

Lesson I. JOHN PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS January 6, 1918

FOREWORD—This Quarter we are to study Mark's story of Christ's ministry in Galilee. We shall see the enthusiasm of the multitude, the increasing hate of the scribes, the wisdom of Jesus as a teacher of parables, and his wondrous power over nature, disease of body and soul, and over death itself.

GOLDEN TEXT—Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!—John 1:29 (Rev. Ver.).

*Memorize Ps. 103:1, 2.

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Mark 1:1-11.

1 The beginning of the gospel of Je'sus Christ, the Son of God;

2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

5 And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptised of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

6 And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with

Revised Version—Even as; 2 Isaiah the prophet; 3 who; 4 Omit before thee; 5 Make ye ready; 6 came, who baptized; 7 preached; 8 unto remission; 9 country of; 10 all they; 11 they were baptized; 12 had a leathern girdle; 13 Omit he; 14 he; 15 after me he that is mightier than I; 16 Omit indeed have; 17 the; 18 rent asunder; 19 as; 20 and a voice came out of the heavens, Thou; 21 thee.

a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;

7 And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

8 I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

9 And it came to pass in those days, that Je'sus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

12 Omit before thee; 13 Make ye ready; 14 came, who baptized; 15 preached; 16 unto remission; 17 country of; 18 all they; 19 they were baptized; 20 had a leathern girdle; 21 he; 22 after me he that is mightier than I; 23 Omit indeed have; 24 the; 25 rent asunder; 26 as; 27 and a voice came out of the heavens, Thou; 28 thee.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—John prepares the way for Jesus, Mark 1:1-11.

Th.—John's testimony to Jesus, John 1:19-30.

T.—John's ministry foretold, Isa. 40:3-5; Mal. 3:1-6.

F.—John fulfilling his course, John 3:26-36; Acts 13:25.

W.—John's birth announced, Luke 1:8-17.

S.—Jesus appoints the Twelve, Matt. 9:36 to 10:8.

S.—John's message to Jesus, Matt. 11:2-9.

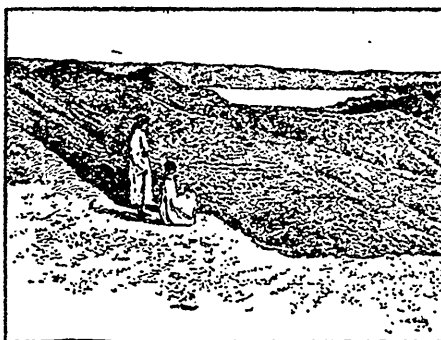
THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE MESSENGER.—1. The beginning; of our Lord's wonderful ministry. Mark's Gospel is one of action. Matthew begins by telling of Christ's descent. Luke tells of the birth, infancy and childhood of Jesus. John tells of his pre-existence. Mark begins with his ministry as ushered in by John the Baptist. Gospel. In early English the word means "God story," in Greek, "good news,"—the God-story of good news. Of Jesus Christ; concerning Jesus. Jesus is a personal name; Christ a name derived from our Lord's Messiahship, meaning "anointed." Son of God; the name that declares Jesus to be divine.

2, 3. As it is written. Mark shows that prophets had prophesied about the beginning of the gospel. I send my messenger; from Mal. 3:1. Prepare thy way. The messenger comes before the Messiah as a herald prepares the way for a king. Voice of one crying; from Isa. 40:3, which deals with the return from Babylon. The great national deliverance of the Jews foreshadows the greater deliverance by the Messiah.

II. THE MESSAGE.—4. John. The name means "God is gracious." John was kinsman to Jesus and six months older, Luke, ch. 1. Did baptize. John

had lived in seclusion until the time of his showing unto Israel, Luke 1:80. Wilderness. Matthew says the wilderness of Judea (see Geography Lesson). Preached (Rev. Ver.). The word means strong, arresting speech like that of a herald announcing momentous news. Baptism of repentance; baptism involving repentance or a sign of repentance. "Repentance" is the Baptist's great word. It means not merely sorrow for sin, but a deep change of mind regarding sin. Israel must be



WILDERNESS OF JUDEA

prepared for the Messiah. For the remission of sins. True repentance brings pardon of sin.

5. All . . . Judaea . . . Jerusalem. John's message stirs country and city. Baptized. John's hearers had repented,—that was an inward change; they were baptized,—that was an outward expression of the change. Confessing. The word means not private, but public confession.

6-8. Camel's hair; a tunic of rough cloth of

* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in either Part of List IV., a Red Seal is added to the Diploma in Colors given for List III., and a Gold Seal for the verses of the other Part. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.