

Lesson I.

JOHN, THE FORERUNNER OF JESUS

January 2, 1910

Matthew 3 : 1-12. *Commit to memory vs. 2, 3.

GOLDEN TEXT—The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.—Matthew 3 : 3.

1¹ In those days ² came John the Bap'tist, preaching in the wilderness of Judæa,2² And saying, Repent ye : for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.3³ For this is he that was spoken of by ⁴ the prophet Esai'as, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ⁵ Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.4⁴ And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins ; and his ⁷ meat was locusts and wild honey.5⁵ Then went out ⁸ to him Jeru'salem, and all Judæa, and all the region round about Jor'dan,6⁶ And ⁹ were baptized of him in ¹⁰ Jor'dan, confessing their sins.7⁷ But when he saw many of the Phar'isees and Sad'ducees ¹¹ come to his baptism, he said unto them, ¹² O generation of vipers, who ¹³ hath warned you to

Revised Version—¹ And in ; ² cometh ; ³ Omit And ; ⁴ Isaiah the prophet ; ⁵ Make ye ready ; ⁶ Now John himself ; ⁷ food ; ⁸ unto ; ⁹ they ; ¹⁰ the river Jordan ; ¹¹ coming ; ¹² ye offspring of vipers ; ¹³ Omit hath ; ¹⁴ fruit worthy of repentance ; ¹⁵ even now is the axe laid ; ¹⁶ every tree therefore that ; ¹⁷ cleanse his threshing-floor ; ¹⁸ he will ; ¹⁹ the chaff he will burn up.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Herald, 1-4.

II. The Hearers, 5-10.

III. The King, 11, 12.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—John, the forerunner of Jesus, Matt. 3 : 1-12.

T.—Repent ye ! Luke 3 : 1-18. W.—Preparing the way, John 1 : 15-28. Th.—A greater to follow, Mark 1 : 1-8. F.—Christ's testimony, Luke 7 : 19-28.

S.—The Voice, Isa. 40 : 1-8. S.—Sent before, John 3 : 23-30.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 39. What is the duty which God requireth of man ? A. The duty which God requireth of man, is obedience to his revealed will. Ques. 40. What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience ? A. The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience, was the moral law.

The Question on Missions—(First Quarter, LUMBERMEN AND SETTLERS : HOME MISSIONS IN THE EAST.)—1. What does the Home Mission field, Eastern Section, include ? The Maritime Provinces, Newfoundland, a strip of the State of Maine, U.S.,

flee from the wrath to come ?

8 Bring forth therefore ¹⁴ fruits meet for repentance :

9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have A'braham to our father : for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto A'braham.

10 And ¹⁵ now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees : ¹⁶ therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance : but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear : he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire :

12 Whose fan ¹⁸ is in his hand, and he will thoroughly ¹⁷ purge his floor, and ¹⁹ gather his wheat into the garner : but ¹⁹ he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

And also a small slice of the Province of Quebec on the Bay of Chaleurs.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. 8-1. 72 (Supplemental Lesson) ; 161 ; 151 ; 16 (Ps. Sel.) ; 101 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY) ; 217.

Special Scripture Reading—Ps. 51: (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.) It is expected that each scholar will have his or her Bible, and so be prepared to take part in this reading, which may form part of the opening exercises of the School.

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 351, The Voice in the Wilderness. For Question on Missions, H. M. 222, Entrance to Fossil Cave, Bay of Chaleurs ; H. M. 223, A Metapedia Automobile ; H. M. 224, Grand Falls, N.B. View under Bridge.

Stereographs—For Lesson, Church of Nativity, Bethlehem ; Damascus Gate, Jerusalem ; The Wilderness of the Scapegoat ; The Mountains of Judæa (Underwood & Underwood, Dept. D., 62 Adelaide Street East, Toronto), set of 15 stereographs for Quarter's Lessons, \$2.50 ; four and more and less than fifteen, 17c. each ; less than four in one order, 20c. each ; stereoscopes, 85c. (postage paid in all cases). In ordering please mention THE TEACHERS MONTHLY.

EXPOSITION

By Rev. Professor D. J. Fraser, D.D., LL.D., Montreal

Time and Place—A.D. 26 ; the Wilderness of Judæa.

A Foreword—The Lessons for this year are to be taken from the Gospel according to Matthew. Matthew's Gospel, as we have it, was written about A.D. 70, and was intended originally for Jewish readers. Its aim is to present Jesus as the true Messiah.

I. The Herald, 1-4.

Vs. 1, 2. *In those days.* Luke 3 : 1 fixes the time, by mentioning the reigning Roman Emperor and the rulers of Palestine in state and church. *Came John the Baptist.* Luke, ch. 1, gives an account of his parentage and birth. *Preaching ;* literally, "heralding",

as if proclaiming a King. *In the wilderness of Judæa.* See Geography Lesson. *Repent ye ;* literally, "change your minds". Repentance involves more than sorrow for sin ; it implies a change of life. See Shorter Catechism, Ques. 87. *The kingdom of heaven.* The usual expression outside of Matthew is "kingdom of God". They mean the same. (See Dan. 7 : 14.) *Is at hand.* John announced the near approach of the reign of the Messiah. The condition of sharing in the Messianic kingdom is repentance.

Vs. 3, 4. *This is he...spoken of by Isaiah the prophet* (Rev. Ver.). The quotation is from Isa. 40 : 3. The prophet refers to the

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.