

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 ¹Cæsarea ²called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band.

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

3 He saw in a vision ⁴evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in ⁵to him, and saying ⁶unto him, Cornelius.

4 And ⁷when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord ? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are ⁸come up for a memorial before God.

5 And now send men to Joppa, and ⁹call for one Simon, ¹⁰whose surname is Peter :

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

7 And when the angel ¹²which spake unto ¹³Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually ;

8 And ¹⁴when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa.

9 On the morrow, as they 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 became ¹⁵very hungry, and ¹⁷would

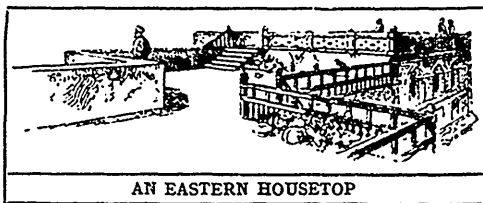
Revised Version—Now ; ²Cornelius by name ; ³who ; ⁴openly, as it were about ; ⁵unto ; ⁶to ; ⁷he, fastening his eyes upon him, and being affrighted, said ; ⁸gone up ; ⁹fetch ; ¹⁰who is surnamed ; ¹¹Omit rest of verse ; ¹²that ; ¹³him ; ¹⁴having rehearsed all things ; ¹⁵were on ; ¹⁶Omit very ; ¹⁷desired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

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).



AN EASTERN HOUSETOP

3-8. Saw in a vision evidently ; Rev. Ver., " openly ". Cornelius' senses were not deceived. Ninth hour ; 3 p.m., one of the three Jewish hours of prayer, the other two being 9 a.m. and 12 noon. An angel

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

* 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