

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson XII. March 19, 1916.

Phillip and the Ethiopian—Acts 8: 26-40.

Commentary.—I. Phillip sent on a mission (v. 26). The angel of the Lord—"An angel of the Lord."—R. V. A messenger sent by the Lord for a specific purpose. Spoke unto Phillip—The manner of the declaration of the message is not described, but it was unmistakably clear. The angel may have come in a vision to him, in the same way that Paul was called to go into Macedonia (Acts 16: 9.) Arise—Phillip's work in Samaria was finished and another field was ready for him. Go toward the south—There was a road leading from Samaria to Gaza. It led southward and, leaving Jerusalem to the east, intersected the road from Jerusalem to Gaza, one of the cities of ancient Philistia. Deser—The road led through an uninhabited region, hence it was called a desert way. Phillip's call was definite as to where he should go, but there seemed to be no information as to what work he should do. "Let him obey and he will find what the desert can afford." In the desert he was soon to find rich fruitage in the salvation of a soul-hungry foreigner, "a man of Ethiopia."

II. Phillip preaching Christ (vs. 27-35). He arose and went—From the record here given we conclude that his response to the call was immediate. The call was accurately timed that Phillip might meet the man to whom he was sent. A man of Ethiopia—Ethiopia is a country of Africa lying south of Egypt. An eunuch of great authority—A high official. Candidate—An official title rather than a personal name. It was the name given to a succession of queens of Meroe, a region a thousand miles up the Nile from the Mediterranean. Who had the charge of all her treasure—He was a trusted officer. Come to Jerusalem for to worship—The Ethiopian had embraced the Jewish religion and, although a proselyte from paganism, he went to Jerusalem to attend one of the great religious feasts. 28. Read Esaias the prophet—Esaias is the Greek form of the name Isaiah. Traveling was necessarily slow and toilsome, and no more agreeable and profitable manner of passing the time could be suggested than reading the scriptures. 29. The Spirit said unto Phillip—God's messenger had directed Phillip to go southward from Samaria to the desert road leading from Jerusalem to Gaza and he had obeyed; now the Holy Spirit gave him an explicit command when he approached the man for whose sake he made this journey. God was working here by his providences and by his Spirit in bringing Phillip and the Ethiopian together. Join thyself to this chariot—No doubt this royal treasure had a numerous retinue, and a single traveler on a desert road would be doing what was natural in attaching himself to a train of people who were journeying in the same direction. Phillip would therefore be able to approach and hear what was read without being deemed an intruder.—Cam. Bib.

30. Heard him read—Orientals are accustomed to read aloud even when reading for their own benefit alone. Understand thou what thou readest—The Spirit must have prompted Phillip to begin his mission to the Ethiopian in this way. Phillip wished to preach Christ to him, and this was a most favorable opportunity, for he was reading a prophecy about Christ. 31. How can I—The scribes and other teachers of the law made it their business to explain the scriptures, putting upon them their own interpretation or that of the elders, and the Ethiopian expressed his need of instruction. He desired Phillip—As Phillip co-operated with God, the divine plan worked perfectly. Here were the preacher, the listener and the text. 32. The place of the scripture—The Ethiopian read from Isa. 53: 7, 8, and probably from the Septuagint version, a Greek translation of the scriptures, which was made in Egypt in B. C. 285. He was led—The reference is to Christ. Some of the Jews interpreted this as applying to the Messiah, and others to the congregation of Israel. 33. His judgment was taken away—Justice was denied Jesus at his trial. Declare his generation—Who shall describe or explain the crime against Christ by the men of his time?

34. Of himself, or of some other man—This question shows the darkness of the Ethiopian's mind and his desire to know the meaning of the prophecy. The Jews had a tradition that Isaiah was seen asunder, and the Ethiopian thought he might be speaking of himself. 35. Then Phillip opened his mouth—The form of expression indicates that Phillip realized the importance of the occasion and would speak impressively the message that God gave him for his listener, the man who would carry the gospel to gospel to far-away Ethiopia. Began at the same scripture—The passage from Isaiah that the Ethiopian was reading was taken away—Justice was denied Jesus at his trial. Declare his generation—Who shall describe or explain the crime against Christ by the men of his time?

