

25th and 26th chapters.) It was here also that Herod Agrippa was smitten of God and died, (see 12 : 21, 23.) This once famous seaport is now desolate and in ruins.

The other Cæsarea, situate between Palestine and Syria, near Mount Lebanon, being much enlarged and beautified by Philip the Tetrarch, or Governor of that Province, to distinguish it from the other, was called Cæsarea Philippi. It also is gone down, and has become a paltry and insignificant village.

The remarkable circumstances connected with the vision of Cornelius are plainly and forcibly related in this chapter. While in prayer at the ninth hour of the day, (about three o'clock), he beheld, in waking vision, an angel of God, who declared that his prayers and alms had come up for a memorial before God, and directed him to send to Joppa (about thirty-five miles distant) for Peter, who was then living at the house of one Simon, a tanner. Cornelius sent, accordingly; and when his messengers had nearly reached Joppa, Peter was prepared (by the symbolical revelation of a noon-day vision) to understand that nothing which God had cleansed was to be regarded as common or unclean.

After Peter had received and heard the messengers, he and other brethren, on the next day, went away with them to Cæsarea.

(20.) THE GENTILES CALLED :—Acts 10 : 9-48.

Upon the arrival of Peter, accompanied by six of his brethren, at Cæsarea, they found Cornelius waiting for them, with his kinsmen and near friends. As Peter came into the house, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet and worshipped him (according to the eastern custom of an inferior approaching a superior), by falling on the ground and touching it with his forehead, as an act of obeisance.

Peter took him up, repudiating any worship to himself, and telling him that he himself was only a man. The Apostle makes a semblance of apology for his appearance among them, by saying that they knew it was not lawful for a Jew to keep company with those of any other nation; and he asks for what purpose Cornelius had sent for him. Cornelius tells him that, in answer to prayer, he was visited by a man in bright clothing, who commanded him to send for Peter, who should explain to him the way of salvation.

Then Peter, glad of the opportunity, and perceiving that the call was of God, preached to Cornelius and his company, (being Gentiles,) CHRIST and Him crucified, and how God raised Him up on the third day, and ordained Him

to be the Judge of both quick and dead. By these words we are to understand all that should be found alive at the day of judgment, as well as all that had died previously. That all the prophets gave witness to Christ,—he being the sum and substance of the Law and the Prophecies; for without Him there could not be any salvation or any remission of sins. It is not very likely that the words here recorded are all, or anything like all, that Peter used in his preaching; but while he continued to discourse with them on these all-important and interesting subjects, the Holy Ghost fell on all them that heard THE WORD, and His descent was known by their being able to speak in different languages, as was manifested probably in a similar manner on the day of Pentecost. The Jews were astonished because the Holy Ghost had been poured on those Gentiles. They were then baptised in the name of the Lord, (not circumcised), and were thus received as members of the Infant Church of Christ.

This was the beginning of the Christian Church, as composed of Jews and Gentiles, partaking of the same baptism, united under the same Head, made partakers of the same Spirit, and associated in the same aggregate body. All these blessings were in answer to fervent and effectual prayer.

As the Gentiles were thirsting for further instruction in the (to them) new and living way of life, they prayed Peter to stay with them a little longer and continue ministering unto them. To this reasonable request he no doubt consented. C. Y.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES :

(FOR SABBATH SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES.)

- I, as chief ruler o'er the house of David,
managed well ;
- J was chief captain of the host, most brave
in Israel
- K was the burial-place of those whose greed
for flesh went far ;
- L was Goliath's brother tall, but lowly laid
in war.
- M was a son of Jonathan, a lame but loving
friend ;
- N came to CHRIST by night at first, but
bravely in the end.

ANSWERS FOR OCTOBER.

W, Warriors; X, Executioner; Y, Yoke;
Z, Zebedee; A, Aphiah; B, Babel.

DEAR CHILDREN,—This is our last lesson for the year. Do it well; and be always pre-