

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 <sup>1</sup> record of John, when the Jews sent priests and <sup>2</sup> Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou ?

20 And he confessed, and denied not ; <sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup> that prophet ? And he answered, No.

22 <sup>4</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup> which were sent were of the Pharisees.

25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou <sup>6</sup> be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither <sup>2</sup> that prophet ?

26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water ; but <sup>2</sup> there standeth one among you, whom ye know not ;

27 <sup>8</sup> He it is, who coming after me is preferred

**Revised Version**—<sup>1</sup> witness ; <sup>2</sup> and he ; <sup>3</sup> the ; <sup>4</sup> They said therefore ; <sup>5</sup> had been sent from ; <sup>6</sup> art not the Christ ; <sup>7</sup> in the midst of you standeth one ; <sup>8</sup> even he that cometh after me, the latchet of whose shoe ; <sup>9</sup> Bethany ; <sup>10</sup> On the morrow he seeth ; <sup>11</sup> become ; <sup>12</sup> for this cause came I ; <sup>13</sup> have beheld ; <sup>14</sup> as a dove out of heaven ; <sup>15</sup> he said ; <sup>16</sup> whomsoever ; <sup>17</sup> abiding upon ; <sup>18</sup> Spirit ; <sup>19</sup> have seen, and have borne witness.

### THE LESSON EXPLAINED

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

**Connection**—The Lesson follows upon Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, Matt. 4 : 1-11, and this upon Jesus' baptism by John.

**I. TESTIFYING TO CHRIST.**—19-21. The witness of John (Rev. Ver.). This is a Gospel of testi-

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

28 These things were done in <sup>2</sup> Bethab'ara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 <sup>10</sup> The next day John seeth Je'sus 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 <sup>11</sup> preferred before me : for he was before me.

31 And I knew him not : but that he should be made manifest to Is'rael, <sup>12</sup> therefore am I come baptizing with water.

32 And John bare <sup>1</sup> record, saying, I <sup>13</sup> saw the Spirit descending <sup>14</sup> 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, <sup>15</sup> the same said unto me, Upon <sup>16</sup> whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and <sup>17</sup> remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy <sup>18</sup> Ghost.

34 And I <sup>19</sup> saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

22, 23. Who art thou ? They were unwilling to go away baffled. The voice of one crying ; as a herald, to make Christ known—John lived only for this. In the wilderness ; a picture of the Jewish nation in its sin and ignorance. Make straight the way of the Lord. In the East, roads were repaired when the king was to come ; so John summoned the people to prepare, by repentance, for Christ's coming, Matt. 3 : 2 ; Mark 1 : 4. As said... Esaias (Isaiah). See Isa. 40 : 3.

24-28. They... were of the Pharisees ; a Jewish sect who would naturally be struck by John's baptism, since they set store by washings, Mark 7 : 3, 4. Why baptizest thou ? Baptizing was the act of a religious leader. What right had John to do this, since he was not one of the three persons mentioned in vs. 20, 21 ? I baptize with water ; an outward sign : the real baptism, the cleansing of the heart, only Christ can give. There standeth one among you ; present, but unrecognized. What a sensation the words would cause ! I am not worthy. To unloose Jesus' shoe's latchet, the work of a slave, John in his humility thought a high honor. Bethany beyond Jordan (Rev. Ver.) ;



Fords of the Jordan (Peloubet)

monies to Jesus. The Baptist's is the first. The Jews ; afterwards, as a class, the bitter enemies of Jesus. Sent priests and Levites ; "the superior and inferior ministers of the temple," the proper persons to inquire into religious matters. From