

Sabbath School.

BIBLE LESSONS.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN ACTS OF THE APOSTLES.

(Condensed from Peabody's Select Notes.)

Lesson II. July 10. Acts 2: 1-12.

THE DESCENT OF THE SPIRIT.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth."—John 16: 13.

EXPLANATORY.

I. THE PROMISE FULFILLED—THE HOLY SPIRIT RESTED.—1. And when the day of Pentecost...

WHY THIS HOUR? BECAUSE AT THIS DAY OF PENTECOST...

2. And suddenly. Without any previous indication and unexpectedly...

3. The wind is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. (1) It is invisible. (2) It is powerful...

4. It is the means of life. It filled all the house. As if in token of the wide range over which the new spiritual power was to extend...

5. And there appeared; i. e., to the entire assembly. After the audible sign immediately follows the visible...

6. The burning energy and zeal with which the disciples should be imbued...

7. The effects of the OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT. 4. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost...

8. Having used Bardsoll Blood Bitter for general debility, weakness and lack of appetite, I found it a safe cure.

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The Old Testament repeatedly makes mention of the influence of the Holy Spirit upon the minds of the prophets and others.

WHAT WAS THE GIFT OF TONGUES? The disciples began to speak in various languages. (1) Was this speaking in various languages a gift bestowed on the disciples for their use afterwards...

2. How is this related to the speaking with tongues afterwards spoken of by St. Paul (1 Cor. 14)? I answer that they were one and the same thing.

3. Now when this was noted abroad. Literally, "This sound having taken place." The Greek word here for sound is never used for "report" or "rumor."

4. In our own tongue wherein we were born. This remark excludes the possibility of Luke's meaning that the tongues were merely an ecstatic or impassioned style of discourse.

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How the Balloons Ran Away with Alan.

When his mother tied on his hat, kissed him good-bye, and told him not to be gone long, Alan did not mean in the least to disobey her.

Just inside the park was a man with a great number of balloons, red, green, and blue, more than Alan had ever seen before.

"Oh, I wish I could!" he said to himself. The balloons bobbed merrily up and down in the wind.

"Oh, oh, ketcha my balloons!" he cried; "somebody ketcha my balloons!" Alan caught the cord as it went past him, and held it fast in his fat fingers.

"Mamma, mamma, don't let me be run away with!" cried Alan. Up and down bobbed the balloons, as though they were laughing at him.

"Your mamma can't hear you," they seemed to say, "and we're going to carry you off to the clouds, just as you wished."

And if it had not been for a big bush near by, who knows what might have happened? But into the bush tumbled Alan, balloons and all.

"If you want to see a funny sight, just come out to the barn with me, Arthur."

"What is it, Uncle James?" "I'll wait and see if you can tell me, my boy."

Arthur Merrill had come to his uncle's farm in the late train the night before, and had just finished his breakfast.

"There, young man, did you ever see such a comical baby as that?" "It is a bird, uncle."

"Yes, but what kind of a bird? You can't tell me, so I will tell you. This is a crow he is a comical baby, surely," said Arthur, and the boy laughed heartily.

"He wants his ma," said Arthur, and in a moment the baby had found his wings and flown off to the fence, where Uncle James and Arthur watched his efforts to keep his balance.

"Soon a large, black crow, with flapping wings, came and landed on the fence-rail by his side, and the baby put his beak close to his mother's, as if to kiss her.

"The little fellow strayed too far from the nest this morning," said Uncle James. "Next time he will have more wisdom."

"As wise as a crow," is an old adage. The farmer has to invent all kinds of traps to keep the crows off the corn-fields.

"I should think the tar would spoil the corn as it would not sprout," said Arthur.

"It would seem so, but it does not. It comes up just as well."

"Look out there!" called out Uncle James at that instant. "We're too late. The old mother has got one of my brood of chickens. I only cooped them yesterday. It is the fattest calf in honor of the return of that baby of hers, I suppose. This is the first time I have lost a chicken this year."

"I'll have to put an old red flag over the nest and the wind will keep it blowing, and that may keep them away. But I suppose the crow mother wanted her boy to have a good breakfast, and 'broilers' are very high this time of year, so she concluded to help herself. It is wonderful what dumb creatures will do for their young; what risks they will run to protect and provide for them. There is a mother love in the birds, very beautiful to see, and when we are mowing in the meadow, and I find a ground bird's nest, I leave the grass around it and tell my men not to disturb the home, and bring sorrow to the good mother who tendeth her brood so carefully."—Selected.

Reference—The Messenger and Visitor.

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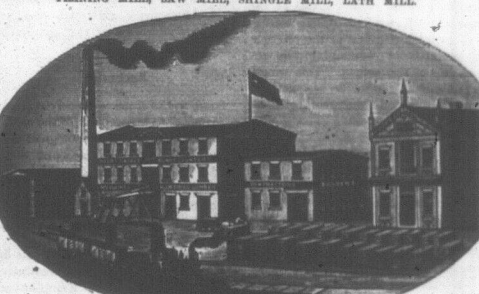
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