

LESSON VIII.

THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVEN

May 26, 1901

Acts 2: 1-11. Commit to memory vs. 1-4. Read Acts 1: 12 to 2: 41.

1 And when the day of Pentecost was ¹fully come, they were all ²with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came ³a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them ⁴cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each ⁵of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy ⁶Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, ⁷out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because

Revised Version—1 Now come; 2 Together in one place; 3 From heaven a sound as of the rushing of ⁴ tongues parting asunder; 5 One; 6 Spirit; 7 Now; 8 From every; 9 And when this sound was heard; 10 Speaking; 11 *Omit* one to another; 12 Language; 13 *Omit* and; 14 In; 15 *Omit* in; 16 Sojourners from Rome, both Jews; 17 Cretans; 18 Mighty.

GOLDEN TEXT

John 16: 13. When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Acts 2: 1-11. The Holy Spirit given.

T.—Acts 2: 12-21. Prophecy fulfilled.

W.—Acts 2: 37-47. First-fruits.

Th.—Acts 4: 23-31. Prayer answered.

F.—Joel 2: 28-32. Joel's prophecy.

S.—John 11: 15-26. The Comforter.

S.—John 16: 1-14. The Spirit of Truth.

CATECHISM

Q. 79. Which is the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment is, Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-

servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's.

TIME AND PLACE

On the day of Pentecost (see "Explanation" below), Sunday, May 28, ten days after the ascension; the place an upper room in a house in Jerusalem.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Outpouring of the Spirit, 1-3.

With rush of sound, and with tongues of fire.

II. The Gift of Tongues, 4.

Which all now possessed and used.

III. The Wonder of the Multitude, 5-11.

Who came together amazed and marvelling.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 552; 38: 7-9 (Ps. Sel.); 103; 111; 551; 102.

EXPOSITION

Connecting Links—Having beheld their Lord taken up from before their sight into heaven, the apostles returned to Jerusalem and there waited, according to His commandment, for the promised Spirit of power. (Luke 24: 49.) They did no active work, except the appointing of Matthias as an apostle in the place of Judas (Acts 1: 26), a mistaken act, according to many. They kept continually praying for the fulfilment of the promise (1: 14), which fulfilment came about ten days after the Ascension.

I. The Outpouring of the Spirit, 1-3.

V. 1. *The day of Pentecost.* "Pentecost" is from a Greek word meaning "fiftieth." It was applied by the Greek-speaking Jews to the Feast of Weeks (Ex. 34: 22) because it occurred on the fiftieth day after the second day of the Passover. It was the second of the three great annual feasts, Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. It was also known to the Hebrews as the Feast of Harvest (Exod. 23: 16), because it came when the harvest was ready for the sickle, and as the Day of First Fruits (Num. 28: 26), because it was celebrated by an offering of two loaves,

as a sample of the harvest (Lev. 23: 17). It was a popular feast and the Jews from all parts of the world came to it (Deut. 16: 16). A census taken in the time of the Emperor Nero gives more than 2,700,000 as gathered at the Passover. Still greater numbers came to the Pentecost. There could, therefore, be no better time or place for the first proclamation of redemption through the risen Lord. It would spread to every shore and clime. *Was fully come*; literally "was being fulfilled." "The period is conceived of as a measure which is filled up when the day comes." (Riddle.) *All*; including those mentioned in 1: 13-15. *In one place*; probably their meeting place, v. 13. It was a great Feast-day and they all came together for prayer early in the morning before the third hour, or nine o'clock (2: 15).

V. 2. *Suddenly*; without any previous warning. The manner of the fulfilment of the promise was unknown to them. *A sound*; the audible sign of the descent of the Spirit. *From heaven*; whither Christ, the source of power, had gone. *As of a rushing mighty wind.* The comparison does not