III. The Ethiopian converted (vs. 36-40). 36. Came unto a certain water—On the road towards Gaza is a fine stream of water. What doth hinder me to be baptized—Phillip had preached to the Ethiopian that Jesus was the fulfillment of the prophecy and he had also declared to him the conditions of entrance into the body of believers, and the listeners was desirous of becoming identified with the followers of Christ. 37. Believest with all thine heart—Intellectual faith is not sufficient to constitute one a true believer; there must also be heart trust. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God—For the Ethiopian to believe with all his heart, that Jesus Christ was the Son of God was to accept Him as his personal Saviour, as well as the Saviour of the world. This verse is not found in the best ancient manuscripts and is omitted from the Revised Version. 38. went down into the water—The Ethiopian had professed his faith in Christ and was a proper candidate for Christian baptism. He baptized him—By being baptized the Ethiopian declared that he was a follower of Jesus. 39. The Spirit of the Lord caught away Phillip—This marvelous removal of Phillip would confirm the eunuch and his companions in their faith. They would recognize that he who had been sent unto them was a man of God.—Farrar. Went on his way rejoicing—The Ethiopian had every reason to rejoice. A new light, a new life and a new joy had come to him. He was a converted man. 40. Phillip was found at Azotus—He next appeared at Azotus, the ancient Ashdod of the Philistines. It was eighteen miles north of Gaza. Preached in all the cities—Phillip preached the gospel in the region along the Mediterranean as far north as Caesarea, which stood in the northern part of the plain of Sharon. Questions.—Who spoke to Phillip? Where was Phillip told to go? Where was he now going? What did the Spirit say to Phillip? What question did Phillip ask the eunuch? What was his reply? What did the eunuch desire to be baptized? What became of Phillip? Why did the Ethiopian rejoice? Where did Phillip preach after leaving the Ethiopian?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—Christ Revealed. I. Through a faithful ministry. II. To an awakened Bible student. 1. Through a faithful ministry. This meeting of Phillip and the Ethiopian was not the result of mere accident or chance. The Ethiopian traveller was led on by Providence. The evangelist was called out by an angelic messenger. They were unknown to each other, yet both in their way followed divine guidance. The Ethiopian was one of those men, among the heathen, who had been awakened to spiritual anxiety by the ever-working Spirit of God, one who had come to see that his own personal relations with God were matters of extreme importance. Phillip was engaged in successful work in Samaria. He was divinely summoned to abandon it and go to the desert. To have doubted the divine wisdom would have been to lose the opportunity of meeting the man for whose conversion he was the divinely appointed instrument. Phillip was prepared for emergencies by experience and study. He was in full fellowship with the divine Spirit, prompt to receive divine influences. He was obedient and self-denying, ready to go wherever sent, ready to exchange a large field for a small one. He was aggressive, eager to render service to whom he was sent. He was broad in his views, recognizing the privilege of Gentiles as well as Jews to be saved. The pious obedience with which Phillip followed the guidance of the Spirit, the apostolic courage with which he laid hold of his work, the evangelical wisdom with which he unfolded the scriptures, the prompt recognition of faith in his convert, the Christian humility which he exhibited after the convert was gained, all show him to have been a true minister of the gospel. Phillip had learned that all true spiritual power came through submission to the divine will. He was selected to be the first who should preach to the heathen and win a foreign convert. His faith accounted for his obedience and success.

