

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson I. January 2, 1916.

The Ascending Lord.—Acts I. 1-14.

Commentary.—I. The Holy Spirit promised (vs. 1-8). 1. The former treatise—The Gospel of Luke, Luke states in the opening verses of the Acts that he is continuing the record of Christ's work for the world. Theophilus was a Roman of high rank but nothing is known of him beyond what is given here and in the opening of Luke's Gospel. Began both to do and teach—The Gospels record the beginnings of Christ's work for humanity. They describe the unfolding of the plan of salvation in the foundation of the Christian Church. Jesus did, as well as taught. He wrought miracles and taught by parables and by direct methods. 2. Until... he was taken up—Forty days after His resurrection, had given commandments to the Spirit of the Lord was upon Jesus in all His ministry. It was "through the Holy Ghost" that He gave the great commission to His disciples recorded in Matt. 28, 19 and Mark 16, 15, 16. Apostles—Those sent forth. The disciples were sometimes called apostles after they were sent forth upon their mission by our Lord. 3. Showed Himself alive—The apostles were certain that Jesus died on the cross, and that He was as certain as that He arose from the dead. His passion—His suffering and death. By many infallible proofs—Proofs that could not be shaken; convincing proofs. Being seen of them forty days—During the forty days between Christ's resurrection and His ascension Jesus showed Himself to His followers ten or eleven times. They saw Him and they heard Him speak. He spoke many times and the disciples were convinced that their Lord was alive from the dead. 4. Being assembled together—The place of the assembly of Christ and His disciples is not known. It was probably in Jerusalem on the day of the ascension. Commanded them—Jesus spoke with authority. Should not depart from Jerusalem—Jesus had given them a commission to go into all the world to preach the gospel, but they were not to go forth to their great work until they were fully prepared. Wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit—The promise is recorded in Luke 24, 49 and John 14, 16, 26. Baptized with water—This was a baptism unto repentance. With the Holy Ghost—The Holy Spirit was to be given to the apostles to purify their hearts and to make them strong for the work before them. They were already converted, and their names were written in heaven, but they needed the sanctifying and energizing power of the Holy Spirit, that they might be equipped for the weekly responsibility that Jesus had placed upon them. Not many days hence—the crucifixion took place at the feast of the Passover while crowds of Jews were in Jerusalem from all parts of the world, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was to be accomplished during the next great feast, that of Pentecost. As the crowds had carried away the news of Christ's passion, so they would bear the news of the coming of the Holy Spirit in His fulness. 5. With them at this time restore, etc.—The disciples still retained their imperfect idea of the nature of Christ's kingdom. When Jesus spoke of the outpouring of the Spirit and the promise of the Father, they thought he referred to the establishment of a great temporal kingdom of the Jews. 7. Not for you to know—Jesus said nothing of the kingdom about which the disciples had made inquiry. He gave them to understand that they were better off not to know the exact time of great future events. The Lord has not revealed the future particularly as to the dates of great occurrences, and we may well refrain from trying to figure out what he has not been pleased to make known. He has given definite instruction regarding duty and privilege, and with these all our time and strength may well be employed. The Father knows it all, and will reveal his plans as fast as men need to receive them. 8. But ye shall receive power—Jesus turned the thoughts of his disciples from that which was gross and material to that which was spiritual. He continued the subject which was interrupted by the disciples' questions. He called attention to their need of power for the great work before them, and showed them how it was to be received. After that the Holy Ghost is come upon you—When the Holy Spirit was to bring to the apostles the power of heart and ability to live and holiness of heart and will to speak. The power was to come from without. It was not to be from human or earthly sources. The power of the Holy Spirit was to be the permanent power in the individual believer and in the church of Jesus Christ. Witnesses unto me—The gift of power was not to be merely for the comfort of the disciples, but it was to be empowered to bear witness effectively to the power of God to save from sin. In Jerusalem—The centre of the Jewish system and the seat of prejudice and hatred against Jesus and his followers. All Judea—The regions where the Jewish religion was at home. Samaria—The seat of a mixed religion, partly heathen and partly Jewish. 9. When he had spoken these things—Jesus had led the eleven disciples across the Kidron and over the Mount of Olives as far as to Bethany (Luke 24: 50) and had given to them his parting message. He had made full preparations for the establishment and perpetuation of his kingdom and he was ready to depart. He was taken up—While the disciples were looking at him, he was lifted by unseen, supernatural power from the earth. Out of their sight. It may have been a bright and beautiful cloud like that of the transfiguration, the shining forth of the glory of God. 10. While they looked—

