

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

SECOND QUARTER—STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.

APRIL, 1884.

NOTE.—The Scripture verses to be committed to memory are indicated by an index [88] at the side.

A.D. 54.]

LESSON I.—PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY.

[April 6.

Acts 18. 23-28, and 19. 1-7.

THE HOLY GHOST



→CAME←

23 And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of a Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening *b* all the disciples.
a Gal. 1. 2; 4. 14.—b 1sa. 55. 3; 1 Thess. 3. 2.

24 And *c* a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus.
c 1 Cor. 1. 12; 4. 6; Titus 3. 13.

25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent *d* in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing *e* only the baptism of John.
d Rom. 12. 11.—e Chap. 19. 3.

26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, *f* helped them much which had believed through grace:
f 1 Cor. 3. 6; 2 Cor. 1. 24.

28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, *g* showing by the Scriptures that Jesus *d* was Christ.

g Chap. 9. 22; 17. 3; 1 Cor. 15. 3. 4.—*a* Or. is the Christ; Gen. 49. 10; Deut. 18. 15; Num. 21. 9; Psa. 16. 9. 10; 22; 132. 11; Isa. 7. 14; 9. 6; 55; Jer. 23. 5; Dan. 9. 24; Micah. 5. 2; Mal. 3. 1.

1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was *h* at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

h 1 Cor. 1. 12.

2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, *i* We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

i Chap. 8. 16; 1 Sam. 3. 7.

3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto *j* John's baptism.

j Chap. 18. 25.

4 Then said Paul, *k* John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

k Chap. 1. 5; 11. 16; 13. 24.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized *l* in the name of the Lord Jesus.

l Gal. 3. 27.

6 And when Paul had *m* laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they *n* spake with tongues, and prophesied.

m Chap. 6. 6; 2 Tim. 1. 6.—*n* Chap. 7. 4.

7 And all the men were about twelve.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

We turn from the Epistles more to the story of the Acts, and catch a glimpse of the apostle Paul hurrying among the isles of the Aegean, pausing a few weeks at Ephesus, where he awakened a deep interest in the hearts of the worshippers in the synagogue: then hastening onward to Palestine, where he gave greeting to the mother Church, and thence sought the companionship of the beloved ones at Antioch. After the apostle had left Ephesus, and was beginning his third missionary journey among the highlands of central Asia Minor, there came to Ephesus one whose largeness of mind and gifts of teaching made a deep impression upon the worshipping community of that metropolis. Apollos, of Alexandria, brought to the synagogue his stores of Bible lore, his brilliant powers of oratory, his deep spiritual insight. He stood on the verge of the Gospel, a disciple of John the Baptist in the wilderness, but almost in sight of the Promised Land. The tent-maker and his wife, Aquila and Priscilla, who had enjoyed a year's fellowship with Paul, listened to Apollos in the synagogue, and saw in him a worthy soil for the Gospel seed. They took him to their home, and Apollos sat at the table, a listener, where Paul had sat as a teacher. His quick mind caught at the truth, and saw it in all its aspects. Apollos stepped forth from the wilderness into Canaan, and became a rejoicing Christian. Longing to know more of the Gospel as taught by Paul, he sailed over to Corinth, where his rare gifts made him a leader in the Church, and his generous spirit averted the danger of a schism among its many parties. Years after we find him named among the choice friends whom the apostle Paul longed to see when age came creeping on. Titus 3. 13. Had Apollos after his conversion remained at Ephesus, he might have met Paul there, for soon the apostle came, prepared now to lay the foundation for a mighty Church of God in the very midst of Satan's seat. He found first a small body of men, who, like Apollos, were in the dim light of John the Baptist's teaching, but soon were led forth into clearer experience and a more definite testimony.