

## THE STRANGER IN THE CHARIOT

Acts 8:26-40; Romans 6:1-5.

### LESSON 127 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: “Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it” (Luke 11:28).

#### BIBLE TEXTS

##### Acts 8:26-40;

26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

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

30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip 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 Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

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 Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip 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 Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

##### Romans 6:1-5.

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

## **In the Desert**

Our lesson today takes us first to a city named Samaria, where we find a real man of God. He was a preacher who did a great work for Jesus, and his name was Philip. He told many people about Jesus; he prayed for the sick and they were healed. There was great joy in Samaria because of Philip's coming to that city.

An angel came to Philip and told him to leave the city and go out into a desert. At once Philip obeyed the voice of the angel and went. God had a work for Philip to do.

As he walked along the dusty road, Philip saw a stranger, a man riding in a chariot. This stranger had been to Jerusalem and was now on his way home. He had charge of a queen's treasures, or money, so he must have been a very fine, honest man.

## **Reading His Bible**

God told Philip to go near the stranger. Philip ran over to the man who was sitting in his chariot reading his Bible. Philip was always ready to do what God told him to do. We can almost see him as he hurries toward the chariot and asks the man if he understands what he is reading. What do you suppose is the man's answer? "How can I, except some man should guide me?" He did not understand what he was reading, so he asked Philip to come up into the chariot and sit by him.

The stranger was reading from the Bible about Jesus. He did not know who Jesus was. So Philip told him all about Jesus — he preached a sermon to this Ethiopian, way out on the desert. By this time, no doubt, Philip knew why the angel had sent him out into the desert — to help a stranger find Jesus!

## **Baptized in Water**

Together they travelled in the chariot across the desert. The stranger listened to every word Philip told him. Suddenly they came to a pool or stream of water. The man said to Philip, "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" Philip told him that he could be baptized if he believed with all his heart. The man said at once that he believed that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. We believe that Jesus saved him.

They stopped the chariot and went down into the water. Philip, the preacher, baptized this Ethiopian whom Jesus had saved. How happy he must have been! Just think! way out there on the desert he had met a preacher who knew Jesus, and who helped him to be saved. Although he had travelled a very great distance to the City of Jerusalem, yet no one there had told him about Jesus. Perhaps he had never before heard that Jesus could save him. But here in the desert Philip told him all about Jesus. The man believed, and was saved, and baptized in water.

Another strange thing happened: as soon as Philip had finished baptizing the man, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away, and the man saw him no more. As the stranger went back to his chariot and continued on his way home, he was very happy because he had found Jesus! When Jesus comes into the heart, it always makes one happy.

## **Water Baptism**

When a man, woman, or child is saved, one of the first things he wants is to be baptized in water, just as the stranger in this lesson. Of course, water baptism cannot wash away sins. We know that only the Blood of Jesus can take away our sins. But to be baptized in water is to show that we have been saved and are followers of Jesus. People should be saved before they are baptized in water.

When we are baptized, we go down into the water and come up again. Do we remember what we learned at Easter time, that Jesus went into the grave and came out of the grave again? When we are baptized in water, we are "buried" under the water for a moment — then we come right up again out of the water. We can then go and live for Jesus and work for Him.

It is important that every Christian be baptized in water. Jesus was baptized by John in the River Jordan, and we should be baptized as Jesus was. He said to His disciples. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19). Real Christians believe in and try to do everything just as Jesus commanded.

## **Children Baptized**

We do not believe in baptizing infant, but when Jesus puts it into the heart of a child to wish to be baptized in water, the child should go to his parents and talk with them about it. If the child is truly saved, and the parents feel that he is old enough to know what water baptism means, he should be allowed to be baptized in water.

Just as our memory verse teaches us, those who hear the Word of God and keep it are very happy in this life. More than that, they know that someday they shall go to Heaven and be with Jesus forever.

## QUESTIONS

1. Where did the angel send Philip? Acts 8:26.
2. Did Philip obey the voice of the angel? Acts 8:27.
3. About whom did Philip preach to the stranger? Acts 8:35.
4. What did they do when they came to water? Acts 8:38.
5. Do you think water baptism is for us today? Matthew 28:19.

