

Lesson II.

JESUS AND JOHN THE BAPTIST

January 12, 1908

John 1 : 25-34. Study John 1 : 19-34—Memory Verses, 29, 30.

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



25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Eli'as, 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 before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

28 These things were done in Bethab'ara beyond Jor'dan, where John was baptizing.

29 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 preferred before me : for he was before me.

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

32 And John bade 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.

THE LESSON RETOLD

While Jesus was growing up in Nazareth, John the Baptist was being taught by God the message he was to deliver to God's chosen people, a message to warn them to be sorry for their sins, and to prepare to meet the long promised Messiah or Christ, whose coming was now close at hand.

At last, John began to preach, and deliver this message in the wilderness of Judea. He was clothed in a long, rough garment, made of camels' hair, with a leathern girdle about his waist. People flocked to hear him from all the cities round about, and many thought that he might be the Christ. So the great Council of the nation in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him, where he was baptizing at the river Jordan, to ask him who he really was. And he said, "I am not the Christ". Then they asked, "Art thou Elias then?" (For the Jews thought that before the coming of the Messiah, Elias, or Elijah, the prophet, would come back from the dead.)

"Neither am I Elijah", answered John,

"nor am I that great Prophet of whom Moses spoke; but I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, as said Isaiah the prophet." Then they said, "What right, then, have you to baptize people, if you are neither Christ nor Elijah nor that prophet?" John did not explain his authority to them, but only went on to tell them that Christ was even now among them, though they did not know Him. And so great was He, that John did not think himself good enough to stoop down and unloose the latchet of his shoe.

The next day, as John was teaching beside the river, he suddenly saw Jesus Himself coming towards him, and he cried, saying, "Behold, here is the Messiah whom I have told you about—the Lamb of God, who is to die, that He may take away the sin of the world".

Now, some weeks before this, Jesus had come to John to be baptized. And after His baptism, as He was coming up out of