to be a commentary on the collective fate of Israel. Israel was often suffering and is herself a small nation with little attraction.
 - b. Even the earliest Jewish interpreters of the Biblical text believed that this pointed forward to a coming Messiah who would not look or act as you would expect for a Savior and King.
 - c. If you look at the great Biblical leaders, God often chose the one who you would not expect, but who understood the humility needed to lead God’s people.
 - d. Jesus exemplified this passage in a way that is undeniable!
 - e. Philip obviously believed that he could see Jesus and the Gospel in this passage.

5. Read Isaiah 53. What do 53:1-2 say about him? _____

6. How does verse 53:3 describe him? _____

7. What, according to 53:4-12, did Jesus do for us?
 - a. He took up our pain and bore our suffering.
 - b. He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that **brought us peace** was on him, and **by his wounds we are healed**.
 - c. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
 - d. He did not resist or fight back. He was innocent, but he suffered anyway.
 - e. He bore the sin of many and made intercessions for the transgressors.