



Church of God Sunday School

PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

Acts 8:26-40

Philip was leaving Samaria. God had worked many miracles through Philip's preaching. Many people were saved, healed, and delivered from evil spirits. But now God had someone else who needed Philip's help, someone who wanted to know more about God's Word. God cared about this man so much that He sent an angel to Philip with the exact directions to where this man would be.

The angel told Philip, "Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert." Perhaps Philip would have rather stayed in Samaria where God was doing great things. Also, Philip must have wondered why God was sending him to the desert. But we do not read of Philip arguing. The Bible tells us that Philip "arose and went."

As Philip was obediently traveling south into the desert, a very important man was also traveling on this same road. This man was in charge of Queen Candace's treasure in the country of Ethiopia. (Ethiopia was where the Queen of Sheba lived many, many years ago. She heard of the greatness of King Solomon and traveled to Jerusalem to see if all she had heard was true.)

This Ethiopian man was returning home from Jerusalem where he had traveled to worship the true God. He had a copy of the Old Testament Scriptures—the Book of Isaiah. Perhaps he bought it while he was in the city of Jerusalem. As he traveled home in his chariot, the Ethiopian read the Scriptures out loud. (This was a common practice during ancient times.)

The Holy Spirit told Philip, "Go near, and join thyself to this chariot." As Philip came closer to the chariot, he could hear the Ethiopian reading from Isaiah. Philip asked the man if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian said, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" (This was why God sent Philip to this desert road. He saw an honest heart who needed someone to help him understand God's Word.)

The Ethiopian invited Philip to

ride in his chariot with him and explain what the Scriptures (Isaiah 53:7-8) meant. This is what he was reading:

*He was led as a sheep to the slaughter;
And like a lamb dumb before his shearer,
So opened he not his mouth:
In his humiliation his judgment was taken away:
And who shall declare his generation?
For his life is taken from the earth.*

The Ethiopian asked Philip what these verses were talking about. Was it about a prophet or was Isaiah speaking of himself or was it about some other man? What a wonderful opportunity Philip had to preach to this man about Jesus, for that is whom Isaiah was speaking about. Isaiah was prophesying (to reveal the future with inspiration from God) about what would happen when Jesus was crucified.

As they were traveling, they came close to some water. The Ethiopian asked Philip, "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" And Philip said, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." And the Ethiopian answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." He believed that Jesus was the Messiah, sent by God to die for the sins of the whole world.

Both Philip and the Ethiopian left the chariot, went down into the water, and the Ethiopian was baptized. As they were coming up out of the water, "the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the [Ethiopian] saw him no more." Philip continued to Azotus and eventually to Caesarea, preaching the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in every city he passed through.

The Ethiopian "went on his way rejoicing." Now he understood! He had given his heart to Jesus and all his sins were forgiven! The Bible does not tell us any more about this man, but he must have shared this wonderful good news when he returned home.

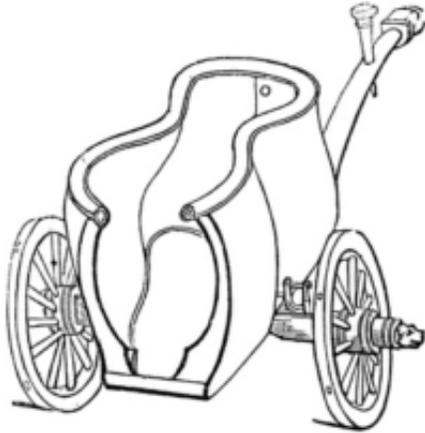


MEMORY VERSE:

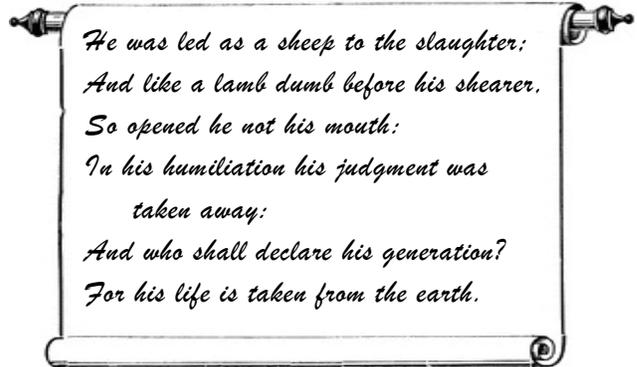
"And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

—Acts 8:37b

Fill in the Missing Letters



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And who shall declare his generation?
For his life is taken from the earth.*

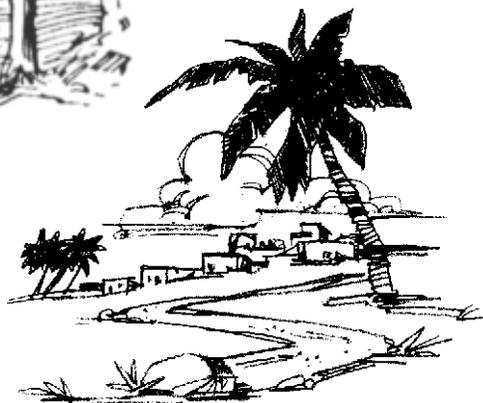
Scri _____ tures



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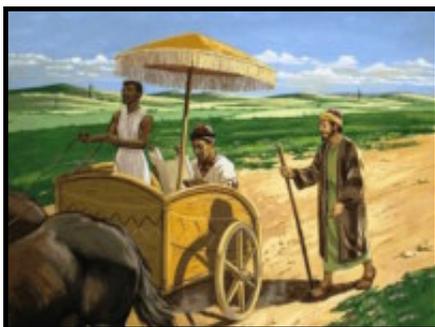


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Find the Hidden Words

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B T A I O E
O H I J Q X J G
J B P C J L L F F B
Z K O H W R Z V Z D R J
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R X T I P Q S U L U P U G T V Q K D
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I B T A C U P R N I A T Q Q B E T H Q O
O M V W Z T T L L E L D I Z C A F Y
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P G V F F N
V J U C
K Z

PHILIP
ETHIOPIA
JESUS
CHARIOT
JERUSALEM
ISAIAH
BAPTIZED
DESERT
GAZA





Philip Teaches the Ethiopian