

March 9, 1902

Lesson X.

THE DISCIPLES SCATTERED

Acts 8: 3-13. Study Acts 8: 3-17. Commit to memory vs. 3-5. Read ch. 8: 18-25.

3 ¹ As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

4 ² Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.

5 ³ Then Phil⁴ip went down to the city of Samaria and ⁵ preached Christ unto them.

6 And the ⁶ people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Phil⁴ip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

7 For ⁷ unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them; and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

8 And there was ⁸ great joy in that city.

9 But there was a certain man, ⁹ called Si¹⁰mon,

Revised Version.—But Saul laid waste the church; ² They therefore: ³ About preaching: ⁴ And: ⁵ Proclaimed unto them the Christ; ⁶ Multitudes gave heed with one accord unto the things that were spoken by Philip, when they heard, and saw the signs; ⁷ From many of those which had unclean spirits, they came out, crying with a loud voice; and many that were palsied; ⁸ Much; ⁹ Simon by name; ¹⁰ On all same: ¹¹ Amazed; ¹² That power which is called Great; ¹³ They gave heed to him: ¹⁴ His; ¹⁵ Good tidings; ¹⁶ And Si¹⁰mon also himself believed; ¹⁷ Being; ¹⁸ And beholding signs and great miracles, he was amazed.

GOLDEN TEXT

Acts 8: 4. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.

DAILY READINGS

M. — Acts 8: 3-17. The disciples scattered.
T. — Acts 8: 18-25. Preaching the Gospel.
W. — John 4: 31-42. Christ's visit to Samaria.
Th. — 1 Cor. 2: 9-16. Revelation by the Spirit.
F. — Matt. 10: 23-33. Words of comfort.
S. — Psalm 89: 7-16. The joyful sound.
S. — Isaiah 52: 7-15. Good tidings.

CATECHISM

Q. 12. What special act of providence did God exercise towards 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

which beforetime in the ¹⁰ same city used sorcery, and ¹¹ bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

¹⁰ To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is ¹² the great power of God,

¹¹ And ¹³ to him they had regard, because that of long time he had ¹⁴ bewitched them with ¹⁵ sorceries.

¹² But when they believed Phil⁴ip preaching ¹³ the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Je¹⁴sus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

¹³ Then Si¹⁰mon himself believed also; and ¹⁴ when he was baptized, he continued with Phil⁴ip. ¹⁵ And wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

¹⁶ And ¹⁷ then Si¹⁰mon himself believed also; and ¹⁸ when he was baptized, he continued with Phil⁴ip. ¹⁹ And wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil upon pain of death.

TIME AND PLACE

The months following the last lesson A.D. 35 and later; place, the city of Samaria, the capital of Samaria.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Gospel Spread through Persecution. 3-8. Those who were scattered abroad preaching the Word.

II. Many Baptized. 9-12. In Samaria as the result of Philip's preaching.

III. Simon the Sorcerer Also. 13. A leader in evil, now professes faith in Christ.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise—45 (Ps. Sel.); 438; 500; 439; 455; 562.

EXPOSITION

Connecting Links.—This is the first of two lessons on the ministry of Philip the Evangelist. Jesus in His farewell words to the disciples (ch. 1: 8) had by way of command and prophecy indicated the spread of His gospel to Samaria and to the Gentile world beyond. It is quite possible that the church at Jerusalem would not have thought of setting out so soon upon this great errand, had persecution not scattered the brethren far and wide. It is to be observed how God has often guided His church by external events, which at the time seemed to be disasters, but which forced it to undertake new work.

I. The Gospel Spread through Persecution. 3-8.

V. 3. *As for Saul.* In contrast to the beautiful death of Stephen there is ravage on the part of Saul. *Laid waste* (Rev. Ver.); a strong word denoting cruel injury. In Ps. 80: 13, the word is used of a wild boar ravaging a vineyard. *The church*; in Jeru-

salem. *Entering into every house*; where it was suspected that Christians lived, or perhaps the houses where they met regularly for their common meal and worship. *Haling*; hauling, dragging, as in Luke 12: 58. *Women*; so terrible was the persecution. For Paul's own account see Acts 22: 4; Gal. 1: 13.

V. 4. *Went everywhere*; up and down Samaria and Palestine, Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, Acts 11: 19. *Preaching the word.* The gospel was so inwrought into their life that they *had* to be missionaries.

V. 5. *Philip*; one of the seven, Acts 6: 5. In Acts 21: 8 he is also called the Evangelist, "a bringer of glad tidings." The "evangelist" was probably a travelling missionary, 2 Tim. 4: 5. *The city of Samaria*; the capital of the region of the same name. It was a large city in which Herod the Great had built many fine structures, and which he called Sebaste (Greek for Augusta) in honor of the Emperor Augustus.