

THE EUNUCH AND HIS CHARIOT

Introduction

- 1) The story is a familiar one – the conversion of the **Ethiopian eunuch** (Acts 8:26-39)
- 2) One small detail of the story that has large significance is the eunuch's **chariot**
 - a) The chariot was a popular mode of transportation in the ancient world
- 3) The eunuch's chariot is symbolic of a person's journey through life
 - a) We are all traveling in our own "chariots" on the road of life
- 4) Consider your journey through life as we examine the eunuch and his chariot

I) "SITTING IN HIS CHARIOT"

- A) Eunuch was a man of great authority – treasurer of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians
 - 1) People hold different levels of importance and status in this life
 - 2) All are equally responsible before God to be pleasing before Him (Col. 3:9-11)
- B) All of us are "sitting in our chariot" as we travel through this life
 - 1) Are you interested in spiritual things like this eunuch (vv. 27b-28)?
 - 2) Are you wasting time traveling in circles going in no direction? (cf. Phil. 3:13)
- C) The Lord is watching as we travel in our "chariots"
 - 1) The Lord was watching the eunuch and provided the good things he needed
 - 2) Do we trust the Lord to know what we need and to provide it?
 - a) Physical needs (Matt. 6:31-33) and spiritual needs (Acts 20:32)

II) "GO NEAR, AND JOIN THIS CHARIOT"

- A) Philip was an evangelist of the gospel of Christ (Acts 8:5)
 - 1) Directed by an angel to the deserted road going down from Jerusalem to Gaza (v. 26)
- B) Commanded to "join" the chariot of the eunuch (v. 29; KJV, ASV, NASV, RSV)
 - 1) *Kollao* – to join fast together, to glue, cement (Vine); used for "cleave" (Matt. 19:5)
 - 2) "Overtake" (NKJV); "stay near it" (NIV)
 - 3) Philip was to involve himself in the eunuch's business – asked a personal question about his understanding of a scripture, not knowing what the response would be (Acts 8:30)
- C) Christians are to involve themselves with others in this world (Matt. 5:13-16)
 - 1) Chariots are around us which God wants us to "join" – people who want help (Acts 8:31)
 - 2) If we do not "join" another's chariot, how can we help them hear the truth of Christ?
 - 3) Have we already joined others in their chariots, yet are not speaking of heavenly things?
 - 4) Are we preparing ourselves for each opportunity when it presents itself?

III) "COMMANDED THE CHARIOT TO STAND STILL"

- A) Philip preached Jesus to the eunuch (Acts 8:32-35)
 - 1) The eunuch saw water and an opportunity to obey Jesus (vv. 36-37)
- B) The eunuch "commanded the chariot to stand still" – he made a decision to obey (v. 38)
 - 1) Everyone must face this decision – Will I obey the commandments of the Lord?"
 - 2) God will not force us – no one can do it for us – only we can stop our own "chariot"
 - 3) Many *never* stop – continue on through life avoiding the need to obey God (Acts 24:25)

Conclusion

After being baptized, the eunuch went on his way in his chariot "rejoicing." Our journey through life should be one of rejoicing in our salvation from our past sins, looking to the hope of eternal salvation (1 Pet. 1:8-9). Are you traveling a life road of rejoicing, or one leading to disaster?