It was natural for the disciples to try to follow with their eyes the ascending Lord. They did not know the full significance of the event. Two men... in white apparel—Two angels were sent as messengers from heaven. 11. Also of garments—The eleven disciples were all from Galilee. This same Jesus... shall so come—There is here an express promise of the Lord's return, but there is no statement as to the time.

III. Praying and waiting (vs. 12-14). 12. Returned they unto Jerusalem—Returned to Jerusalem with great joy (Luke 24: 52). The disciples had received the command of Jesus to tarry in Jerusalem, and they had also received the promise of power. A Sabbath day's journey—A little less than a mile. 13. An upper room—This may have been the place where Jesus ate the last supper with his disciples. At least it was a gathering-place for the followers of Jesus, and the place where they awaited the descent of the Holy Spirit. 14. With one accord—All were in agreement in praying for and expecting the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Questions.—Who wrote the Acts? When? What other books did the same author write? What do we know of Theophilus? When did the ascension take place? Where? How far from Jerusalem? Who were present? What is the meaning of "passion"? Give proofs of the resurrection of Christ. What question did the disciples ask just before the ascension? What was Christ's answer? What did he command them? What did he promise them? Why did they need power? What did the angels tell the disciples?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—Christ's parting promise.

I. Provided for spiritual power.

A. Authorized world evangelism.

B. Provided for spiritual power.

Christ did not leave the world until He had made effective arrangements for the working out of His redemptive purpose. His ascension was essential to the plan and work of redemption. It was the fulfillment of prophecy and the verification of His own words. It was the explanation of His character and work on earth. It was the final attestation of the validity and acceptance of the atonement. The days since the resurrection were a very tender and beautiful upleading of the disciples, forty days of special instruction "concerning the kingdom of God." The Master's parting words were full of largest and tenderest encouragement. Strange experiences had increased the fitness of the disciples to receive Christ's instructions. Many misunderstandings had been rectified and their attachment deepened. The fact of His resurrection had been certified to them beyond a doubt. The great truth was enforced, explained and illustrated that their Lord's death was the world's life. The gentleness and meekness of the Master's discipline on this occasion was effectual. After He had re-proved the spirit of vain curiosity, which strikes at the root of all practical effort, He indicated the source of their strength and the sphere of their activity. Patriotism and philistinism inspired them to hope in great things for their countrymen, but piety was to lift them into the faith that a new kingdom would be set up and Jesus be all in all. Jesus' words served to check the spirit of idle curiosity concerning the future. His last service was to tell them of the power which should be wrought in them by the Holy Ghost and what they should do with it. It was to be spiritual power, the power of a living God. It embraced the call from discipleship, to apostleship, to purpose and power in service. The Holy Ghost was to become the source of all their spiritual illumination, unity and joy, hence Christ ascended that He might bestow "the promise of the Father" which He might "appear in the heaven once for all" for us, to be the "head over all things to the church" and to prepare a place for His disciples in His Father's house.

II. Authorized world evangelism.

In his triumphant entrance into heaven Christ provided for the evangelization of the world and the perpetuation of his church. His departure was the advancement of his work. His kingdom was to rise above all other empires and enclose them in its infinitude of sovereignty. From the beginning he had been ascending, completing what he had been continuing for years. The work which he began has never ceased. He came to earth to save sinners. He ascended to make intercession for his church and to sustain his servants in all the stress of life and in all the anxiety of service. His disciples were the living link between himself and the world he came to save. Christianity was to be diffused through the instrumentality of twelve apostles. They were to give out, through their own personal knowledge, information of those facts respecting Christ on which all the saving values of the cross depend. They were to be founders of a new dispensation, against which the prejudices of their countrymen and the enmity of mankind would be aroused. Christ's command was therefore seasonable and necessary, as well as effective and instructive. The personal reception of truth and the personal presence of the Spirit were alike essential. His command and promise were a test of discipleship. Duty and privilege were linked together. The Master's promise awoke attention. It urged to duty and gave specific character to prayer. They were to do heartily his work in the world under the daily inspiration of his spiritual presence. They were to be the consecrated representatives of the kingdom of the risen and glorified Christ, baptized with the Holy Ghost, chosen to proclaim and spread the gospel throughout the earth. The Holy Ghost was promised to complete what they outwardly had begun, to supply testifying power as a wine of truth, to be the acting guide of all the sayings and actions of all those first teachers of Christianity.—T. R. A.

