

## LESSON II—April 11th, 1897.

### Conversion of Cornelius. ACTS. 10: 30-44.

(Commit to memory verses 36-38, and read chapter 10).

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "Whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins." Acts 10: 43.

**PROVE THAT**—The Lord hears prayer. Isa. 65: 24.

**SHORTER CATECHISM.** Quest. 96. *What is the Lord's Supper?* A. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his death is shewed forth and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

**LESSON HYMNS.** *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 172, 170, 142, 144.

**DAILY PORTIONS.** *Monday.* The devout centurion. Acts 10: 1-8. *Tuesday.* Peter's vision. Acts 10: 9-18. *Wednesday.* The call obeyed. Acts 10: 19-29. *Thursday.* Conversion of Cornelius. Acts 10: 30-43. *Friday.* Gifts to gentiles. Acts 10: 44-48. *Saturday.* A light to the gentiles. Isa. 49: 6-12. *Sabbath.* Life by believing. John 6: 37-47. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

**INTRODUCTORY.** The whole story should be carefully read. Our lesson is but a fragment of it. The events narrated occurred probably during the "many days" in which Peter remained at Joppa. Paul was living at Tarsus, not having as yet entered upon his missionary career. Cornelius was not a Jewish proselyte (Acts 11: 2, 3) but he worshipped the true God. An angel was sent to this "seeker after God" to tell him when he might obtain fuller light and serve God more perfectly.

**LESSON PLAN.** I. Cornelius Sends for Peter. vs. 30-33. II. Peter Preaches Jesus. vs. 34-43. III. Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit. vs. 44.

**30.** The man in bright clothing was an angel (Luke 24: 4; Matt. 28: 3; Rev. 15: 6). Cornelius was a centurion, or captain, in a Roman regiment or "cohort" (ch. 27: 1).

**31.** Prayer and kindness to the poor are like incense before God (Rev. 8: 3, 4; 5: 8; Ps. 141: 2).

**32.** The angel was not allowed to preach the gospel to Cornelius but told him where to find a fellow-sinner who would. The privilege of winning souls to Christ is reserved for those who have been themselves saved by his blood.

**33.** Cornelius obeyed at once, and he very politely thanks Peter for coming. His humble and teachable spirit is remarkable (1 Thess. 2: 13).

**34, 35.** The expression "opened his mouth and said" denotes that a very important statement is to follow. God will receive anyone, of any nation, or rank, or condition, who seeks after him with "their whole heart."

**36, 37.** Cornelius must have heard a good deal about Jesus of Nazareth, whom Peter declares to be "Lord of all." His fame spread throughout all the country after John the Baptist had passed away (Luke 4: 14, 37, 44).

**38.** "Messiah" and "Christ" both mean "Anointed One," one being Hebrew and the other Greek. God's anointing gave Jesus

power to heal and bless men (Isa. 61: 1; Luke 4: 18, 21). The Jews regarded disease, especially incurable complaints, as the work of satan (Job 2: 7; Luke 13: 16).

**39.** Peter was not ashamed to own that Jesus died a shameful death, for the glory of his resurrection took away the reproach of the cross. "Tree" here means "a beam of wood" (5: 30; 1 Pet. 2: 24).

**40.** There were hundreds who could testify that they had seen the risen Jesus (1 Cor. 15: 6).

**41.** But Jesus appeared only to his friends after he had risen. He had finished his mission to the world and remained a little while, forty days, to prepare his church for its work (John 14: 17, 22).

**42.** Jesus is the Judge before whom everyone must stand to answer for his life while in this world. They are safe who have the Judge as their friend and advocate (Matt. 28: 19; Acts 1: 8; John 5: 22, 27).

**43.** All the prophets testify that faith in Christ, and not circumcision, saves.

**44.** Peter was interrupted by signs of the Holy Spirit's presence. This was the way in which God manifested his willingness to receive gentiles into the church.

**LESSONS.** 1. Earnest prayer is speedily answered. 2. God notes his people, where they live, and who are their companions. 3. A true christian is humble. 4. God looks on the heart. 5. The one condition of pardon.