To an awakened Bible student. The Ethiopian advanced from a season of profound meditation on the word of God to hear a gospel sermon. Phillip was divinely guided to meet him on his return from the holy city, when he was hopelessly puzzled by his reading. In all Hebrew scriptures no passage could have been more pleasing to Phillip as a text for his preaching. It was one of the most significant of the Old Testament. Phillip recognized the preparation God had made in the mind of the Ethiopian for spiritual instruction. To the Ethiopian it seemed almost impossible to put together the idea of Christ as a sufferer and the promise that he should be a glorious King triumphing over the world. Only facts could solve the problem. Phillip's words penetrated to the inmost depths of his soul. He could harmonize the prophecy with the facts, a prophecy most comprehensive in its range, most minute and singular in its details and which, in all its particulars, was fulfilled alone in Jesus of Nazareth. Bold, direct, persuasive, faithful preaching on the foundation of the written word, adapted to the conviction of his hearer, was productive of great results. The Old Testament did its work. Gospel truths were fulfilled in the Ethiopian. The Ethiopian listened and the truth dawned on him. Christ the Messiah, the Saviour of mankind, was revealed unto him. A state of doubt and inquiry gave place to knowledge, faith, decision and open dedication. Loneliness was changed into Christian companionship. The apparently incidental meeting proved to be of divine ordering. Life's perspective was changed. The same Spirit who sent Phillip, continued with the Ethiopian after the messenger's departure. The genuine seeker after truth, devout and earnest, candid and honest, unprejudiced and believing, found soul satisfaction in a personal Saviour and expected immediate results. His scriptural teaching revealed Christ. His practical application led to personal faith in Christ and union with the church. Phillip had taken a long journey in quest of one convert. It proved to be a most fruitful day's service. The first fruit of the Gentile church was the recognized disciple of Jesus, the exultant Ethiopian witness to gospel truth. He was the first fruits of the prophecy, "Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God," also "The desert shall blossom as the rose."—T. R. A.

Sunday School Teacher—You must grow up to be good. Don't you want to be looked up to? Little Emma Wayup—No, I'd rather be looked around at.—Judge.



Chorea or St. Vitus Dance

Mrs. Geo. Chisholm, R.R. No. 1, Grafton, Ont., writes: "I have used Dr. Chase's Nerve Food for my little girl for what the doctors pronounced Chorea, a disease of the nerves. I consulted our family doctor, and he gave her a liquid medicine, but do what we would, we could not get her to swallow it. A neighbor advised the use of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, and, being in pill form, she took it without any trouble. She was seven years old, and got pale and run down. The muscles of the face were affected, and she became a pitiful sight. She seemed to improve right along under this treatment, and was entirely cured by using six boxes. She is nine years old now, and you cannot find a larger, healthier-looking child for her age. I shall always be grateful for what Dr. Chase's Nerve Food has done for us, and I can recommend it to all nervous people. You are at liberty to use this statement, so that others may benefit."

In children nervous exhaustion frequently takes the form of rickets, St. Vitus' dance or fits. In less advanced stages there are nervousness, excitability and irritability. All such conditions indicate the need of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food to enrich the blood and nourish the starved and depleted nerve cells. Being natural and gentle in action, and at the same time powerful in its restorative and reconstructive influence, this food cure is admirably suited as a treatment for weak, puny, nervous girls and boys. It makes them strong, hearty and robust, and enables them to develop into healthy and useful men and women. 50 cents a box, 6 for \$2.50, all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Ltd., Toronto.

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food



Dr. Chase's Recipe Book, 1,000 selected recipes, sent free, if you mention this paper.

FARM VALUES IN YEAR 1915

Dominion Census Bulletin Gives the Averages On Land, Labor and Live Stock Held.