Hubbubs—And do you have any police protection out where you live? Subbubs—Oh, yes, no trouble about that. We have a saloon on the next corner, and an Irish cook in the kitchen.

FARM GARDEN

VEGETABLE SEED SITUATION

The following extract of an article from a newspaper of Gothenburg, Sweden, will be of interest to growers of vegetable seeds. The article refers to the Board of Directors of the Agricultural College of Alnarp, Sweden, asking for a Government grant for the encouragement of vegetable seed growing.

The Board points out that the war has most clearly emphasized the importance, for the country, of home production of vegetable seed. Owing to the most important vegetable seed producing countries having prohibited the export of such seed, the prices of a great number of important vegetable seeds have risen enormously. And, still worse, some seeds can hardly be obtained at any price. It is reported, from a well informed source, that vegetable seed growing in the countries engaged in the war has been largely neglected during the past summer and that for this reason further advances in prices can be expected. Reports from Germany state that the supply of seed of spinach, carrots, most kinds of cabbage, onions, cucumbers and peas is utterly small. Furthermore, Germany has prohibited the export of vegetable seeds to the end of the war. There is therefore every reason to fear that we have to face the possibility of a very serious shortage of certain vegetable seeds.

HAND SEPARATOR CREAM.

Patrons of cream gathering creameries frequently complain of the variations which occur in the percentage of fat as revealed by the test of the cream delivered from time to time. These variations have given rise to more or less dissatisfaction on the part of the patrons, and have been the cause of unnecessary friction between them and the managers of creameries. A series of tests and experiments bearing on this point have recently been completed by the branch of the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, at Ottawa, and the results obtained are published in circular No. 14 of that branch, its desirable that creamery patrons should know the results of these experiments. Managers of creameries may apply for and secure from the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, sufficient copies to supply each patron. Individual copies will be sent to those who apply for them.

THE DAIRY REPORT.

The report of the proceedings of the annual meetings of the Eastern and Western Ontario Dairy Associations, and of the Ontario Dairy Association, for 1914, has just been issued under one cover by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto, and a copy may be had upon application. These reports make most helpful reading for dairymen. They furnish the very latest information by the best equipped men in the province regarding the testing and selection of dairy herds, milk and testing, milking machines, butter and cheese making, etc. In fact, everything the modern dairyman is interested in is here treated in its novelty or its importance may be seen. The discussions are particularly free and informing.

AGRICULTURAL AND EXPERIMENTAL UNION.

No report upon co-operative agriculture is more highly prized than that of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union, the secretary of which is Prof. C. A. Zavitz, who has an international reputation as a careful and honest field observer. The annual report for 1914, just issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto, contains carefully prepared accounts of like work done in an experimental way by over four thousand members of the union, and the clearly summarized results make good reading for progressive farmers. This year extra emphasis has been laid upon the question of the cause and eradication of noxious weeds on the farm. Four specialists handle this subject from various angles, and their deliberations will bring comfort and help to many anxious farmers. A copy of this report may be obtained by addressing the department.

ADVANTAGES OF SHEEP.

- 1. The sheep is a dual purpose animal, producing both wool and mutton. 2. The initial expenditure is small. Every farmer can well afford the investment of the necessary capital in a few sheep. 3. Rapid monetary returns are received by the wool clip and the lamb crop being saleable annually. 4. Expensive buildings are by no means necessary. A warm lambing pen is required, but for the aged sheep a sheltered shed to protect them from the winter winds is alone sufficient. 5. Weed destruction represents another asset. Sheep will eat and relish almost every class of weed. 6. Sheep admittedly improve soil fertility. Their manure is rich and uniformly distributed. 7. Except at certain seasons of the year less time and attention need be bestowed upon the care of sheep than in the case of almost any other animal without thereby endangering successful results.—T. Reg. Arkell.

