

✻ The Sunday School ✻

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubets' Notes.

First Quarter, 1902.

JANUARY TO MARCH.

Lesson II. January 12. Acts 2:1-11

GOLDEN TEXT.

The promise is unto you and to your children.—Acts 2:39

EXPLANATORY.

I. THE ASSEMBLY ON PENTECOST.—Vs. 1. WHEN. I THE DAY OF PENTECOST WAS FULLY COME. Was being completed. It was at the beginning of the day which was not yet complete. The day had not merely dawned, but was shining in its full glory, showing how bright must have been the flame that appeared. Pentecost was a harvest festival, celebrated fifty days after the Passover. The word means "fiftieth."

II. THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.—Vs. 2-4. This was one of the greatest, most epochal days in the world's history. 2. AND SUDDENLY. As they were praying. So the lightning breaks forth suddenly from the cloud, but the electricity that prepared for it had been gathering silently for hours.

A SOUND . . . AS OF A RUSHING MIGHTY WIND. R. V. "as of the rushing of a mighty wind, a mighty wind borne along. It is not said that there was any wind, but only 'a sound as of a wind.'" The audible sign filling the room announced the power represented by it as doing the same. AND IT FILLED ALL THE HOUSE. Not merely the upper room of Acts 1:13. This was a token that the Spirit would fill the whole church which is the house of God (1 Tim. 3:15) and that it filled every part and faculty of the soul, which is the temple of the Holy Ghost.

3. AND THERE APPEARED. The audible sign is followed by a visible. CLOVEN TONGUES LIKE AS OF FIRE. Not fire, but with the appearance and brightness of fire, as the burning bush which Moses saw. CLOVEN. Parted as from a central flame. The idea is not that each tongue of fire was divided or forked, but that the fiery appearance, at first presenting itself as a single body, one mighty flame of fire, soon divided into separate tongues of flame, one for each person in the assembly. AND IT, the appearance of flame, one tongue, SAT UPON EACH OF THEM. Apostles, laymen, and women.

4. AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST. "Filled" can mean nothing less than that the whole capacity of each man was occupied, and all his being under the influence. The degree of receptivity varied, no doubt, but the lesser and the greater vessels were all full.

III. THE RESULTS FROM THIS NEW POWER. THE NEW ERA BEGUN.—Vs. 4:11. BEGAN TO SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES, in other languages than their own Hebrew, or Aramaic (the then modern form of the Hebrew), or Greek; with all three of which they naturally were more or less familiar.

5. AND THERE WERE DWELLING AT JERUSALEM. Both residents (for the foreign Jews loved to spend their declining years there) and pilgrims who had come up to the Pentecost feast. DEVOUT MEN. Truly religious men, waiting for the appearing of the promised Messiah. These were the persons most likely to become Christians. OUT OF EVERY NATION UNDER HEAVEN. Only a very small portion of the Jewish people lived in Palestine during the times of our Lord and his apostles; by far the largest number were natives of other lands.

6. NOW WHEN THIS WAS NOISED ABROAD. Better as in R. V. "And when this sound was heard." Literally, "this sound having taken place." The Greek word here for "sound" is never used for "report" or "rumor." It must mean either the sound of the rushing mighty wind, or the sound of the disciples talking in the various languages. The sound was heard outside of the house and drew the attention of the passing crowds. AND WERE CONFONDED. The whole assembly were thrown into confusion, or the individuals were perplexed and confused as to the meaning of this strange phenomenon. EVERY MAN HEARD THEM (was hearing, imperfect) SPEAK IN HIS OWN LANGUAGE. A different word from "tongues in vs. 4. It means both dialect and language.

7. ALL AMAZED, with sudden, overwhelming surprise, AND MARVELLED, with a continuing, questioning wonder. ALL . . . GALILEANS. All the disciples (except Judas) were from Galilee.

8. IN OUR OWN TONGUE. Language, dialect; same word as in vs. 6. So, still, the Bible speaks the universal language, coming home to each soul of whatever nation or race, speaking to his individual needs, and answering to his longings and prayers.

