

Lesson I.

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

January 3, 1909

Acts 1: 1-11. *Commit to memory vs. 8, 9. Study Acts 1: 1-14.

GOLDEN TEXT—It came to pass while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.—Luke 24: 51.

1 The former treatise¹ have I made, O Theophilus,² of all that Jesus began both to do and³ teach.2 Until the day in which he⁴ was taken up, after that he⁵ through the Holy Ghost, had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:3 To whom⁶ also he shewed himself alive after his passion by⁷ many infallible proofs,⁸ being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things⁹ pertaining to the kingdom of God:4 And, being assembled together with them,¹⁰ he commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but¹¹ wait for the promise of the Father, which,¹² saith he, ye have heard of me.5 For John¹³ truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.6¹⁴ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord,¹⁵ wilt thou at this time restore¹⁶ again the kingdom to Israel?

Revised Version.—1 Omit have; 2 concerning; 3 to; 4 was received up; 5 had given commandment through the Holy Ghost; 6 he also; 7 many proofs; 8 appearing unto them by the space of forty days; 9 he charged them not to depart; 10 said he, ye heard from me; 11 indeed baptized; 12 They therefore, when they were come together, asked him: 13 dost; 14 Omit again; 15 know times or seasons; 16 set within his own authority; 17 when; 18 my witnesses both, etc.; 19 Omit in; 20 said; 21 as they were looking; 22 were looking stedfastly into; 23 Omit up; 24 looking into; 25 Omit same; 26 beheld him going.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Lord's Promise, 1-5.

II. The Lord's Commission, 6-8.

III. The Lord's Departure 9-11.

DAILY READINGS

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

M.—The ascending Lord, Acts 1: 1-14. T.—Parting blessing, Luke 24: 36-53. W.—The last command, Mk. 16: 14-20. Th.—Victorious I Eph. 4: 1-10. F.—New Year's song, Ps. 96. S.—Head over all, Eph. 1: 15-23. S.—Highly exalted, Phil. 2: 1-11.

Shorter Catechism.—Ques. 1. What is the chief end of man? A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

EXPOSITION

By Rev. Professor James W. Falconer, B.D., Halifax, N.S.

Time and Place—May, A.D. 30; Mount of Olives.

A Foreword—The Lessons from John's Gospel for the first six months of 1908 closed with the appearance of the risen Jesus at the Sea of Galilee, John 21: 12-23. Before His ascension, the risen Saviour commissioned His disciples to preach the gospel throughout the whole world, Matt. 28: 19; Mark 16: 15; Luke 24: 46, 47.

The Acts of the Apostles, from which the Lessons for the whole of 1909 will be taken, was written about A.D. 75, by Luke, a physician and close friend of Paul (Col. 4: 14), a first-class historian. It tells the marvelous story of the growth of Christ's kingdom, through the carrying out of the Lord's commission. Three ideas are uppermost:—

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel:

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

The Question on Missions—(First Quarter, A DOCTOR IN HONAN).—1. Do many sick people come to our missionaries in Honan? Yes, very many. There are only four hospitals for 8,000,000 of people, many of whom suffer from terrible diseases. A doctor will often treat over 200 patients a day, besides performing several operations.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 107 (Supplemental Lesson); 111; 67; 49 (Ps. Sel.); 537 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 64.

Special Scripture Reading—Phil. 2: 5-11. (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.

(1) The Holy Spirit is the supreme Agent in the church: Christianity is divine. (2) The gospel is meant for the whole world: Christianity is universal. (3) The Jews are the greatest foes of the new religion: Christianity is more than a Jewish system.

I. The Lord's Promise, 1-5.

Vs. 1, 2. *The former treatise*; "discourse". This refers, as all scholars agree, to Luke's Gospel (see Luke 1: 3). *Theophilus*; probably a Roman officer, to whom Luke's Gospel, as well as the Acts, was written. Luke 1: 3 prefixes, "most excellent" (noble), likely an official title, showing that Theophilus probably belonged to the higher ranks of society. *All that Jesus began*. Jesus' earthly ministry is the beginning of His eternal ministry. He continues from heaven, through

*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.