

PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY
—CYPRUS

May 2, 1909

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The Lesson continues the story of the church at Antioch.

GOLDEN TEXT—Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.—Mark 16 : 15.

Memorize vs. 2, 3. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Acts 13 : 1-12.

1 Now there were ¹in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers ; ²as Bar'nabas, and ³Sim'eon that was called Ni'ger, and Lu'cius of Cy'rene, and Man'aen, ⁴which had been brought up with Her'od the tetrarch, and Saul.

² As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Bar'nabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

³ And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

⁴ So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, ⁷departed unto Seleucia ; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

⁵ And when they were at Salamis, they ⁸preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews : and they had also John ⁹to their minister.

⁶ And when they had gone through the ¹⁰isle unto Pa'phos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-je'sus :

⁷ Which was with the ¹¹deputy of the country,

Revised Version.—¹ at Antioch, in the church that was there ; ² Omit as, ³ Symeon, ⁴ the foster-brother of Herod ; ⁵ And as ; ⁶ Then, when ; ⁷ went down to ; ⁸ proclaimed ; ⁹ as their attendant ; ¹⁰ whole island ; ¹¹ proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of understanding. The same called unto him Barnabas and Saul ; ¹² sought, ¹³ aside ; ¹⁴ proconsul ; ¹⁵ But Saul ; ¹⁶ fastened ; ¹⁷ guile ; ¹⁸ villany ; ¹⁹ son ; ²⁰ teaching.

Daily Readings.—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Paul's first missionary journey, Acts 13 : 1-12. T.—Sent by God, Isa. 6 : 1-8. W.—Good tidings, Isa. 40 : 1-11. Th.—Messengers needed, Rom. 10 : 6-17. F.—Christ's missioners, Luke 10 : 1-11. S.—Sorcery condemned, Deut. 18 : 9-14. S.—Paul's preaching, 1 Cor. 1 : 12-24.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



COIN OF EMPEROR CLAUDIUS

Thought to refer to famine of Acts 11 : 28. Observe on one side the emblem of a bushel.

I. A MISSION COMMENCED.—1. In the church . . . at Antioch ; which looked out across the Mediterranean towards the great Gentile world. Prophets and teachers ; two classes of inspired workers in the early church. The "prophet" received his divine message in a more direct way than the "teacher", being the mouthpiece of the Holy Spirit. (See chs. 11 : 27, 28 ; 15 : 32 ; 1 Cor. 12 : 28 ; Eph. 4 : 11.) Nothing is known of Simeon or Lucius, save what we are told here. "Niger" is Latin for "black", but it does not signify that Simeon was an African or had a dark skin, any more than the name John Black, with us. Man'aen the foster-brother (the adopted playmate and school-fellow) of Herod the tetrarch (Rev. Ver.) ; "ruler of a fourth part",—Herod Antipas (see Matt. 14 : 1-12). Strange that a Christian teacher should have come from such a household !

2, 3. Ministered to the Lord ; in prayer, or by teaching others the way of salvation. Fasted ; abstained from food for religious reasons. The Holy

Ser'gius Pau'lus, a prudent man ; who called for Bar'nabas and Saul, and ¹²desired to hear the word of God.

⁸ But El'ymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn ¹³away the ¹⁴deputy from the faith.

⁹ Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, ¹⁶set his eyes on him,

¹⁰ And said, O full of all ¹⁷subtily and all ¹⁷mischievousness, wilt thou cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord ?

¹¹ And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness ; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

¹² Then the ¹⁴deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the ²⁰doctrine of the Lord.

¹³ Omit as, ³ Symeon, ⁴ the foster-brother of Herod ; ⁵ And as ; ⁶ Then, when ; ⁷ went down to ; ⁸ proclaimed ; ⁹ as their attendant ; ¹⁰ whole island ; ¹¹ proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of understanding. The same called unto him Barnabas and Saul ; ¹² sought, ¹³ aside ; ¹⁴ proconsul ; ¹⁵ But Saul ; ¹⁶ fastened ; ¹⁷ guile ; ¹⁸ villany ; ¹⁹ son ; ²⁰ teaching.

Ghost said ; speaking through one or more of the "prophets". Separate me Barnabas and Saul. The church at Antioch had set apart their money (ch. 11 : 29, 30), now they must set apart men for the work of Christ. For the work whereunto I have called them. Besides the call through the church leaders, Barnabas and Saul received the inner call of the Spirit. Fasted and prayed ; a solemn devotional service. Laid their hands on them ; solemnly setting them apart for the work pointed out by the Spirit. Sent them away ; on the greatest of errands, the preaching of the gospel to the heathen.

II. A CONVERT WON.—4-7. They ; Barnabas and Saul. Sent forth by the Holy Ghost. From the beginning, the Holy Spirit and the church have been partners in the work of missions. To Seleucia ; the seaport of Antioch. Sailed to Cyprus ; a voyage of 80 to 100 miles. Salamis. See Geography Lesson. Preached . . . in the synagogues of the Jews. It was natural for these missionaries to preach first to the Jews, who shared with them a knowledge of the Bible, and who were looking for the Messiah. John ; that is, John Mark, ch. 12 : 25. Gone through the isle ; preaching the gospel as they went. Unto Paphos. See Geography Lesson. A certain sorcerer, a false prophet ; a magician who professed to foretell the future. Bar-Jesus ; "son of Jesus" or "Joshua". With the proconsul (Rev. Ver.) ; the Roman governor of the island. A prudent man ; a fair-minded man, ready to hear the word of God.

III. AN OPPONENT SILENCED.—8, 9. Ely-mas ; from an Aramaic word meaning "the wise". It is not necessarily a proper name, but may be used