

gift" of the Holy Spirit, Luke 24 : 49 ; John 15 ; 26. **John** (the Baptist) .. baptized with water. See Matt. 3 : 1-6. **Baptized with the Holy Ghost** ; who can purify the heart, and actually give the new life in all its fullness and power.

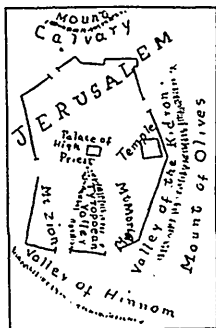
II. THE LORD'S COMMISSION.—8-8. Were come together ; Jesus' final interview with His disciples. At this time restore the kingdom to Israel? (Rev. Ver.). The disciples thought that Jesus would immediately establish the great earthly kingdom for which the Jews were looking. Not for you to know . . ye shall receive power ; a far greater gift than the profitless knowledge they coveted. (Compare Luke 21 : 15 ; 24 : 49.) Holy Ghost is come upon you ; as He had come upon Jesus Himself, at His baptism, fitting Him for His work, Luke 3 : 21,22. My witnesses (Rev. Ver.) ; who could tell others about Him with the authority of personal knowledge. Jerusalem . . unto the uttermost part. From the holy city as a centre, the gospel was to be spread throughout the whole world.

III. THE LORD'S DEPARTURE.—9-11. While they beheld; their eyes still resting upon His features, His words still ringing in their ears. A cloud received him; the Shechinah, the sign in the Old Testament of God's presence, 1 Kgs. 8 : 10; Isa. 6 : 1-4. Looked stedfastly toward heaven; with their hearts as well as their eyes. Two men, etc.; angels in human form. Ye men of Galilee. All the apostles now were Galileans. Judas (see Matt. 27 : 3-5) had been the only native of Judea. Why..gazing up into heaven? Instead of setting about their work for Jesus. This same Jesus; their human Friend and divine Saviour. So come in like manner; visibly and in the air.

The apostles returned from Bethany, on the Mount of Olives (Luke 24 : 50), to Jerusalem, to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit, vs. 12-14.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

OLIVET OR THE MOUNT OF OLIVES is the range of hills facing Jerusalem on the east, and separated from the city by the Kidron Valley. On the summit stands to-day the Church of the Ascension. This is



reached by three paths, the central one leading straight up the ascen., while those to the north and south make a detour to lessen the steepness. The paths all join together near the bridge over the Kidron close to the Garden of Gethsemane, and go to St. Stephen's Gate, immediately north of the temple site.

LESSON QUESTIONS

Of what does the Book of Acts tell ?

1, 2 Who was the author of the Acts? What other book was written by him? Who was Theophilus? Of what had Luke told in his former book? Through whom is Jesus still working in the world? Where is the church called the body of Christ? (Eph. 1: 22, 23.)

3-5 What proofs did Jesus give that He had really risen ? How long was He on earth after His resurrection ? Where did He bid His apostles wait ? For what ? What Old Testament prophet had foretold an outpouring of the Spirit ? (Joel 2 : 28, 29.)

6-8 What power was promised to the disciples? Where were they to be witnesses to Jesus?

9-11 Describe the ascension of Jesus. In what manner will He come again?

Whither did the apostles return? With whom did they meet there? How did they spend their time?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Proofs that Christ rose from the dead.
2. The gospel intended for all mankind.

A LESSON FOR LIFE

When a great building is to be erected, the architect draws the plans with the greatest care. The workmen have but to follow the plans, and each has his part to do. Jesus has given us His plans for the building up of His kingdom on earth. This will be the best year of our lives if we set ourselves to follow His plans, by striving to become better members of that kingdom and to bring others into it.

Prove from Scripture—That Jesus is in heaven.

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 1. What is the chief end of man?* A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

The Question on Missions—(First Quarter, A DOCTOR IN HONAN.)—1. Do many sick people come to our missionaries in Honan? Yes, very many. There are only four hospitals for 8,000,000 of people, many of whom suffer from terrible diseases. A doctor will often treat over 200 patients a day, besides performing several operations.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What commission did Jesus give to His apostles ?.....
2. Whence were they to receive power to witness for Him ?.....
3. In what manner did He depart from them ?.....