

13 June 2021

Philip and the Eunuch of great authority

Before we read the text for this morning, I want you to understand where we are in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

At this point in the book of Acts, there had, in all probability, been more than 10,000 saved at the preaching of Peter and the apostles.

The lame man was healed who was at the temple, the apostles were threatened, beaten and imprisoned, but none of the enemies of the Lord Jesus and the gospel could stop the emancipation of souls from sin and from the kingdom of darkness; NONE could STOP the ADVANCE of the gospel and the Kingdom of Christ!

In (Chapter 6) we are introduced to Philip? Acts 6:1-4

In (chapter 7), Stephen was martyred for telling the Jews that they were the betrayers/murderers of the Just One/their Messiah. Acts 7:51-54

Acts 8:1-8, 26-40

Acts 8:26-27: Arise, and go toward the south

This command to Philip by the angel of the Lord was similar to the command that God gave to Abram to depart from his country and from his family to.....I will tell you later.

Genesis 12:1-4

What was happening in Philip's life was one of the many instances of the fulfillment of God's command to Abram. How so?

This gospel blessing of salvation was granted to Philip, and now Philip was CALLED to bless another with the good news of the gospel of Christ!

To Abram, God said: I will make OF THEE a great nation, which would be Israel, out of which the Messiah would come. THOU Abraham shalt be a blessing to the whole world! "In thee shall ALL FAMILIES of the earth be blessed".

Galatians 3:13-14

THIS Eunuch was about to be a fulfillment of this promise that God made to Abram several thousand years earlier. He was about to be BLESSED by the BLESSING of the gospel!

Abraham believed God, (like this Eunuch would), and it was counted unto him for righteousness. This Eunuch was about to be "OF the same FAITH of Abraham, who is the father of us all. If you're born again this morning, YOU have the same "saving faith" that Abram had. Hebrews 11:8-10

So, Abram was commanded to go, and he obeyed; Philip was commanded to "go toward the south...into the desert"; "and he arose and went"

God is NEVER going to lead you somewhere or someplace to no purpose. It might not make sense to you, you might say, WHY am I here? Rest assured, that wherever you find yourself,

know that God has providentially led you there, and there is gospel work to be done there.

Psalm 23:3: "He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake"

Acts 8:27B-28: Enter the Eunuch of great authority who had come from Ethiopia to Jerusalem to worship the God of Israel and was returning to Ethiopia.

He was a worshiper of the One True God, and YET, He did not understand the truth of the God whom he worshipped. He worshipped whom he knew not! He was Ethiopia's Cornelius, who worshiped God, whom God sent Peter to, who heard the gospel from Peter.

But get this that he returned from worshipping at Jerusalem, but without understanding! How many go to church Sunday after Sunday, who "RETURN" from worship without any understanding of what they just heard?

Acts 8:28: He was sitting in his chariot reading Isaiah 53.

At this point, Philip had no doubt "sighted" the chariot of the Eunuch, so the command of the angel to go toward the south had now become clear.

Perhaps he uttered a prayer to God asking, is this why you sent me Lord? We don't know that for sure, nonetheless, the Spirit of God said to Philip,

"go near, and join thyself to this chariot". (Philip ran to that chariot)

Brethren, when God leads you someplace, are you looking and ready for the PRIMARY REASON(S) that God sent you there? You might think you've come to a place for this or that earthly reason, but does God have you there for the advancing of the Kingdom?

Philip knew that God sent him toward the south for gospel reasons! Philip was a "ready" scribe; meaning he was well versed in the gospel of Christ and always ready to be a faithful witness of it. Matthew 13:52

Acts 8:30: Do you understand what you're reading?

Philip HEARD him reading from the 53rd chapter of Isaiah ALOUD, to which Philip asked: "Do you understand what you're reading?"

HOW CAN I, except some man should guide me? The Eunuch then called Philip up into the chariot to sit beside him.

The place of scripture which he was reading was Isaiah 53:7-8:

He was led as (or like) a sheep before the slaughter, and LIKE a lamb dumb, (or silent) before his shearers; so He opened not His mouth.

Jesus was the "Lamb of God" God the Father's appointed sacrificial Lamb, who died for the sins of the world! He is

described in Isaiah's prophecy, dying LIKE a sheep before the slaughter; submissive and silent.

In His humiliation, ("and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"); ("He took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men").

His judgment was taken away; there would be no justice for Him and in His behalf, but justice was being done upon the Just One for the sins of an unjust and wicked world of unjust sinners!

Philip's wheels were turning; Philip KNEW who the Prophet Isaiah was referring to! Philip was PRIMED and READY to answer the Eunuch's question! 1 Peter 3:15

Acts 8:34: Who is the prophet speaking of? Himself? Or some other man?

NO, Isaiah is NOT talking about himself, but INDEED, of some other Man!