

Lesson I.

PETER AND CORNELIUS

April 4, 1909

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The Lesson for to-day follows close on that for March 14, Æneas and Dorcas, Acts 9 : 31-43.

GOLDEN TEXT—In every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. —Acts 10 : 35.

*Memorize vs. 13-15. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Acts 10 : 1-20. Study Acts 10 : 1-48.

1 There was a certain man in Cæsarea² called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band.

2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house,³ which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

3 He saw in a vision⁴ evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in⁵ to him, and saying⁶ unto him, Cornelius.

4 And⁷ when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are⁸ come up for a memorial before God.

5 And now send men to Joppa, and⁹ call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter :

6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side :¹¹ he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

7 And when the angel¹² which spake unto¹³ Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually ;

8 And¹⁴ when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa.

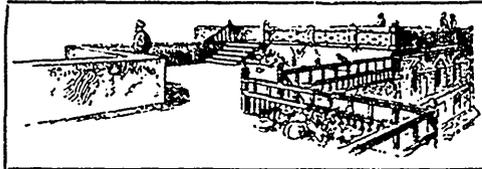
9 On the morrow, as they¹⁵ went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth-hour :

10 And he became¹⁶ very hungry, and¹⁷ would

Revised Version—Now ;² Cornelius by name ;³ who ;⁴ openly, as it were about ;⁵ unto ;⁶ to ;⁷ he, fastening his eyes upon him, and being afraid, said ;⁸ gone up ;⁹ fetch ;¹⁰ who is surnamed ;¹¹ Omit rest of verse ;¹² that ;¹³ him ;¹⁴ having rehearsed all things ;¹⁵ were on ;¹⁶ Omit very ;¹⁷ desired to eat ;¹⁸ he beholdeth the heaven ;¹⁹ as it were a great sheet, let down by four corners upon the earth ;²⁰ and creeping things of the earth and fowls of the heaven ;²¹ and ;²² a voice came ;²³ make not ;²⁴ straightway ;²⁵ Omit again ;²⁶ was much perplexed ;²⁷ the ;²⁸ might ;²⁹ by Cornelius, having ;³⁰ Omit and ;³¹ lodging ;³² But arise, and ;³³ nothing doubting.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Peter and Cornelius, Acts 10 : 1-16. T.—Peter and Cornelius, Acts 10 : 17-33. W.—Peter and Cornelius, Acts 10 : 34-48. Th.—Doubt and satisfaction, Acts 11 : 1-18. F.—A blessing for Gentiles, Gal. 3 : 7-14. S.—Jesus and a Samaritan, John 4 : 1-14. 8.—Gentiles brought in, Isa. 60 : 1-11.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



AN EASTERN HOUSETOP

I. CORNELIUS DIRECTED.—1, 2. A certain man in Cæsarea. See Geography Lesson. Cornelius ; a common name amongst the Romans. A centurion ; the commander of 100 men, or half a maniple (see below). The band ; that is, the cohort. In the Roman army, the legion of 6,000 men was divided into 10 cohorts, and each cohort into three maniples. Italian ; because first raised in Italy. Devout . . feared God. He was a semi-proselyte to the Jewish religion, having accepted many of its beliefs, but had not submitted to circumcision. With all his house. This good centurion had doubtless instructed his household in religious things. Gave much alms to the people ; the Jewish people amongst whom he was stationed, — a kindness unusual in a foreign soldier. Prayed to God alway ; eager to know more of God's way of salvation (see ch. 11 : 14).

of God coming. V. 30 says, "a man in bright clothing". Afraid ; of the supernatural being What is it, Lord? Cornelius longed to know and was ready to do, God's will. Prayer and . . alms are come up ; like sweet incense, Lev 2 : 2 ; Ps. 141 : 2 ; Phil. 4 : 18. A memorial before God. God remembers them and is about to answer them. Send men to Joppa ; 30 miles south of Cæsarea. Simon . . Peter. Both names are given to prevent mistake. Simon a tanner. See ch. 9 : 43. House . . by the sea side. The tanner's trade was reckoned unclean among the Jews, and had therefore to be carried on outside the city walls. Angel . . departed. Cornelius saw him

have eaten : but while they made ready, he fell into a trance.

11 And¹⁸ saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending¹⁹ unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth.

12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts²⁰ of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter, kill, and eat.

14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord ; for I have never eaten any thing that is common²¹ or unclean.

15 And²² the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed,²³ that call not thou common.

16²⁴ This was done thrice : and²⁴ the vessel was received up²⁵ again into heaven.

17 Now while Peter²⁶ doubted in himself what²⁷ this vision which he had seen²⁸ should mean, behold the men¹² which were sent²⁹ from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house,³⁰ and stood before the gate.

18 And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were³¹ lodged there.

19³² While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

20³³ Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them,³³ doubting nothing : for I have sent them.

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma