

The Sunday School

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubeta's Notes.

First Quarter, 1902.

JANUARY TO MARCH.

Lesson XI. March 16. Acts 8:29-39.

THE ETHIOPIAN CONVERTED.

GOLDEN TEXT.

With the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.—Rom. 10:10.

EXPLANATORY.

I. AN EXAMPLE OF PROVIDENTIAL GUIDANCE.—Vs. 26, 27. Deacon Philip has done a good work in Samaria, and its success was so great that the Christians there could wisely be left to grow by themselves. Sometimes too much help is worse than none.

26. AND THE (better "an") ANGEL OF THE LORD. Whether he appeared in some visible form, or by some inward communication, or by vision, is not revealed. SPARK UNTO PHILIP. The deacon or evangelist, not the apostle. AND GO TOWARD THE SOUTH. "With his face to the south," from Samaria. This would lead him directly across the different roads from Jerusalem to Gaza and to Africa. THAT GORTH DOWN FROM JERUSALEM. Both because Jerusalem was on high land, and any road toward the coast must be a descending one, and also toward Jerusalem is always up, as in England it is always up to London and down from London, without any regard to relative position. UNTO GAZA. A Philistine city. The scene of one of Samson's feats, and one of the oldest cities in the world. At present it contains about sixteen thousand inhabitants. WHICH IS DESERT. That is, wild pasture lands, uncultivated, and thinly inhabited. Opinion is still divided as to whether the adjective "desert" belongs to the way or the city.

27. AND HE AROSE AND WENT. Apparently under sealed orders, as so often in life, not knowing the object of his journey. Where the two roads from Samaria and Jerusalem unite, or while he was walking along the road common to the two journeys, he met, by the ordering of Providence, a MAN OF ETHIOPIA. "Ethiopia" was a vague term for the lands south of Egypt "but in this case we are able to identify it with the ancient Ethiopia kingdom of Meroë by the name of its queen, Candace." "The kingdom of Meroë lay on the right bank of the Nile from its junction with the Atbara, as far as Khartoum, and thence to the east of the blue Nile to the Abyssinian Mountains. AN RUNUCH. A chamberlain or a servant of the bedchamber. The word "denoted the condition of a man who was chosen to watch over the women's apartment in great houses." UNDER CANDACE. Not the name of an individual, but of a dynasty, as Pharaoh in Egypt and Caesar in Rome. QUEEN OF THE ETHIOPIANS. The kingdom of Meroë was governed by queens in the time of Augustus, and, according to Eusebius, even to his time, three hundred years after Christ. CHARGE OF ALL HER treasure. He was at the head of the financial department of the kingdom, chancellor

ANY ONE CAN

Prove the Value of Scientific Food.

A good straightforward test of food is worth much to humanity. The following is interesting:

Mr. T. K. Durboraw of Greenfield, O., says: "After three months' sickness with grip, I found I had lost 42 pounds, with little appetite and almost no digestion. Wife finally put me on Grape-Nuts and I actually lived on this food, taking it three times a day, and a cup of Postum Coffee at each meal for about four weeks.

When I began I was so nervous and weak that my strength was exhausted even by dressing, and, of course, I was unable to do the work loaded upon my desk, but I hammered away without any tonics or medicines, only my diet of Grape-Nuts and Postum three times a day. I found at the end of 23 days my nervousness gone, strength greatly increased and that I had gained 16 pounds.

Finally, after getting back to good health again I, of course, took on different kinds of food, and, as a change, began using—for breakfast. After a while some peculiar spells began to appear in the morning with deathly sickness and nervous lassitude. I took treatment for biliousness but that did not avail.

About a month ago I gave up the—for breakfast and took on Grape-Nuts again. These morning attacks left me entirely in a day or two and I feel that I have had sufficient evidence of the scientific value of Grape-Nuts as a vitalizing, perfect food, that does not require the heavy work of the stomach occasioned by the use of starchy foods we use so much nowadays.

lor of the exchequer, secretary of the treasury. It is regarded as improbable that he was a Jew or a full Jewish proselyte, for Eunuchs were not permitted to join the congregation (Deut. 23:1) but he may have been a "proselyte of the gate," or one who in general adopted the worship of the Jews without being a Jew.

II. SEEKING THE LIGHT THROUGH RELIGIOUS MEETINGS AND THE SCRIPTURES.—Vs. 27, 28. First: Through great meetings of religious people. Jews were scattered over nearly all the world, and doubtless had a synagogue in Candace's capital. This man, being devout and religious, had been drawn to the true God whom the Jews worshipped, and HAD COME TO JERUSALEM FOR TO WORSHIP. Having tasted of the stream, he sought the fountain. Having seen some rays, he sought the source of light.

III. THE ETHIOPIAN FINDS AN INTERPRETER.—Vs. 29-31. As Bunyan's Pilgrim found Evangelist when he was seeking to find the gate to the heavenly city. 29. THEN THE SPIRIT SAID, by some inward impulse, influencing not merely his feelings, but his judgment; producing not merely an impression, but wisdom.

30. AND PHILIP RAN THITHER, not only showing the eagerness of his obedience, but from necessity, if he would join the company of travellers. And while running beside the chariot he overheard HIM READ THE PROPHET ISAIAH, Greek for "Isaiah." UNDERSTANDEST THOU WHAT THOU READEST? In the Greek there is a play upon the word for understand ("Gnōskōs," to know), and read ("Anagīnōskōs," to know again, that is, to read, because the letter characters being permanent enable one to know again and again what they say.)

