

many not to be gainsaid, to the power just bestowed upon the disciples, to speak in foreign languages. **Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia**; Jews from the far East. **Judaea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia** (the Roman Province on the west coast of Asia Minor), **Phrygia, Pamphylia**; from Palestine and Asia Minor. **In Egypt, and, Libya about Cyrene**; from Northern Africa. **Sojourners from Rome**; Romans dwelling for the time in Jerusalem. **Prose-lytes**; Gentiles who had accepted the Jewish faith in whole or in part. **Crete**; natives of Crete, now Candia, a large island in the Mediterranean Sea. **Arabia**; where large numbers of Jews were settled. The multitudes included representatives from practically every country in the then known world. **The wonderful works of God**; wrought by Him through Christ for the salvation of men.

The multitudes were greatly amazed at what they saw and heard. Some, however, explained the new powers of the disciples by saying that they were full of new wine. Peter denies the accusation, declaring that it was the fulfilment of an ancient prophecy of the outpouring of the Spirit.

#### THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



The Jews who did not live in Palestine, but were scattered amongst other nations, were called **THE DISPERSION** (see John 7:35, Rev. Ver.). A list is given in vs. 9-11 of the Lesson, of the countries in which these exiled Jews were living. They were bound to the mother city of Jerusalem by two links: (1) The annual payment of the temple tax of a half-shekel. It was this sacred coin which foreign Jews were obliged to get from the money changers in exchange for the money ordinarily used by them (see Matt. 21:12; Mark 11:15; John 2:14). (2) The pilgrimage made to Jerusalem by immense numbers of foreign Jews at the three annual festivals, —Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles.

#### FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. By what signs was the descent of the Holy Spirit preceded ? .....
2. What did He enable the disciples to do ? .....
3. What was the effect of this on the multitudes ? .....

#### LESSON QUESTIONS

Who was chosen to take the place of Judas amongst the twelve apostles ?

1-3 What does "Pentecost" mean ? Why was this feast so named ? Where were the disciples when this day of Pentecost came ? What sound came amongst them ? What sat upon each of them ? Where is wind used as a symbol of God's presence ? (2 Sam. 5:24; Ps. 104:3.) Where is fire so used ? (Ex. 3:2; Zech. 2:5.)

4 What was the real wonder of Pentecost ? What is it to be filled with the Holy Spirit ? What did He enable the disciples to do ? Where had it been said that they should speak with "new tongues" ?

5-11 Why were there such multitudes in Jerusalem at this time ? What did these do when they heard the "sound" of v. 2 ? At what were they amazed ?

How did some explain the disciples' speaking new languages ? Who denied this ? How did he explain the wonder ?

#### FOR DISCUSSION

1. The "gift of tongues" ; why it was then bestowed ; why not a permanent gift.
2. The use of miracles in leading to belief in the gospel.

#### A LESSON FOR LIFE

It was a wonderful power that was given to the disciples at Pentecost, of speaking in new languages to the multitudes in Jerusalem. But we may do practically the same thing. The Bible, with its message of salvation, is now translated into more than five hundred languages, and copies may be had for a few cents each. We may all take part in sending the gospel in their own speech to heathen people in lands of which the apostles had never heard.

**Prove from Scripture**—That the Holy Spirit is our Teacher.

**Shorter Catechism**—Ques. 2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him ? A. The word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

**The Question on Missions**—2. How do Chinese doctors treat the sick ? Their treatment is often cruel as well as useless. They stick needles into all parts of the body to let out the disease, and give large doses of such medicines as dried snakes, scorpions, lizards, tigers' bones and other horrible things.