

Lesson III.

PETER AND CORNELIUS

April 20, 1902

Acts 10 : 34-44. Study Acts 10 : 34-48—Memory Verses, 42-44.

Golden Text—God is no respecter of persons.— Acts 10 : 34.

34 Then Pe'ter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I preceive that God is no respecter of persons :

35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

36 The word which *God* sent unto the children of Is'rael, preaching peace by Je'sus Christ : (he is Lord of all):

37 That word, *I say*, ye know, which was published throughout all Judæ'a, and began from Gal'ilee, after the baptism which John preached ;

38 How God anointed Je'sus of Naz'areth with the Holy Ghost and with power : who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil ; for God was with him.

39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jeru'salem ; whom they slew and hanged on a tree :

40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly.

41 Not to all the people, but unto wit-

nesses chosen before of God, *even* to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God *to be* the judge of quick and dead.

43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

44 While Pe'ter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

THE LESSON RETOLD

While Peter was staying at the house of Simon the tanner, three strangers called to see him with a message from a Roman soldier called Cornelius, who lived at Cæsarea, asking him to come and see him.

Now Cornelius, although he did not belong to the Jewish nation, was a good man who loved and worshipped the true God. He was well known also among the Jews for his kind acts and gifts to the poor.

One afternoon, as he was praying in his house, an angel spoke to him, saying, "The Lord is much pleased with you, Cornelius, and means to send you a great blessing. So make haste and send to Joppa for His servant Peter, who will tell you what you must do." About the same time Peter also had a vision from the Lord, telling him not to be afraid to visit Cornelius. So he invited the

captain's servants to stay all night, and early the next morning Peter, with some of the believers, set out with them for Cæsarea.

Now Cornelius was expecting him, and had invited some of his friends to hear what message Peter should bring him from the Lord.

One of the first things that Peter explained to Cornelius was this: that, although the Jews had been the chosen people of God for so long, God had taught him that He loved every one exactly alike, and was willing to take anyone for His servant who would trust and obey Him. Then, starting at the beginning, Peter told Cornelius and his friends the whole story of Jesus' life and death and resurrection, proving Him to be the Saviour of the world.

While Peter was talking, the Holy Spirit