31. HOW CAN I, EXCEPT SOME MAN SHOULD GUIDE ME? The passage in Isaiah was a very difficult one for a Jew to understand. It seemed almost impossible to put together the idea of Christ as a sufferer, as despised and slain, and the promise that he should be a glorious king, triumphing over the world. Only the facts could solve the problem; and these facts were familiar to Philip. AND HE DESIRED (brought) PHILIP. This is stronger than merely asking him to do so.

IV. NEW LIGHT ON OLD SCRIPTURE.—Vs. 32-35. 32. THE PLACE OF THE SCRIPTURE. This section which he was reading contained the following passage, which was its central theme. The passage is quoted from the Septuagint, or Greek version of Isaiah 53:7, 8. HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER. He unreluctingly went to his sacrificial death on the cross, as the lamb for the evening sacrifice to the altar. The chapter from which these verses are taken contains no less than eleven distinct references to the vicarious character of Christ's sufferings.

33. IN HIS HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY. His judgment,—the judgment (justice) due to him. A fair trial was not accorded to him, as is plainly seen in the account of the trial of Jesus. WHO SHALL DECLARE HIS GENERATION? Glog, Hackett, DeWette, Rendall, M'yer, Alford, understand this as equivalent to: Who can describe his contemporaries? Their wickedness is so great, it is beyond words to express. Schaff renders it as follows: "But though so lowly, so mean, so poor, was his semblance on earth, who shall declare his generation? It is ineffable! for he is the eternal Son of God, begotten from everlasting of the Father."

HIS LIFE IS TAKEN. The Greek word expresses that it was done by violence.

34. OF WHOM SPEAKETH THE PROPHET THIS? The earlier Jewish authorities all understood chapter 53 of Isaiah to refer to the coming Messiah. Later, some applied it to the nation, and some to the prophet himself. OF HIMSELF. The Ethiopian may have been acquainted with the tradition that Isaiah was placed between the halves of a split log and sawn asunder.

45. THEN PHILIP . . . BEGAN AT THE SAME SCRIPTURE. Which was fulfilled in Jesus and has been fulfilled in no other. AND PREACHED UNTO HIM JESUS' LITERALLY. "Announced to him the glad tidings, Jesus."

V. THE ETHIOPIAN CONFESSES CHRIST IN BAPTISM.—Vs. 36-39. 36. SEE, HERE IS WATER. Or simply, "Behold water!" This was saying, "I believe in Jesus I accept him as my Saviour, and now I wish to confess him by baptism," as all other Christians had been doing. Without doubt Philip had told him about baptism as the Christian way of acknowledging Christ.

37. IF THOU BELIEVEST, etc. This verse is wanting in the best manuscripts, and was probably inserted from some marginal note made to keep readers from error. But the words are exactly true, and are found in other Scriptures, and are implied in the fact of baptism. It is precisely that believing with all the heart which is the condition of a profession of faith.

38. HE COMMANDED THE CHARIOT.

He ordered the chariot-driver to stop, and of course the whole retinue would see what took place, and they may certainly be regarded as the nucleus of a congregation to be established in Ethiopia. HE BAPTIZED HIM. Without waiting further to instruct him, or delaying for a public ceremonial.

Note the steps in the progress of a soul from darkness to light, and compare with Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress as far as the Palace Beautiful, whence he was sent forth clothed in the Christian's armor.

VI. THE PARTING OF THE WAYS: EACH MAN TO HIS WORK.—Vs. 39, 40. 39. THE SPIRIT ON THE LORD CAUGHT AWAY PHILIP. "The expression asserts that he left the church suddenly, under the impulse of an urgent mission from above, but not that the mode of his departure was miraculous in any other respect." AND HE (the eunuch) WENT ON HIS WAY REJOICING. In his new-found treasure, in his conscious possession of Christ and his salvation. Nothing else in the world could bring so much joy.

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A little book on treatment of catarrh mailed free by addressing F. A. Stuart Co., Mich.

A MONKEY BORN TO COMMAND.

In the Zoo at Chicago, Ill., there is a whistling monkey. He is a greedy fellow, and when the food has been placed in the big cage he has been observed a number of times to put the other monkeys to sleep by whistling and grinning fiercely. When he has stuffed himself and hidden what food he cannot eat he awakes his companions by pinching them.

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Public Notice.

Application will be made to the Legislature of this Province at the next Session for the passage of an Act to authorize James E. Whittaker, Trustee under the Will of Charles Whittaker, deceased, to convey a certain lot of land situate on the South East corner of Dorchester and Carleton streets, in the City of Saint John by way of Mortgage for the purpose of securing the repayment of a loan not exceeding twenty-five hundred dollars to be applied in the conversion of the dwelling house on said land into two tenements.

JAMES E. WHITTAKER, Applicant.
January 28th, 1902.

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NOTICE

is hereby given that application will be made to the Legislature of New Brunswick at its approaching session to revive, continue, extend and amend the Act of Assembly, 45 Victoria, chapter 60, entitled an act to incorporate the St. John Canal and Dock Company; also reviving and consolidating therewith the Act of Assembly, 45 Victoria, chapter 87; also the Act of Assembly, 46 Victoria, chapter 28; and the Act of Assembly, 46 Victoria, chapter 60, entitled an act to incorporate the Courtney Bay Bridge Company (the two other acts relating to the same); and any acts in amendment thereof. Giving powers to the Company to acquire, construct, own and operate Canals, Docks, Railways, Warehouses, Vessels and any and all shipping facilities; also with powers in regard to expropriating, acquiring, reclaiming, improving and laying out, leasing, or otherwise disposing of lands for the above and other purposes; and the supplying of power or electricity for manufacturing or other purposes; and to receive any aid that may be granted therefor.

J. N. ARMSTRONG for the applicants.

To become like Christ is the only thing in the world worth caring for, the thing before which every ambition of man is folly, and all lower achievement vain.—Drummond.