

LESSON VII—May 16th, 1897.

Paul Preaching to the Gentiles. ACTS 14: 11-22.

(Commit to memory verses 21, 22, and read chapter 13: 44 to 14: 28).

GOLDEN TEXT: "I have set thee to be a light of the gentiles." Acts 13: 47.

PROVE THAT—In this life we may have trials. Acts 14: 22.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 102. *What do we pray for in the second petition?* A. In the second petition (which is, *Thy kingdom come*), we pray, that satan's kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it; and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 16, 4, 149, 151.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Work at Iconium. Acts 14: 1-7. *Tuesday.* Paul preaching to the gentiles. Acts 14: 8-18. *Wednesday.* Paul preaching to the gentiles. Acts 14: 19-28. *Thursday.* God in nature. Rom. 1: 16-23. *Friday.* Worship God. Rev. 19: 6-10. *Saturday.* The Lord delivered me. 2 Tim. 3: 10-17. *Sabbath.* Glorifying in suffering. 2 Cor. 11: 21-30. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The apostles remained at Antioch for some months, but at last they encountered bitter opposition and being expelled by persecution removed to Iconium. Here they remained a "long time" evangelizing the whole region of which this city was the centre. But again the unbelieving Jews gave trouble and they were compelled to escape for their lives. Arriving at Lystra they performed a miracle of healing upon a lame man. This led the superstitious heathen to fancy that their gods had again visited the earth as fable told that they had done long before. Time A. D. 46.

LESSON PLAN. I. False Gods. vs. 11-13. II. The True God. vs. 14-18. III. Enduring Hardness. vs. 19-22.

11. The speech of Lycæonia—This explains why Paul and Barnabas did not sooner perceive what they were going to do. The apostles had been speaking in Greek. In some parts of Canada, both Gaelic and English are spoken. One preaching in English would be understood, but might not know what was said by the people in Gaelic. The gods are come down to us—The neighborhood had been the fabled scene of a visit from Jupiter and Mercury. 12. They called Barnabas Jupiter—Jupiter was the King of the Gods. Barnabas must have been a stately and dignified person. The chief speaker—Mercury was the god of eloquence and the personal attendant of Jupiter. Whose temple was before the city (R. V.)—Jupiter was the patron deity of the place. Oxen and garlands—The sacrificial victims and the worshippers were decorated with wreaths of flowers and foliage. Unto the gates—Not of the city, but the door, or porch of the house where Paul and Barnabas were staying. The same word is used as in ch. 12: 13, 14. 14. The Apostles—the word is not used here in its strict sense as applying to those chosen directly by Christ, but in its general sense of "delegate" or "missionary" Sprang forth among the multitude (R.

V.)—Rushed out of the house into the crowd at the door. 15. Men of like passions—of like sufferings, or weaknesses. They were not gods but feeble mortals like themselves. These vanities—Idols were nothing at all. (1 Cor. 8: 4). Suffered all the nations—Permitted the gentiles to find out by experience the vanity of their own wisdom. 17. The bounties of God's providence ought to teach men to love and serve him. 19. Persuaded the people—Some of these Jews had come a hundred miles to oppose Paul and Barnabas. The disappointed crowd felt angry and humiliated. It was easy to turn them against their supposed deities. Stoned Paul—Perhaps he thought of Stephen then. 20. Timothy was probably one of them (Acts 16: 1; 1 Tim. 1: 2; 2 Tim. 3: 10, 11). He rose up—Such a complete recovery must have been miraculous. Derbe—20 miles from Lystra. 21. Made many disciples (R. V.)—Persecution did not frighten them and God blessed their labors. 22. Confirming the souls of the disciples—Some would be dismayed at the news of Paul's sufferings. They assured them that such things were to be expected and that they must not deny Christ (Matt. 10: 38; 16: 24; Luke 22: 28, 29; 2 Tim. 2: 11, 12; 3: 12).

LESSONS. 1. The sad condition of the heathen world. 2. Our "vanities," which keep our hearts from religion, are as fatal as the follies of the heathen. 3. We are wilfully blind if we cannot see God in his works. 4. We should brave danger in order to do right and reprove wickedness. 5. Always encourage others to be steadfast.