

Lesson I.

PETER AND CORNELIUS

April 4, 1909

Acts : 10 1-20. *Commit to memory vs. 13-15. Study Acts 10 : 1-48.

GOLDEN TEXT—In every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

—Acts 10 : 35.

1 ¹ There was a certain man in Caesarea ² called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band.

2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, ³ which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.

3 He saw in a vision ⁴ evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in ⁵ to him, and saying ⁶ unto him, Cornelius.

4 And ⁷ when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord ? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are ⁸ come up for a memorial before God.

5 And now send men to Joppa, and ⁹ call for one Simon, ¹⁰ whose surname is Peter :

6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side : ¹¹ he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

7 And when the angel ¹² which spake unto ¹³ Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually ;

8 And ¹⁴ when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa.

9 On the morrow, as they ¹⁵ went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour :

10 And he became ¹⁶ very hungry, and ¹⁷ would

Revised Version—¹ Now ; ² Cornelius by name ; ³ who ; ⁴ openly, as it were about ; ⁵ unto ; ⁶ to ; ⁷ he, fastening his eyes upon him, and being affrighted, said ; ⁸ gone up ; ⁹ fetch ; ¹⁰ who is surnamed ; ¹¹ Omit rest of verse ; ¹² that ; ¹³ him ; ¹⁴ having rehearsed all things ; ¹⁵ were on ; ¹⁶ Omit very ; ¹⁷ desired to eat ; ¹⁸ he beheldeth the heaven ; ¹⁹ as it were a great sheet, let down by four corners upon the earth ; ²⁰ and creeping things of the earth and fowls of the heaven ; ²¹ and ; ²² a voice came ; ²³ make not ; ²⁴ straightway ; ²⁵ Omit again ; ²⁶ was much perplexed ; ²⁷ the ; ²⁸ might ; ²⁹ by Cornelius, having ; ³⁰ Omit and ; ³¹ lodging ; ³² But arise, and ; ³³ nothing doubting.

LESSON PLAN

I. Cornelius Directed, 1-8.

II. Peter Prepared, 9-16.

III. Peter Sent, 17-20.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Peter and Cornelius, Acts 10 : 1-16. T.—Peter and Cornelius, Acts 10 : 17-33. W.—Peter and Cornelius, Acts 10 : 34-48. Th.—Doubt and satisfaction, Acts 11 : 1-18. F.—A blessing for Gentiles, Gal. 3 : 7-14. S.—Jesus and a Samaritan, John 4 : 1-14. S.—Gentiles brought in, Isa. 60 : 1-11.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 12. *What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the estate wherein he was created ?* A. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience ; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death.

have eaten : but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

11 And ¹⁸ saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending ¹⁹ unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth :

12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts ²⁰ of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter : kill, and eat.

14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord ; for I have never eaten any thing that is common ²¹ or unclean.

15 And ²² the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, ²³ that call not thou common.

16 ²⁴ This was done thrice : and ²⁵ the vessel was received up ²⁶ again into heaven.

17 Now while Peter ²⁶ doubted in himself what ²⁷ this vision which he had seen ²⁸ should mean, behold the men ¹² which were sent ²⁹ from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, ³⁰ and stood before the gate,

18 And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were ³¹ lodged there.

19 ²¹ While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

20 ³² Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, ³³ doubting nothing : for I have sent them.

The Question on Missions—(Second Quarter—THE NEWCOMERS TO CANADA.)—1. What peoples are among the newcomers ? Alphabetically arranged, they are as follows,—Americans, Armenians, British, Chinese, French, Germans, Greeks, Hebrews, Hindoos, Italians, Japanese, Scandinavians, Slavs and Syrians.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 65 (Supplemental Lesson) ; 129 ; 133 ; 15 (Ps. Sel.) ; 466 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY) ; 134.

Special Scripture Reading—Luke 7 : 1-10 (The Story of Another Centurion). (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.) It is expected that each scholar will have his or her Bible, and so be prepared to take part in this reading, which may form part of the opening exercises of the School.

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 113. Peter in the House of Cornelius : M. 7, Group of Siamese Tribe (Missions). For Question on Missions, H. M. 7, group of Immigrants Landing.

EXPOSITION

By Rev. Professor James W. Falconer, B.D., Halifax, N.S.

Time and Place—About A. D. 40 ; Caesarea and Joppa.

Connecting Links—The Lesson follows immediately upon Lesson XI., March 14, ch. 9 : 31-43.

I. Cornelius Directed, 1-8.

V. 1. This verse describes Cornelius' outward conditions. A certain man in Caesarea. See Geography Lesson. Cornelius ; a Roman, and possibly one of the great Cornelian

gens or clan : but the name was a common one. A centurion ; the leader of a hundred men (or "century"). In the Roman army two centuries made a maniple ; three maniples a cohort ; ten cohorts a legion. "The Roman centurions in the New Testament always appear in a favorable light", Matt. 8 : 5-10 ; Luke 23 : 47 ; Acts 27 : 1, 3. Italian band ; that is, cohort. Probably this cohort was composed of soldiers from Italy.

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.