9. PARTHIANS, AND MEDES, AND ELAMITES, in the Persian Empire beyond the Tigris, and including Turkistan and Afghanistan to the border of India. Here some of the ten tribes were settled by Shalmanezzer. They all spoke Persian, but in different provincial forms and dialects. MESOPOTAMIA, i. e., "between the rivers" Tigris and Euphrates. And includes Assyria and Babylonia, now belonging to the Turkish Empire. The language was some form of Chaldee. JUDÆA. Speaking Aramaic in a different dialect from Galilee. CAPPADOCIA, IN PONTUS, AND ASIA. Not our Asia, but a small Roman province in what is now Asia Minor.

10. PHRYGIA, AND PAMPHYLIA. Here Greek, a different dialect in each, was spoken by the educated, but the common people had their own dialects. The above five were all in Asia Minor. EGYPT, where the language was Coptic. LIBYA, in northern Africa, the portion referred to being CYRENE, on the Mediterranean. Their language is not certainly known, but they must have spoken also Greek. ROME, with the Latin language. JEWS AND PROSELYTES, i. e., heathen who had accepted the Jewish religion. These terms probably include all the preceding nations.

11. CRETES, from the island of Crete in the Mediterranean, now called Candia. They may have spoken Greek. ARABIANS, from the great peninsula which stretches between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. They spoke Arabic. THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF GOD. The disciples told the people of all these countries, in their own languages, about God's wondrous love in sending his son Jesus, the Messiah, to save men from sin, and bring in the glorious days foretold by the prophets.

SECOND EFFECT. On the people the effect was, at first, one of intense amazement and perplexity. 12. AMAZED. The Greek verb is one of which our word "ecstasy" is almost a transliteration. It means "to throw out of position," hence, "to drive one out of one's senses," hence "to amaze, astonish." WERE IN DOUBT, "perplexity." They could not understand the meaning till Peter explained it to them.

THIRD EFFECT. 13. OTHERS MOCKING. The Greek is from a word meaning "a jest or joke," and the preposition "through." To them it was a jest all through, something to be sneered at. THESE MEN ARE FULL OF NEW WINE. At that season there was no new wine, in the sense of unfermented. But it refers to the last vintage of the previous autumn. It was "sweet wine," still in the process of fermenting, "referring to the lusciousness of the quality of its make, and not of necessity to the brevity of its age." Only those foreign Jews of each country could understand what was said in their own language. To all others the words were unintelligible, and seemed like a meaningless babel. Similar results are often noticed in a revival of religion. Peter, in his sermon, defends the disciples from this charge of drunkenness. They well knew that "in the East men drink only in the evening, so that no drunken person is ever seen by day."

FORGETTING TO THANK MOTHER.

Of course, you girls and boys are not the kind who forget to say "Thank you," when anybody does you a favor. When you were very small, before you could so much as talk plainly, papa and mamma taught you these two little words, and ever since you have been careful about using them at the right time.

There are a good many people who are careful to say "Thank you" when somebody passes them the bread at dinner or lends them a book to read, but who receive other and greater kindnesses without saying a word. "Where are my rubbers?" cries Jack, as he is about to start to school some rainy morning. "Oh, dear! I wish folks would let my rubbers alone!" "Here they are, Jack," mamma says quickly, as the sound of the impatient voice comes to her ears. "Let them beside the register to have them get nice and warm." And perhaps Jack says, "Oh," and perhaps he says nothing at all. It is not likely that he says "Thank you." We fear his mother is used to it, however. Most mothers are.

How many boys and girls think of saying "Thank you" for the hours mother spends mending their torn clothes, or her care of them when they are sick, or for any of the little sacrifices she is making all the time? If they want any help on their lessons, mother gives it as a matter of course, and they usually forget that it is anything for which to thank her for. They take it for granted that whatever they want mother will give them, if she possibly can. And so she will, but her willingness and her love and her unselfishness are no excuse for their being ungrateful and discourteous.—Happy Hours.

SILENCE.

There is much help in silence. From its touch we gain renewed life. Silence is to the soul what his mother Earth was to Briareus. From contact with it we rise healed of our hurts and strengthened for the fight. Amid the babel of the schools we stand bewildered and affrighted. Silence gives us peace and hope. Silence teaches us no creed, only that God's arms are around the universe.

How small and unimportant seem all our fretful troubles and ambitions when we stand with them in our hand before the great calm face of silence! We smile at them ourselves, and are astounded.

