

Lesson X.

PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

March 7, 1909

Acts 8 : 26-38. Study Acts 8 : 26-40—Memory Verses, 29-31.

Golden Text—Search the scriptures ; for in them ye think ye have eternal life : and they are they which testify of me.—John 5 : 39.



26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Phil'ip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jeru'salem unto Ga'za, which is desert.

27 And he arose and went : and, behold, a man of Ethio'pia, an eunuch of great authority under Can'dace queen of the Ethio'pians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jeru'salem for to worship,

28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esai'as the prophet.

29 Then the Spirit said unto Phil'ip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

30 And Phil'ip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esai'as, and said, Understandest thou what thou reade'st ?

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me ? And he desired Phil'ip that he would come up and sit with him.

32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth :

33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away : and who shall declare his gen-

eration ? for his life is taken from the earth.

34 And the eunuch answered Phil'ip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this ? of himself, or of some other man ?

35 Then Phil'ip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Je'sus.

36 And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water : and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized ?

37 And Phil'ip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Je'sus Christ is the Son of God.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still : and they went down both into the water, both Phil'ip and the eunuch ; and he baptized him.

THE LESSON RETOLD

While Philip was preaching in Samaria, one day an angel of the Lord spoke to him, and told him to leave Samaria, and go through the wilderness towards the city of Gaza. And Philip started on his journey at once.

On the way, he came upon a man riding in a chariot,—a man from the land of Ethiopia, an officer of high rank, belonging to the court of the queen of that country, who took care of all her treasure. He had been to Jerusalem to worship at the temple, and was earnestly reading the scriptures on his way home. The part which he was reading, was the wonderful fifty-third chapter of Isaiah, which pictures so clearly the sufferings of the Saviour.

When Philip saw this stranger turn, the Holy Spirit said to him, "Go near to the chariot, and speak to this man". So Philip ran immediately, and drawing near the chariot, he heard the man reading aloud the words which the prophet Isaiah had written ; and Philip spoke to him, saying, "Do you understand what you are reading ?"

The man answered, "How can I understand it, until some one explains it to me". Then he invited Philip to come into the chariot beside him, and asked him, "Do you understand what the prophet meant when he wrote these words ? Did he write them about himself, or about some other man ?" And he read, once again, the words of Isaiah, in which the prophet tells his people of a