

Lesson II.

THE WITNESS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST
TO JESUS

January 8, 1905

John 1: 19-34. Commit to memory vs. 26, 27. Read John 3: 22-36; Mal. 3: 1-3; 4: 5, 6.

GOLDEN TEXT—Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.—John 1: 29.

19 And this is the record of John, when the Jew sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?

23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

24 And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.

25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water; but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;

27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred

Revised Version—I witness; 2 and he; 3 the; not the Christ; 4 in the midst of you standeth one; shoe; 5 Bethany; 6 On the morrow he seeth; held; 7 as a dove out of heaven; 8 he said; 9 seen, and have borne witness.

before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

31 And I knew him not; but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

They said therefore; 5 had been sent from; 6 art even he that cometh after me, the latchet of whose 11 become; 12 for this cause came I; 13 have believed; 14 abiding upon; 15 Spirit; 16 have

quired in the fourth commandment? A. The fourth commandment requireth the keeping holy to God such set times as He has appointed in His word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy sabbath to himself.

The Question on Missions—2. What was the command given by our Lord to His apostles? The command given to the apostles was,—Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16: 15).

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 418 (Supplemental Lesson) 54; 23 (Ps. Sel.); 155; 179 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 225.

LESSON PLAN

I. Testifying to Christ, 19-28.

II. Pointing to Christ, 29-34.

DAILY READINGS

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

M.—The witness of John the Baptist to Jesus, John 1: 19-34. T.—Isaiah's prophecy, Isa. 40: 1-8. W.—He must increase, John 3: 22-36. Th.—Witness from heaven, Mark 1: 1-11. F.—Witness of the Father, John 5: 31-39. S.—The beloved Son, Matt. 17: 1-13. S.—True witness, John 10: 31-42. Shorter Catechism—Ques. 58. What is re-

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—February, 27 A. D.; Bethany or Bethabara, beyond Jordan.

Connecting Links—The work of the Baptist before Jesus was baptized had been publicly to call Israel to repent and be baptized, in order to make ready for the coming Messiah. John's Gospel refers to none of this work. In his Gospel we have a personal reminiscence of one of the Baptist's disciples, dealing with his testimony to representatives of the rulers, and to some of his more immediate followers. This constitutes the present Lesson; it follows the temptation of Jesus, Matt. 4: 1-11.

I. Testifying to Christ, 19-28.

Vs. 19, 20. *The witness of John* (Rev. Ver.).It is put first in this Gospel of testimonies to Jesus, as being first in time, and that which influenced the writer himself; but mainly because of John the Baptist's divine commission. *The Jews*; a term often so used inthis Gospel, that it indicates a nation hostile to the Lord and His work. *Priests and Levites*. The latter were assistants to the priests in the temple service. This was a delegation from the Sanhedrin, "the highest Jewish assembly for government." "Scribes and elders" are not mentioned in this Gospel. *From Jerusalem*. The Sanhedrin, sitting at the capital, had jurisdiction over the whole country, and especially Judaea. So great was the commotion raised by John's preaching that the rulers felt bound to investigate. *Who art thou?* The Messiah, perhaps? *Confessed*; a formal public avowal. *Denied not*; "did not conceal the truth" (Weymouth), made no claims on his own behalf. His success did not turn his head.Vs. 21-23. *Elias* (Elijah)? Whom the Jews expected to return bodily as the forerunner of the Messiah, Mal. 4: 5. In that sense John was not Elijah. In the true spiritual sense