A bulletin just issued by the Dominion Census and Statistics office summarizes the results of reports made by crop reporting correspondents respecting the values of farm land, of farm help, and of farm live stock, in the year 1915. VALUES OF FARM LAND. For the whole of Canada the average value of farm land held for agricultural purposes, whether improved or unimproved, and including the value of dwelling houses, farms, stables and other farm buildings, is returned as \$38.90 per acre. Last year the average value was returned as \$38.41. By provinces the averages per acre range from \$22.48 in New Brunswick to about \$125 in British Columbia, the values for the other Provinces being as follows: Prince Edward Island, \$37.64; Nova Scotia, \$28; Quebec, \$51.36; Ontario, \$52.49; Manitoba, \$39.36; Saskatchewan, \$24.20 and Alberta, \$23.15. In British Columbia the higher average is due to orcharding and fruit growing. WAGES OF FARM HELP. The wages paid for farm labor in 1914 fell to a lower point than in any other year. The causes of this decrease were the small crops of 1914, for the gathering of which fewer hands were required, the outbreak of the war, and the increased cost of board. In 1915, owing to the abundant harvest and the effects of recruiting for the army, there was some reaction, and the average wages paid were more than in 1914 if not quite equal to those paid in 1910, the date of the previous inquiry. For the Dominion the average wages per month during the summer, including board, were \$37.10 for male and \$29.20 for female help, as compared with \$35.55 and \$18.81 last year. For the year, including board, the average wages were \$341 for males and \$200 for females, as compared with \$233.30 and \$189.55 in 1914. The average value of board per month works out to \$14.57 for males and \$11.45 for females, the corresponding figures of 1914 being \$14.27 and \$11.25. Average wages per month were lowest in Prince Edward Island, viz., \$26.27 for males and \$14.59 for females; in Nova Scotia the averages were \$32.95 and \$15.85; in New Brunswick \$33.73 and \$16.11; in Quebec \$33.05 and \$16.44; in Ontario \$31.09 and \$17.13; in Manitoba \$45.15 and \$27.29; in Saskatche-

VALUES OF LIVE STOCK.

The value of horses is somewhat less than that of last year, but the prices of cattle show an increase, especially for milk cows. Swine are appreciably dearer except in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where they are about the same as last year. Sheep, too, have risen in price, and there is a notable increase in the value of wool, the average for Canada being 28 cents per lb. for unwashed and 38 cents per lb. for washed wool, as compared with 19 and 26 cents respectively in 1914. The average values for Canada are as follows: Horses \$123 as against \$126 in 1914; milk cows \$61 as against \$67; other cattle \$44 against \$42; sheep \$38 as against \$37, and swine \$35 as against \$32. Approximately the total value of farm animals in Canada at the end of December may be estimated at \$760,667,000, compared with \$725,530,000 in 1914, the values for each description being as follows: Horses \$370,378,000 as against \$371,430,000 in 1914; milk cows \$164,224,000 as against \$153,633,000; other cattle \$151,477,000 as against \$143,498,000; sheep \$16,225,000 as against \$14,551,000; and swine \$45,363,000 as against \$42,418,000.

THE POULTRY WORLD

KEEPING THE FLOCK HEALTHY. Plenty of fresh water at all times is essential to health. So are grit, shell and beef scraps. Fine charcoal in the dry mash is a great health-preserver, and the hens like it and will use it in the proper quantity if given the opportunity. It should not be given the little chicks before they are four weeks old, but after that a little will be good for them. If the young chick are given milk it should be fresh and should be so fed that they cannot get into it or scatter it about, for dampness from milk is as bad as from water, and must be avoided. There are no vacations on the one man poultry plant. All the many necessary steps must be taken every day and every sort of disease or parasite, which is just as bad, will appear. The roosts must be frequently washed with a good disinfectant; kerosene is as good as anything. The deep litter must be stirred up every day and removed as often as it shows the slightest signs of filth or dampness, and new litter thrown in its place. The litter question is of more than ordinary importance, for it is necessary that the hen be kept active, especially in winter, when they are kept in close confinement. The grain should be buried deep in the clean litter so that they will have to dig for it, and dig deep. The hens will get fat and lazy and will not lay unless they have to work for their food. In no other way can they be induced to exercise. Without this incentive sometimes they will stand still and freeze rather than move about. A good many poultry houses are built on entirely wrong principles, notwithstanding the enlightenment resulting from the extensive investigations of recent years. Every poultry house should face nearly south as circumstances will permit, and should never face the west or the north. This is particularly true in cold climates. The importance of sunlight and fresh air cannot be over-

