

Lesson II.

THE PROMISE OF POWER FULFILLED

Jan. 12, 1902

Acts 2: 1-11. Study Acts 2: 1-21—Memory Verses, 2-4.

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

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans?

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites,

and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

THE LESSON RETOLD

A few days after Jesus had gone back into heaven, the Jewish people from every part of the world gathered in Jerusalem to worship at the Temple, and to hold their great thanksgiving holiday called the Feast of Pentecost.

But the disciples of Jesus were not with the holiday-makers. They were met together in the upper room of a house by themselves, all quietly watching and praying as Jesus had commanded them, for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

All at once they heard a strange, rushing sound such as the wind makes before a storm, so that the very walls and roof of the house shook. The noise was followed quickly by a flash of dazzling brightness, and suddenly the place was filled with a fiery flame from heaven, a part of which rested upon each person in the room. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and were changed at once by His power from poor, ignorant men and women, into fearless teachers and

preachers of the gospel.

The Holy Spirit had brought the disciples a great and wonderful gift from God Himself, to help them in their new work. They were now able to think and speak in different languages, so that they could be understood by foreigners and strangers in any part of the earth.

When the visitors who had come to the feast at Jerusalem from such far-away places as Asia, Africa, Rome, Arabia and other foreign countries, heard what had happened among the disciples, they came in crowds to listen to their preaching.

When they heard the story of Jesus, each in his own native tongue, they were filled with the greatest wonder and surprise, saying, "How is this? These men whom we hear are only poor fishermen from Galilee. How can they speak in our language?"

Others said, "These men are surely full of new wine."

Then Peter stood up and, calling for order,