

THE Teachers' Preparation Leaflet

LESSON 9.

DECEMBER 2nd, 1894.

4th QUARTER.

Christ's Testimony to John. LUKE 7: 24-35.

(Commit to memory verses 27-28.)

GOLDEN TEXT,

"Behold I send my messenger before thy face." Luke 7: 27.

PROVE THAT

We are to be witnesses for Christ. Acts 1: 8.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Quest. 104. *What is we pray for in the fourth petition?* A. In the fourth petition (which is, *Give us this day our daily bread*), we pray, That of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.

LESSON HYMNS.

CHILDREN'S HYMNAL Nos. 7, 218, 27, 31.

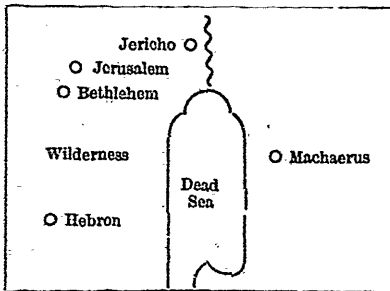
DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the I. B. R. A.)

- MONDAY—Christ's Testimony to John. — Luke 7: 24-35.
- TUESDAY—Testimony of the People. Matt. 21: 23-32.
- WEDNESDAY—Herod's Testimony. Mark 6: 14-20.
- THURSDAY—Great in the Sight of the Lord. Luke 1: 5-17.
- FRIDAY—The Forerunner. Luke 1: 67-80.
- SATURDAY—The Voice. Matt. 3: 1-12.
- SABBATH—A Shining Light. John 5: 31-38.

NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS.

INTRODUCTORY. About four months before the date of our lesson, Herod Antipas had seized John and imprisoned him in the lonely fortress of Machaerus, situated about nine miles east of the northern end of the Dead Sea (see map). The reason for his doing so is given in Matt. 14: 3-5. During this period Jesus was engaged in preaching and healing throughout Galilee. The incidents which gave rise to the words contained in our lesson occurred shortly after the miracle at Nain (ch. 7: 11-17). Pining in his lonely dungeon John seems to have craved some reassuring word from Christ, and accordingly set to him two of his disciples to ask him, "Art thou he that should come, or look we for another?" In reply, Jesus bade the messengers tell John what wonders they saw and heard. The recital of these, more than



any mere assurance from His lips, would cheer the discouraged prophet. Parallel passage, Matt. 11: 7-19.

LESSON PLAN. Christ Commending John. vs. 24-28. II. Christ Condemning the People. vs. 29-35.

I. CHRIST COMMENDING JOHN. 24. The messengers—the two disciples who had been sent to inquire "Art thou he that should come?" Our Saviour hastens to remove the unfavorable impression which John's apparent doubt of his Messiahship may have occasioned, and to restore confidence in him notwithstanding that he was now, overshadowed by the greater popularity

of himself, languishing in a tyrant's prison. The wilderness—the district between Bethlehem and the Dead Sea, where John had been brought up (Luke 1: 80), and where he began his ministry (Matt. 3: 1). A reed—"The reed of Egypt and Palestine is a very tall cane, growing twelve feet high, with a magnificent panicle of blossoms at the top, and so slender and yielding that it

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