estimated, nor can the danger from draughts which produce colds and eventually crop, and must be avoided at all costs. It is essential that the houses be so situated that they will get the early morning sun in every nook and corner, which means they must have large windows and many of them, and these should remain open at all times except in extreme weather. With no openings can so arranged that windows are left open even in blustering weather without any draughts reaching the hens. The best way to ventilate a house has been demonstrated to be by the use of muslin curtains instead of windows, and this may be modified in various ways by using part curtains and closed windows. The curtains may be all closed, however, even in zero weather, the result will be unhealthy conditions; the breath of the birds will conceal, forming thick coatings of frost on the walls and ceiling, from which moisture will quickly fall, and sickness in the flock will be the very quick result. With closed glass windows extremes of temperature are reached in the twenty-four hours of the day, which are bad because of the frost and dampness on the walls, and the greatest degree of cold will be reached during the night, and in the daytime the sun shining through the glass will produce a far greater degree of heat than would be the case with either an open window or a curtain. This is often the cause of serious trouble and sometimes fatal epidemics are all too frequent result from the continuation of such conditions. With careful attention to such details there need be no serious sickness in any flock of well bred poultry. There are many remedies offered for the cure of the various poultry diseases, but if proper conditions are maintained there will be very little need for them. The axe can be applied to the sick bird as soon as a malignant disease is discovered, for unless it is a show specimen which has taken many awards or has rare winning qualities, the affected bird is not worth the trouble and risk of trying to cure it. Kill it at once before it has a chance to spread its trouble to the entire flock, burn the carcass, then clean the entire section of the plant where the sick bird has recently visited, and the trouble will be ended. In case of severe epidemic, which need never occur if sanitary conditions are maintained, it will be necessary to disinfect the buildings and all the implements very thoroughly and seal down the ground used for the poultry plant, transforming it again into fresh, clean spot, or the disease may be expected to crop out at some future time. Should lice or mites appear they may be disposed of by the use of a simple disinfectant, but without serious injury to the birds; but this will be a job, and it is a job that should not be delayed.

Standard bred poultry should be good breeds and scrubs may give results. Any fowl, no matter what kind, will respond to up-to-date methods, but the standard is enough for any poultry keeper. Cross bred fowl, with years of breeding behind them, should be good enough for any one to make improvements on. Due to early demand, the day-old chick keeping is a good practice, but it is false economy to purchase very cheap flocks that cannot give good results, or cheap flocks that are not good enough to play a fair price and obtain results.

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MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

Table with columns for 'FARMERS' MARKET' and 'MEATS-WHOLESALE'. Items include Apples, Eggs, Butter, Spring chickens, Ducks, Geese, Turkeys, Beef, Pork, Veals, etc.

Table for 'SUGAR MARKET'. Items include Lantic granulated, Redpath granulated, St. Lawrence granulated, etc.

Table for 'LIVE STOCK'. Items include Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, etc.

Table for 'HIDES, SKINS, WOOL, ETC.'. Items include Beehides, Calfskins, Sheepskins, etc.

OTHER MARKETS.

Table for 'WINNIPEG GRAIN OPTIONS'. Items include Wheat, Corn, Oats, etc.

Table for 'MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET'. Items include Wheat, Corn, Oats, etc.

Table for 'DULUTH GRAIN MARKET'. Items include Wheat, Corn, Oats, etc.

Table for 'LONDON-WOOL SALES'. Items include Wool, etc.

Table for 'CHICAGO LIVE STOCK'. Items include Cattle, Hogs, etc.

Table for 'BUFFALO LIVE STOCK'. Items include Cattle, Hogs, etc.

Table for 'LIVERPOOL PRODUCE'. Items include Wheat, Corn, etc.

Table for 'NOTES'. Items include Petroleum, etc.

NEW BRUNSWICK TO GO DRY, TOO

Fredericton, N. B., Cable.—Promise of a bill enabling the electors to adopt a measure providing for prohibition of the liquor traffic was made in the speech from the throne at the opening of the New Brunswick Legislature to-day. The speech was read by Lieutenant-Governor Wood. The speech referred to the generally satisfactory conditions in New Brunswick, and the marked activity in commercial and industrial circles. The lumber cut was much larger than expected at the outset of the year and the revenue from this source the largest in the history of the Province.