

Lesson II.

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT January 10, 1909

Acts 2 : 1-11. Study Acts 2 : 1-21—Memory Verses, 2-4.

Golden Text—I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth.—John 14 : 16, 17.

1 And when the day of Pen'tecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling at Jeru'salem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilæ'ans ?

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born ?

9 Par'thians, and Medes, and E'lamites, and the dwellers in Mesopota'mia, and in

Judæ'a, and Cappado'cia, in Pon'tus, and A'sia,

10 Phryg'ia, and Pamphyl'ia, in E'gypt, and in the parts of Lib'ya about Cyre'ne, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretes and Ara'bians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Whilst the disciples were waiting in Jeru'salem for the Holy Spirit to come, Peter stood up and said that they ought to choose one of their number, to take the place, amongst the twelve apostles, of Judas, who had betrayed Jesus. So they named two men called Joseph and Matthias. After they had prayed to the Lord, they chose Matthias, "and he was numbered with the eleven apostles".

Soon the time of Pentecost, one of the great Jewish feasts, came, and the disciples were all gathered together in one house. Suddenly they heard a strange sound, like the rushing of a great wind, which filled the house in which they were sitting. There also appeared in the room what seemed to be flames of fire in the shape of tongues, and one of these flames rested on the head of each of the disciples. Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, as Jesus had promised, and they began to speak in many foreign

languages, which they had never understood before.

Now, there were in Jerusalem, at that time, Jews who had come from the countries where those languages were spoken. These heard the sound like the wind, and crowded into and around the house where the disciples were, to see what had happened. When they heard the disciples, they were astonished, and asked, "Do not these men come from Galilee ? How, then, are they able to speak the languages of those countries in which we were born, and which they have never seen ?" But some who heard the words of the disciples, mocked them, and said that they had been taking too much wine, so that they were drunken.

But Peter stood up and spoke to the crowds. He said that the disciples were not drunken, but God had sent upon them the Holy Spirit. He went on to tell how, long ago, God, through one of His prophets, had