

time in all the East, and indeed throughout the Roman dominions, very many men who passed as magicians, who were really jugglers and fortune-tellers. They invoked demons; they claimed to receive responses from the dead, and used what were called "black arts." They seem, in point of fact, to have employed ventriloquism, hypnotism, and all the machinery of modern spiritualism and sleight of hand. They perverted what knowledge they had to base purposes.

Stoned.—Lessons VII., IX.—The manner in which the punishment of stoning was inflicted is thus described by the

Jewish rabbis: The scaffold or place of stoning, to which the criminal was to be led with his hands bound, was to be twice the size of a man. One of the witnesses was then to smite him with a stone upon the breast so as to throw him down. If he were not killed, the second witness was to throw another stone at him. And if he were yet alive, all the people were to stone him until he was dead. The body was to be suspended until sunset.

Stephen.—Lessons VIII., IX.—The first chosen among the deacons, the forerunner of Paul in his views of Gentile salvation, and the first Christian martyr.

LESSONS AND GOLDEN TEXTS—FIRST QUARTER.

Studies in the Book of the Acts.

Lesson 1. Jan. 5.—THE PROMISE OF POWER. Acts 1: 1-11. Study Acts 1: 1-14. *Commit vs. 6-8.* (Read ch. 1.) GOLDEN TEXT: Acts 1: 8. Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.

2. Jan. 12.—THE PROMISE OF POWER FULFILLED. Acts 2: 1-11. Study Acts 2: 1-21. *Commit vs. 2-4.* (Read ch. 2: 1-38; Joel 2: 21-32.) GOLDEN TEXT: Acts 2: 39. The promise is unto you and to your children.

3. Jan. 19.—THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH. Acts 2: 37-47. *Commit vs. 37-39.* GOLDEN TEXT: Acts 2: 47. The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

4. Jan. 26.—THE LAME MAN HEALED. Acts 3: 1-10. Study Acts 3: 1-16. *Commit vs. 6-8.* (Read ch. 3.) GOLDEN TEXT: Exod. 15: 2. The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation.

5. Feb. 2.—THE FIRST PERSECUTION. Acts 4: 1-22. Study Acts 4: 1-22. *Commit vs. 8-10.* GOLDEN TEXT: Acts 4: 12. There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

6. Feb. 9.—THE SIN OF LYING. Acts 5: 1-11. Study Acts 5: 1-33 to 5: 11. *Commit vs. 3-5.* (Read James 3.) GOLDEN TEXT: Eph. 4: 25. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor.

7. Feb. 16.—THE SECOND PERSECUTION. Acts 5: 32-42. Study Acts 5: 25-42. *Commit vs. 40-42.* (Read ch. 5: 12-24.) GOLDEN TEXT: Matt. 5: 10. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Lesson 2. Feb. 23.—THE ARREST OF STEPHEN. Acts 6: 7-17. Study Acts 6: 1-15. *Commit vs. 7, 8.* GOLDEN TEXT: Matt. 10: 28. Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul.

9. March 2.—THE STONING OF STEPHEN. Acts 7: 54 to 8: 2. *Commit vs. 59, 60.* (Read ch. 7.) GOLDEN TEXT: Matt. 5: 44. Pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you.

10. March 9.—THE DISCIPLES SCATTERED. Acts 8: 3-13. Study Acts 8: 3-17. *Commit vs. 3-5.* GOLDEN TEXT: Acts 8: 4. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.

11. March 16.—THE ETHIOPIAN CONVERTED. Acts 8: 29-39. Study Acts 8: 29-40. *Commit vs. 34, 35.* (Read Isa. 63.) GOLDEN TEXT: Rom. 10: 10. With the heart man believeth unto righteousness: and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

12. March 23.—TEMPERANCE LESSON. Eph. 5: 11-21. Study Eph. 5: 15-18. (Read ch. 5.) GOLDEN TEXT: Eph. 5: 18. Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess.

13. March 30.—REVIEW. GOLDEN TEXT: Acts 2: 38. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Or, EASTER LESSON. John 20: 6-18. Study John 20: 1-18. *Commit vs. 13, 14.* GOLDEN TEXT: John 11: 25. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life.

ORDER OF SERVICES—FIRST QUARTER.

OPENING SERVICE.

I. SILENCE.

II. RESPONSIVE SENTENCES. (Psa. 125.)

SUPT. They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion,

SCHOOL Which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.

SUPT. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem,

SCHOOL So the Lord is round about his people from henceforth even for ever.

SUPT. For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous;

SCHOOL Lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity.

SUPT. Do good, O Lord, unto those that be good,

SCHOOL And to them that are upright in their hearts.

SUPT. As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways,

SCHOOL The Lord shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity: but peace shall be upon Israel.

III. SINGING.

IV. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, OR THE APOSTLES' CREED.

V. PRAYER, followed by the Lord's Prayer in concert.

VI. SINGING.

CLOSING SERVICE.

I. SINGING.

II. RESPONSIVE SENTENCES. (Psa. 119. 33, 34.)

SUPT. Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes;

SCHOOL And I shall keep it unto the end.

SUPT. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law;

SCHOOL Yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.