

## INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

SECOND QUARTER—STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK.

APRIL, 1882.

NOTE.—The Scripture verses to be committed to memory are indicated by an index [A-D] at the side.

A. D. 28.

## LESSON I.—THE MISSION OF THE TWELVE.

April 2.

Mark 6. 1-13.

## GENERAL STATEMENT.

1 And *a* he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him.

*a* Matt. 13. 54; Luke 4. 16.

2 And when the sabbath-day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue; and many hearing him were astonished, saying, *b* From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?

*b* John 6. 42.

3 Is *c* not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, *d* the brother of James, and Joseph, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they *e* were offended at him.

*c* Isa. 53. 2, 3; 1 Cor. 1. 23. — *d* Matt. 12. 46; Gal. 1. 19. — *e* Matt. 11. 6.

4 But Jesus said unto them, *f* A prophet is not without honor, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.

*f* Matt. 13. 57; John 4. 44.

5 And *g* he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

*g* Gen. 19. 22.

6 And *h* he marvelled because of their unbelief. *i* And he went round about the villages, teaching.

*h* Isa. 59. 1, 2, 16. — *i* Matt. 9. 35.

7 And *j* he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

*j* Matt. 10. 1; Luke 9. 1.

8 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:

9 But *k* be shod with sandals, and not put on two coats.

*k* Acts 12. 8.

10 And *l* he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.

*l* Matt. 10. 11.

11 And *m* whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake *n* off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. *o* Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.

*m* Matt. 10. 14. — *n* Acts 13. 51; 18. 6. — *o* Heb. 10. 31.

12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

13 And they cast out many devils, *p* and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

*p* James 5. 14.

Nearly a year has passed since Jesus, at the beginning of his ministry, stood among his townspeople of Nazareth. He still yearns to bestow upon them the bread of eternal life, although on the former visit they scorned his words, and would have thrust him over the precipice brow. He thinks of his brothers, who once roamed among the Galilean hills by his side, and now, perhaps, handle the familiar tools in Joseph's carpenter-shop; and of his sisters, now matrons in their own peasant cottages. He resolves to visit the home of his childhood, and to give his old companions one more opportunity to embrace his Gospel. Followed by the faithful twelve, he walks upward from the shores among the mountains, and by sunset stands within the walls of Nazareth. In the synagogue, where, sitting by Joseph's side, he heard of old the Law read and the Psalm chanted, he stands once more. He speaks the gracious words of the Gospel, while all listeners at first wonder, and then despise. In his own home, even One greater than the prophets fails to receive honour. He may not even heal the sick nor cleanse the lepers where none will come to be cured, so he sadly leaves the city for the surrounding villages, where the humbler folk listen gladly to his teachings. It is now time to enlarge the field of his ministry, so he sends forth the chosen twelve as his messengers, plain men bearing his word to the masses of their people, without the robes of priests, or the phylacteries of the scribes; bidding men in brotherly words to repent, and attesting their commission by works of healing.

## EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

**Verse 1. Went out from thence.** From Capernaum, where his visits after this time were only occasional and transient. **His own country.** The neighbourhood of Nazareth, a journey of from seven to ten hours. At this place he had lived during nearly all the thirty years of his earlier life, and from it he had been driven at the beginning of his ministry. Luke 4. 16-31. **Disciples follow.** The twelve apostles, who now accompanied him everywhere. Their presence may have prevented the repetition of the violent acts which occurred at his former visit.

**2. Sabbath day was come.** Implying that his stay at Nazareth was of several days.