HORSE TALK.

The action of a draft horse is receiving much more attention than formerly. To bring the highest price a draft horse must be able to move well. He must be specially good at the walk. Much depends upon the early training of the colt. Teach a rapid walk the first thing when the colt is put in harness. Of course the breeding has a lot to do with the gait of a colt, but a well-bred colt, if harnessed at first with an old, slow walking horse, will form the habit of a slow walk. Train the colt to go straight ahead; a wobbly gait will condemn an otherwise good animal in the markets.

One of the farm teams should be brood mares.

It is best for the average farmer to handle the draft breeds.

If bred to foal just after the flies are gone in the fall, mares can nurse the colts during the winter and be ready to do a good share of the spring work.

There is profit all the time in a pair of good brood mares handled in this way.

Never breed to a grade sire, no matter how good he looks.

The colts from a grade sire are a very uncertain lot.

With a high-grade mare and a purchased sire, it is pretty safe to say that the colt will be better than the mare.

No farmer should part with the right kind of a brood mare—whether she is of heavy draft breed or the light harness type.

SOME BRISTLES.

If the shoats pile up in the pen at night, the pen is too cold, and there are too many shoats in the pen.

The under ones get too warm, crawl out and become chilled.

There is no profit in such management.

Make the pens more comfortable and put fewer shoats in each pen. Give a good bed of clean straw. A pig will always keep its bed-room clean if given the chance.

It is cruel and costly to deprive the pigs of comfort.

Every hog on the farm will help you to grow better crops if you save every bit of manure.

Clean the pens every day. It is a short and easy job when properly attended to; a hard one when neglected for days.

If the sows are constipated, give roots and ground flaxseed. A little wheat bran is also good.

The man who cares for hogs should have a liking for them.

Don't forget that you are feeding more than the brood sow; you are feeding her unborn pigs.

Give her a variety of food to insure a strong, healthy litter a little later.

Keep her thrifty and keep her active.

The feeder should talk to the sows. They enjoy it and become tractable and kind.

A wild, unmanageable sow at the time when her pigs are born is never profitable.

SUPREME COURT OF ONTARIO—

SPRING CLAUUS, 1916.

