

Lesson XI.

THE ETHIOPIAN CONVERTED

March 16, 1902

Acts 8 : 29-39. Study Acts 8 : 26-40.—Memory Verses, 34, 35

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



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 readest?

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 generation ? 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.

39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Phil'ip, that the eunuch saw him no more : and he went on his way rejoicing.

THE LESSON RETOLD

While Peter and John were busy in Samaria the Lord sent His angel with a message to Philip saying, "Leave this place and go towards the south along the road which runs from Jerusalem to Gaza by way of the desert," and he obeyed.

Now Philip did not know on what errand the Lord was sending him, but as he went he came upon a stranger who was travelling in the same direction. He could see at once that this man was a person of importance, for he was riding in a royal carriage followed by servants and guards.

Now the stranger was none other than the Chief Treasurer of Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians, on the upper Nile, in Africa, and had travelled all the way from that country to Jerusalem to worship at the Temple, for by religion he was a Jew. He was now

on his way home, and as Philip came nearer he could see that he had a book open upon his knees, from which he was reading aloud.

Then the Spirit of the Lord said to Philip, "Go up and keep close to the carriage." So Philip ran up and soon he could hear that the man was reading from the Bible in the book of the prophet of Isaiah.

"Do you understand what you are reading?" asked Philip, kindly. "How can I unless I have someone to explain it to me?" answered the stranger. Then ordering his driver to stop, he at once invited Philip to step up into the carriage and sit beside him.

Now the words that he had been puzzled about were these: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter ; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth." And the Treasurer said to Philip,