

Lesson VII.

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS

August 17, 1919

Acts 1 : 8 ; 14 : 8-20.

GOLDEN TEXT—Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation.—Mark 16 : 16 (Rev. Ver.).

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you : and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jeru'salem, and in all Jude'a, and in Samar'ia, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Ch. 14 : 8 And there sat a certain man at Lys'tra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked :

9 The same heard Paul speak : who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

11 And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lync'o'nia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.

12 And they called Bar'naabas, Ju'piter ; and Paul, Mercu'rius, because he was the chief speaker.

13 Then the priest of Ju'piter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.

14 Which when the apostles, Bar'naabas and Paul,

heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out,

15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that yeshould turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein :

16 Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.

17 Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

18 And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.

19 And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Ico'nium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

20 Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city : and the next day he departed with Bar'naabas to Der'be.

THE LESSON PLAN

I. A Great Promise, Acts 1 : 8.

II. A Wonderful Miracle, Acts 14 : 8-13.

III. An Earnest Protest, 14-20.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—The great commission, Matt. 28 : 16-20. T.—Beginning at Jerusalem, Acts 2 : 36-47. W.—And in all Judea, Acts 9 : 31-43. Th.—And in Samaria, Acts 8 : 14-25. F.—Unto the uttermost part, Acts 13 : 1-12. S.—Christian missions in action, Acts 14 : 8-20. S.—The nations before the throne, Rev. 7 : 9-17.

Primary Catechism—Ques. 41. What are some of the wonderful works which Jesus did? A. He stilling the stormy winds, walked upon the water, fed the hungry,

healed the sick, and brought the dead to life.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 66. What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment? A. The reason annexed to the fifth commandment, is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise : 434 (374), 447 (586), 449 (381), 454 (588), 562 (798), 455 (590). (The numbers of the Praise Selections in brackets are those of the new Book of Praise.)

Special Scripture Reading—Isa. 6 : 1-8. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slide—For Lesson, B. 15, "Go ye into all the World." (Slides are obtained from PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATIONS, Church and Gerrard Sts., Toronto.)

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Lesson Setting—The risen Saviour, before his ascension, commissioned his disciples to be his witnesses throughout the whole world. The Acts tells the marvelous story of the growth of Christ's kingdom through the carrying out of the Lord's commission.

I. A Great Promise, Acts 1 : 8.

V. 8. Ye shall receive power ; power from heaven, by which "the witness of a few obscure men would win its way" from a provincial city, throughout the empire, to its very centre in Rome. *Holy Ghost is come upon you.* Compare Luke 3 : 21, 22. *My witnesses* (Rev. Ver.). The primary function of the apostles was to be witnesses, and the special subject of their witness was the resurrection of Jesus (see chs. 1 : 22 ; 2 : 32 ; 3 : 15 ; 4 : 33 ; 5 : 32 ; 10 : 39-43 ; 13 : 31 ; 22 : 15 ;

26 : 16. *Jerusalem . . . Judea, and . . . Samaria . . . the uttermost part of the earth ;* the ever widening circles of the apostles' activity. "Jerusalem" is represented by chs. 1 : 1 to 6 : 7 ; "Judea" and "Samaria" by chs. 8 : 1 to 9 : 31 and "the uttermost part of the earth" by chs. 11 : 9 to the end of Acts.

II. A Wonderful Miracle, Acts 14 : 8-13.

The visit of Paul and Barnabas to Derbe and Lystra took place during Paul's First Missionary Journey.

V. 8. *There sat ;* literally, "used to sit," probably in a public place regularly. *A certain man ;* "no mendicant pretender, but one whose history from infancy was well known" (Ramsay). *At Lystra ;* a garrison town about 18 miles southwest of Iconium at the end of the Royal Road from Antioch.