## LESSON RESOURCES

### TITLE

# THE STRANGER IN THE CHARIOT

Lesson 127

Acts 8:26-40; Romans 6:1-5

# I've Spring Of Joy

WATCH & PRAY 29



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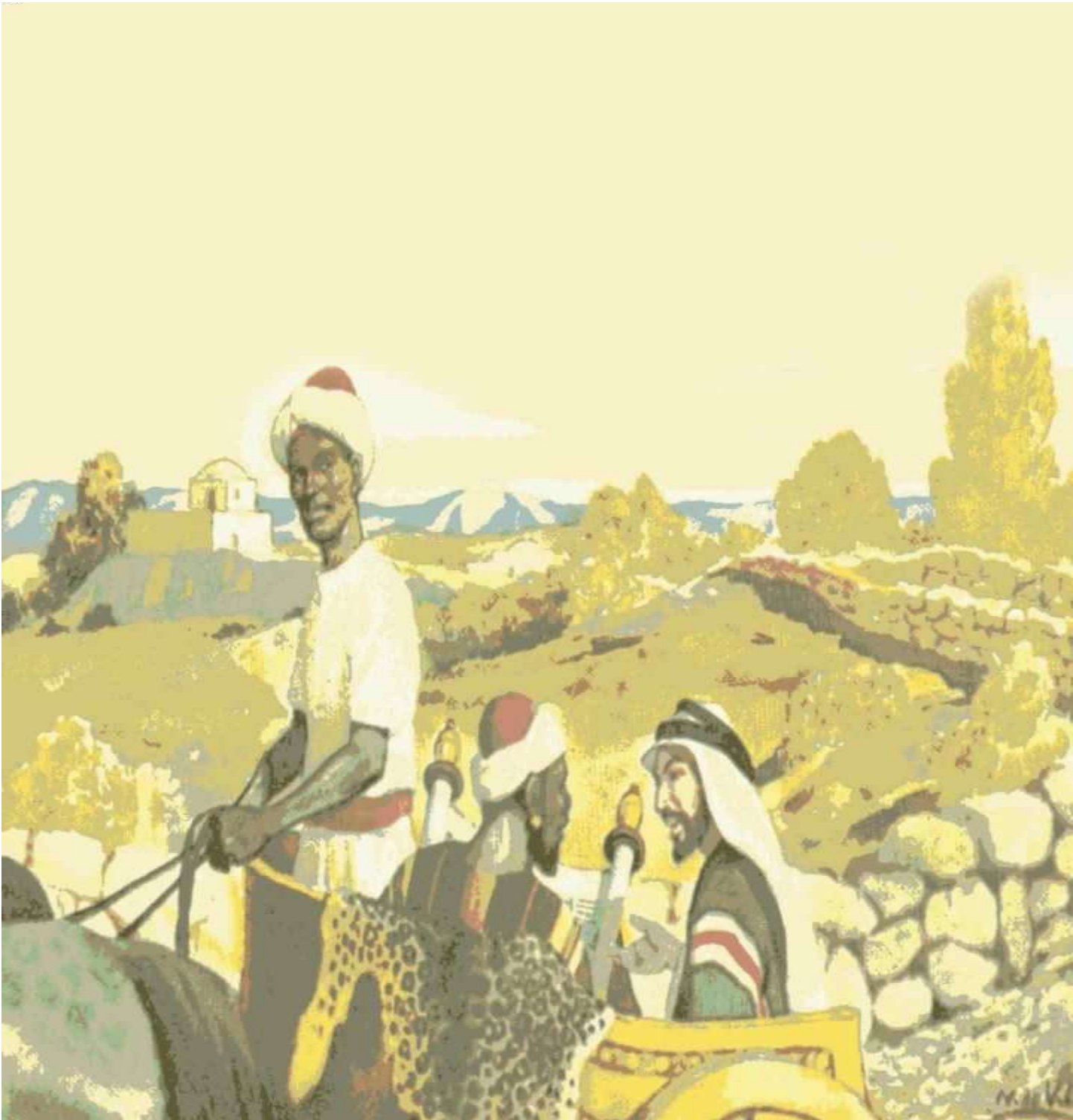
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## I've Spring Of Joy

I've a spring of joy springing up within  
It makes me want just to shout and sing  
All because I have grace o'er sin,  
I've a spring of joy within.

**PICTURE 1**



**PICTURE 2**

