

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

LESSON IV. PAUL AT LYSTRA; Gospel of the Living God. Acts 14. 8-20. July 22.

EXPLANATORY.

LYSTRA. Probably the ruins Bin-ber... Killaseh, and the eastern portion of the great Lycaonian plain. Impotent. Powerless. Who never had walked. Hence the miracle was all the more noticeable, and to the ignorant Lycaonians all the more unaccountable.

LOUD VOICE. To encourage his confidence. God always honors strong faith. Stand upright. Though the man had never walked before, he must exert himself now. Human effort must meet divine grace.

THE PEOPLE SAW. The miracle was wrought in a public place, and before many witnesses. The Gospel does not need to be ashamed of its works. Speech of Lycaonia. The people understood the apostles, speaking in Greek, the language of all good society in that age.

BARNABAS. Perhaps from his greater age and nobility of appearance; as Paul says of himself that "his bodily presence" was "weak." (2 Cor. 10, 10.) Jupiter, in Greek, Zeus, the ruler of the gods. Mercury, Hermes, the deity of eloquence, and wing-footed messenger of the gods.

APOSTLES. Paul only was of the apostolic order, but the name is applied to Barnabas as his companion. Heard. They had not understood the words spoken in the native dialect, but the actions of the priest and people now show their purpose. Rent their clothes. An Oriental token of great alarm and abhorrence.

SIRS, WHY DO YE THESE THINGS? Christ never thus rejected worship, though his apostles did: showing that he realized and that they believed that he was God. Passions. Feelings and nature, Grace does not lift men above nature, but gives control over it. The disciple never forgets that he is nothing without the Master. Vanities... living God. A sincere and bold rebuke of idolatry, even to their own disadvantage and peril.

IN TIMES PAST. Until Christ came. All nations. All Gentile nations. To walk in their own ways. Not through divine interference, but to show the utter helplessness of man's boasted reason to find out God. The light of nature will never lead a world to true knowledge. Not without witness. Every mercy is God's messenger to man; every shower and harvest attests his existence and affirms his love.

SCARCE RESTRAINED. The superstitious of years, however absurd, cannot be uprooted in an hour. People are very slow to confess themselves mistaken in the beliefs.

Jews from Antioch. Journeying a hundred miles to gratify their resentment. How much greater zeal in an evil cause than many Christians exhibit in a good one! Stoned Paul. The words indicate that the stoning was done by the Jews, but the fickle multitude stand calmly by to witness the stones falling on him whom just before they were worshipping as a god! Sacrifices to-day, and stones to-morrow--so the world treats its worthies. And as a recompense the martyrs of one age become the saints of the next.

DISCIPLES. His work had not been in vain; there was a company of converts in Lystra. Perhaps young Timothy and his mother, Eunice, were in that little group. (Acts 16, 1.) Stood round about. Uncertain whether they were to sympathize with their teacher living, or to mourn him dead. Rose up. Having been stoned, not slain. Went into the city. To reassure the converts, and to show the enemies the futility of their malice. To Derbe. A city distant only a few hours' journey eastward.

GOLDEN TEXT.--But the Lord is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king. Jer. 10. 10.

DOCTRINE.--The unity of God. Deut. 6, 4; 1 Tim. 2, 5.

The next lesson is Acts 15, 22-31.

MONTREAL, March 1, 1877.

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I had for several years been subject to severe attacks of Inflammatory Rheumatism from which I would suffer the most intense pain from four to eight weeks, although under the best treatment I could procure. About six weeks ago I had another attack coming on with its usual severity, when a customer recommended the use of your Pain Eradicator, which he had proven himself and found in a great many cases to be an effectual cure. I gave it a trial and its results exceeded my expectation, it soon relieved the pain reduced the swelling, and I was able to attend to my business as usual in three days, and have been completely cured by less than two 25 cent bottles.

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