- THE HON. THE CHANCELLOR. LINDSAY (Jury), Tuesday, Feb. 8. GIBSON (Jury), Tuesday, March 14. BROWN (Non-Jury), Tuesday, April 12. GIBSON (Non-Jury), Tuesday, May 19. GIBSON (Non-Jury), Tuesday, May 29. GIBSON (Non-Jury), Tuesday, June 14. CHATHAM (Jury), Tuesday, Feb. 8. SHAW (Jury), Tuesday, Feb. 22. SHAW (Jury), Tuesday, March 7. BROCKVILLE (Jury), Tuesday, March 22. CORNWALL (Jury), Tuesday, April 12. PETERBORO (Non-Jury), Tuesday, April 12. St. Catharines (Non-Jury), Wednesday, May 11. London (Non-Jury), Monday, June 12. THE HON. THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE EXCHEQUER. Peterboro (Jury), Tuesday, Feb. 15. Weanona (Jury), Tuesday, Feb. 22. Watkinson (Jury), Tuesday, March 23. GIBSON (Jury), Tuesday, April 19. LORRAINE (Jury), Tuesday, April 28. Napawan (Non-Jury), Tuesday, May 2. Woodstock (Non-Jury), Tuesday, May 2. Pembroke (both), Tuesday, June 6. Port Arthur (Non-Jury), Tuesday, June 13. THE HON. MR. JUSTICE BRITTON. Cayuga (both), Tuesday, Feb. 15. St. Catharines (Jury), Tuesday, Feb. 22. Woodstock (Jury), Tuesday, March 14. Welland (Non-Jury), Tuesday, May 2. Sault Ste. Marie (both), Monday, April 19. Brantford (both), Tuesday, May 16. Brantford (Non-Jury), Tuesday, May 20. Kingston (Non-Jury), Tuesday, May 20. Cobourg (Non-Jury), Tuesday, May 20. THE HON. MR. JUSTICE LAFRANCE. Ben (both), Tuesday, Feb. 15. Napawan (Jury), Tuesday, Feb. 22. Ottawa (Jury), Tuesday, March 7. Port Arthur (Jury), Tuesday, April 10. Welland (Non-Jury), Tuesday, May 2. Goderich (Non-Jury), Tuesday, May 9. Walkerton (Non-Jury), Tuesday, May 9. PARRY SOUND (both), Tuesday, June 13. THE HON. MR. JUSTICE LATCHFORD. Milton (both), Tuesday, Feb. 15. London (Jury), Tuesday, March 23. North Bay (Jury), Monday, April 3. Perth (both), Tuesday, March 27. Barrie (Non-Jury), Tuesday, April 12. Sudbury (Non-Jury), Tuesday, May 20. Belleville (Non-Jury), Tuesday, June 6. North Bay (Non-Jury), Tuesday, June 6. THE HON. MR. JUSTICE SUTHERLAND. Brampton (both), Tuesday, Feb. 15. Picton (both), Tuesday, Feb. 22. St. Thomas (Jury), Tuesday, March 14. Hamilton (Jury), Tuesday, March 27. Stratford (Non-Jury), Tuesday, May 2. Haldenburgh (both), Monday, April 17. Port Francis (both), Wednesday, June 7. Gars Bay (both), Wednesday, June 17. Owen Sound (Non-Jury), Tuesday, June 13. THE HON. MR. JUSTICE MIDDLETON. Belleville (Jury), Tuesday, Feb. 15. Stratford (Jury), Tuesday, Feb. 22. Whitby (both), Tuesday, March 7. Cobourg (Jury), Monday, March 13. Brantford (Jury), Tuesday, March 27. Chatham (Non-Jury), Tuesday, April 12. Sandwich (Non-Jury), Monday, May 8. Sarnia (Non-Jury), Tuesday, May 16. Cornwall (Non-Jury), Tuesday, June 6. MONTREAL. Hamilton—Hon. Mr. Justice Latchford, Jan. 17. Ottawa—Hon. Mr. Justice Sutherland, Jan. 17. Montreal (Criminal)—Hon. Mr. Justice Middleton, Jan. 19. Cornwall—Hon. Mr. Justice Kelley, Jan. 10.

HUGE LOSSES

German Casualties to Dec. 1 Over 2,500,000.

London Cable—Harold J. Tennant, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for War, made the statement in the House of Commons to-day that the total number of casualties published in the official lists for Prussia, Saxony, Bavaria and Wurttemberg up to Nov. 30 were 2,534,460. Of this number, Mr. Tennant added, 454,228 men were killed or died of their wounds, 354,198 were severely wounded, 27,874 died of disease and 351,149 were missing. Naval casualties, he said, were not included in these figures.

THE POULTRY WORLD

SUDDEN DEATHS IN POULTRY.

Sudden death is by no means an uncommon thing amongst poultry, but it is always due (except in cases of poisoning) to one of two immediate causes—apoplexy or syncope. Apoplexy is due to rupture of one of the small blood vessels in the region of the brain, which results from the circulation of the blood being checked by some such cause as 'excitement or indigestion. A bird which is inordinately fat is always liable to that. The attack comes on quite suddenly, and death in many cases takes place almost immediately. If not, the bird is paralyzed, and remains so until death supervenes a few hours subsequently, or as rarely happens, it remains consciousness. No treatment is really of any avail after a seizure. It has been suggested that to open a vein under the wing will give relief, but I have no confidence in that, and do not see what good it would do. The best thing in my mind, would be to cut the bird's throat at once, and so make it fit for a seizure. Should the patient regain consciousness, however, a dose of castor oil should be given at once, and care should be taken by reducing the food, increasing the amount of exercise, and by similar efforts to prevent a recurrence of the danger.