Silence teaches us how little we are—how great we are. In the world's market-places we are tinkers, tailors, apothecaries, thieves—respectable or otherwise, as the case may be—mere atoms of a mighty machine, mere insects in a vast hive.

It is only in silence that it comes home to us that we are something much greater than this—that we are men, with all the universe and all eternity before us. It is in silence we hear the voice of truth. The temples and marts of men echo all night and day to the clamor of lies and shams and quackeries. But in silence falsehood cannot live. You cannot float a lie on silence. A lie has to be puffed aloft, and kept from falling by men's breath. Leave a lie on the bosom of silence, and it sinks. A truth floats there fair and stately, like some stout ship upon a deep ocean. Silence buoys her up lovingly for all men to see. Not until she has grown worn-out and rotten, and is no longer a truth, will the waters of silence close over her.

Silence is the only real thing we can lay hold of in this world of passing dreams. Time is a shadow that will vanish with the twilight of humanity; but silence is a part of the eternal. All things that are true and lasting have been taught to men's hearts by advice.—Jerome K. Jerome.

USEFUL DOGS.

The dogs of Belgium do not have as easy a time as do the dogs of America.

They are not used merely for purposes of admiration and protection, but are compelled to earn their living by daily labor. The milk used in Brussels is delivered mainly by cart drawn by dogs. They are always harnessed in groups large enough to enable them to pull their wagons with comparative ease, except in occasional difficult places, but when they find such places they seldom shirk their duty. The dogs have a money value, just as horses and oxen do here. The visitor in Belgium who has always looked upon the dog as a household pet is pained to see dogs harnessed.—Pets and animals.

Proverbs always lose by translation; still we venture to give a few from the German:

Nobody knows a poor man.
The soup of the poor is thin.
The rich go free, the poor are hung.
The rich are at home everywhere.
The poor have the children, the rich the cattle.

The chickens of the poor and the daughters of the rich do not remain at home long.

THOUGHTS.

A thought within a busy brain
Once grew, and grew apace,
Until it could not more remain
In such a narrow space.
So, springing from the loosened tongue,
It winged its airy flight
In living, helpful word that sung
And made a sad heart light.

Another little thought, as sweet,
By silence was held fast
Till the greater reaper stayed his feet
And set it free at last.
It found its life in flowers rare
And tears and tender speech,
But they that death's pale colors wear
No loving words can reach.

Ah! little thoughts, fly forth to-day,
A flock of white-winged birds.
Go, full of love, to cheer the way
As kindly, precious words.
Rest not, inactive, useless, vain,
Till death your torches light;
But shine right now, through sun and rain,
And make each dark place bright.
—Pauline Frances Camp, in Boston Transcript.

Rain and sweat have no effect on harness treated with Eureka Harness Oil. It resists the damp, keeps the leather soft and pliable. Stitches do not break. No rough surface to chafe and cut. The harness not only keeps looking like new, but wears twice as long by the use of Eureka Harness Oil.

EUREKA HARNESS OIL



Sold everywhere in cases—all sizes. Made by Imperial Oil Company.

Wanted Everywhere

Bright young folks to sell Patriotic Goods. Some ready, others now in preparation in England.

Address to-day the

VARIETY MFG CO.

Bridgetown, N.S.

B.B.B. Cures to Stay Cured

The most chronic diseases of the Stomach, Liver, bowels and Blood.

Thousands of testimonials from those who have been permanently cured by the use of Burdock Blood Bitters speak of its unfailing efficacy in Dyspepsia, Biliousness, Sick Headache, Liver Complaint, Eczema, Erysipelas, Scrofula, Sores, Ulcers, Boils, Pimples, Hives, Ringworms, and all blood humors.

If you want to be cured to stay cured, use only B.B.B.

Kind Greetings

of the Season to ONE and ALL is tendered by the manufacturers of

**WOODILL'S
GERMAN
BAKING
POWDER.**

You really ought to try

**PURE GOLD
SELECT PURE SPICES**

in 5 and 10c. Packages. Full measure. Best quality.

Your Grocer has them.

SOUR STOMACH, FLATULENCE, HEARTBURN, AND ALL OTHER FORMS OF DYSPEPSIA.
Promptly relieved and cured by
K.D.C. THE MIGHTY CURER
