

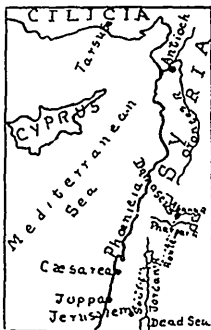
going, as he had seen him coming (v.3), a touch that emphasizes the reality of his appearance. Called .. servants, and a devout soldier. See on v. 2.

II. PETER PREPARED.—9, 10. On the morrow. From Caesarea to Joppa was about a day's journey. Upon the house-top. See Illustration. To pray. This was a favorite place for devotions. Sixth hour; noon (compare v. 3). Very hungry. It was about the usual meal time. Fell into a trance. It was as if his mind had passed out of his body and could see things invisible to the senses.

11-16. Saw heaven opened. The vision was from God. A certain vessel descending .. as .. a great sheet .. let down; like a sail let down to the earth by ropes at the four corners. Four-footed beasts .. creeping things .. fowls (Rev. Ver.); representatives of the whole animal creation. A voice .. Rise, Peter; kill and eat. By the law of Moses, some animals were "unclean", that is, for sacrifice or food (see Lev., ch. 11). Not so, Lord. Peter as a Jew, revolts from eating food that is common (impure according to the law of Moses), or unclean. God hath cleansed. The One who gave the law can revoke it. Call not thou common. The gospel was for all men alike.

III. PETER SENT.—17-20. Meanwhile Cornelius' messengers arrived, and Peter was instructed by the Holy Spirit to return with them.

The next day Peter set out for Caesarea, accompanied by six of the Christian brethren (see ch. 11 :



12). Arrived at the house of Cornelius, he preached the way of salvation through Jesus, and those who believed were baptized.

#### THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

CÆSAREA was a city on the coast of Palestine, about 23 miles south of Mount Carmel. It was built by Herod the Great, and became the Roman capital of Palestine. No

spot in Palestine can compare with this in romantic beauty. The old city was surrounded by a strong wall.

JOPPA, the modern Jaffa, is the seaport of Jerusalem, with which it is now joined by a railway. It is the only place on the Mediterranean coast between Egypt and Carmel that can afford shelter

to shipping. Various soap works and tanneries still exist on the seashore near the town, and it is the gate of entrance into Palestine for travelers and pilgrims from all quarters.

#### LESSON QUESTIONS

1, 2 Where did Cornelius live? What was his rank in the Roman army? What is said of his character? What other centurion did he resemble? To whom did he show kindness? What is said of his prayerfulness? What do we learn as to his household?

3-8 Who appeared to Cornelius? What question did Cornelius ask? Give the angel's answer. In what circumstances did Paul ask a similar question? (Acts 9: 6.) To whom was the centurion directed to send? What was he told Peter would do? What messengers were sent?

9-16 Where had Peter gone? For what purpose? What vision did he see? What was he bidden to do? Why did he object? How was his objection removed? Where is it said that the separation between Jews and Gentiles has been removed? (Eph. 2: 11-16.)

17-20 Who instructed Peter to go with Cornelius' messengers?

What was the result of Peter's visit to Cornelius?

#### FOR DISCUSSION

1. Bible visions.
2. Modern prejudices that should be removed.

#### A LESSON FOR LIFE

Longfellow's poem, Sandalphon, pictures that "angel of prayer", who,—

"With his feet on the ladder of light,

Gathers the prayers as he stands,

And they change into flowers in his hands."

This is the poet's way of saying that the sweetest and most beautiful things in life come to us as God's answers to our prayers.

Prove from Scripture—That God hears prayer.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 12. What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the estate wherein he was created? A. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death.

The Question on Missions—(Second Quarter. THE NEWCOMERS TO CANADA.)—1. What peoples are among the newcomers? Alphabetically arranged, they are as follows,—Americans, Armenians, British, Chinese, French, Germans, Greeks, Hebrews, Hindoos, Italians, Japanese, Scandinavians, Slavs and Syrians

#### FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How was Peter prepared to accept the centurion's invitation?

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2. What was the result of Peter's visit to Cornelius?

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