SYNCOPE IS AN AFFECTION OF THE HEART

A sort of fainting fit from which birds rarely recover. The most important point is to ascertain whether a bird has had a seizure whether it is a case of apoplexy or syncope, because in the former quietening treatment is necessary whereas, in the latter the only hope lies in stimulants. A bird attacked with syncope is usually very quiet in its helplessness, whereas, an apoplectic patient quivers, twists its neck about, and spreads out its tail. Syncope, of course, cannot be provided against, and should any bird have a seizure which appears to point to that as its cause, the only thing one could do would be to pour a little stimulant down its throat.

It cannot be too clearly emphasized that these cases in which sudden death overtakes a bird are almost invariably brought about by a wrong system of feeding. Maize-feeding is a prolific cause (indirectly) of sudden death, because it makes fatty hearts and so gives rise to heart failure, and it tends also to cause the blood to become thick and the liver sluggish. These are the preliminaries to a burst blood vessel. In many cases of apoplexy in fowls the blood vessels have themselves degenerated and lost their elasticity—which means that they become brittle and readily give way when there is sudden excitement causing a rush of blood to point to that as the cause of the seizure. In the Farmer and Stockbreeder.

DUST BATHS.

Laying hens must have their morning dust bath if they are to lay the maximum number of eggs through the winter. It is a necessary luxury for them. By its use they are enabled to rid themselves of mites and to remove all scales and dirt from the skin.

Lice and mites do their greatest injury to the fowls at night while in the roost. Instinctively they look for a place to dust in the morning. Do not force your hens to dust in the dropping or feed litter. During the summer they will usually find their own dusting place such as the road or in the shade of trees and shrubbery, but in the winter it must be provided for them. Nail an old greasy bin in one corner of the house. Elevate it above the floor so that it will not get filled with straw or litter and put in six or eight inches of dusting material. During moderate weather their box may be placed out in the pen.

To be effective, the dusting material must be very light and dry, and fine enough to fill the breathing pores of the mites and lice. The finer the better.

A good dusting material is composed of equal parts of fine sand, road dust and sifted coal ashes. A cupful of kerosene and a handful of sulphur thoroughly mixed with the dust will make the dust bath still more effective. C. S. Anderson, Colorado Agricultural College, Fort Collins, Canada.

NOTES.

Every neglect in poultry raising has its cost.

There should be more brooms worn out in the poultry house.

There is much to learn even by the most experienced poultryman.

The poultry business is not a get-rich-quick affair. It is a real business requiring careful attention and patience.

The man who thinks, then works on that thought, generally succeeds; while the man who depends entirely upon his hands more often makes a failure.

The farmer who dories pure-bred poultry plainly proclaims that he is in a "rut" farmer. He contends what thousands of progressive, intelligent farmers are making a source of constant money-bringing on their farms. Prejudice is a rank stumbling block in any calling.

Human beings, fowls are fond of a variety in the bill of fare.

Hens need attention on cold days. Let in the sunshine, and see that there is clean, loose, dry litter on the floor.

When weather will permit, the hens prefer being outdoors. But when comfortable quarters are provided, the fowls never fail to make use of them in bad weather.

Breeding stock should be purchased now. Get them used to the poultry quarters and properly handle them for egg production in the early spring that will insure both good and strong fertility. But few of the leading breeds will have much good breeding stock for sale in the early spring. The time to purchase if a good selection is wished for, is now.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKET

Table with columns for 'FARMERS' MARKET' and 'SUGAR MARKET'. Lists various commodities like eggs, butter, chickens, and their prices.

Table with columns for 'SUGAR MARKET'. Lists various sugar products and their prices.

Wool—Washed fleece wool as to quality, 40 to 45 per lb. ... Receipts—22 calves; 430 hogs; 170 sheep. Export cattle, choice ... Butcher cattle, choice ...

LIVE STOCK.

Table listing live stock prices for various types of cattle, sheep, and hogs.

OTHER MARKETS.

WINNIPEG GRAIN MARKET.

Table showing grain market prices for wheat, barley, and other crops.

MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET.

Table showing grain market prices for Minneapolis.

DULUTH GRAIN MARKET.

Table showing grain market prices for Duluth.

LONDON LIVE STOCK.

Table showing live stock prices for London.

BUFFALO LIVE STOCK.

Table showing live stock prices for Buffalo.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE.

Table showing produce prices for Liverpool.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Table showing live stock prices for Chicago.