

Lesson IX.

PAUL AND APOLLOS

March 1, 1903

Acts 18: 24 to 19: 6. Study Acts 18: 18 to 19: 7. Commit to memory vs. 4-6.

24 And a certain Jew named Apollos¹ born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

25 This man² was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught³ diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla⁴ had heard they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more⁵ perfectly.

27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren⁶ wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:

28 For he⁷ mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at

Revised Version—1 an Alexandrian by race, a learned man; 2 had been; 3 carefully; 4 encouraged him, and wrote to the disciples to receive him; 5 powerfully confuted; 6 the; 7 country; 8 did ye receive the Holy Ghost when ye believed; 9 whether the Holy Ghost was given; 10 into; 11 Omit verily; 12 Omit Christ.

EXPLANATION

Connection—At the close of Lesson VI, Paul was in Corinth, ch. 18: 12-16. He has now started on his third missionary journey. (Read vs. 18-23.)

24, 25. Apollos; an eloquent Jew, the story of whose work follows. He was born at Alexandria, a great city on the Egyptian sea coast founded by and named for Alexander the Great. Mighty; in quoting and explaining scripture. Ephesus; the capital of the Roman province of Asia Minor. Instructed; though very imperfectly, v. 25. The way of the Lord Jesus; the Christian faith. Fervent; from Latin "to boil," "to ferment." The things of the Lord; the gospel in so far as he knew its meaning. The baptism of John; the baptism of repentance that pointed to the Christ (See Acts 19: 4), in contrast with baptism by the Messiah Himself, with the Holy Ghost and with fire, Matt. 3: 11.

26. To speak boldly; full of zeal for the truth as he knew it. In the synagogue; as a Jew he would have the privilege of preaching there. Aquila and Priscilla. We were introduced to them in Lesson VI. Took him; to their home.

27, 28. Into Achaia; to preach at Corinth, which was the capital city, ch. 19: 1; 1 Cor. 3: 6. Wrote; a letter of introduction. Helped; in debates with the Jews. Grace; divine influence. Helped. Through the grace of God he greatly helped the believers in Corinth. Powerfully confuted (Rev. Ver.); by his eloquence and knowledge of the scriptures—the Old Testament, which was the Bible of the Jews. That Jesus was the Christ; or Messiah (the Hebrew form of the same word). Unbelieving Jews still refuse to regard Jesus as the promised Messiah.

Ch. 19: 1. It came to pass; going back to ch. 18: 23. While Apollos . . . at Corinth. He left Ephesus before Paul arrived. Upper coasts; the upland districts of the interior. Came to Ephesus; as he had promised, ch. 18: 21. Certain disciples; twelve in all (v. 7). Christians, but imperfectly instructed in the new faith.

Corinth. Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus; and finding certain disciples,

2 He said unto them 3 Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard 9 whether there be any Holy Ghost.

3 And he said unto them, 10 Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

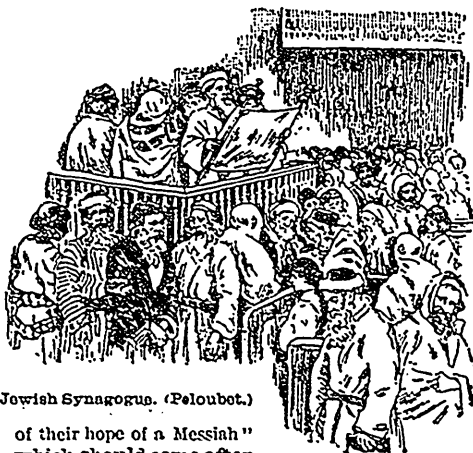
4 Then said Paul, John 11 verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on 12 Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized 10 in the name of the Lord Jesus.

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

2, 3. Received the Holy Ghost; as seen in the gift of tongues, etc., v. 6. Read the changes of the Revised Version carefully here. They knew, of course, of Joel's promise (Joel 2: 28), but had not heard of Pentecost, Acts 2: 4. Unto John's baptism; see on ch. 18: 25, in earlier part of lesson.

4-7. Then said Paul. He taught that John's baptism "was a confession of their repentance, and



Jewish Synagogue. (Peloubet.)

of their hope of a Messiah" which should come after him. This Messiah would give the baptism of the Holy Ghost, Matt. 3: 11. Into (Rev. Ver.) the name, etc. For full form, see Matt. 28: 19. Laid his hands; as Peter and John had done (ch. 8: 17). It was a sign of the communication of the Spirit. The Holy Ghost came; bestowing the strange gift of tongues. Prophesied; spoke under inspiration, a better gift still, 1 Cor. 14: 1-5. As on the day of Pentecost, these men were filled with the Holy Spirit, which means that their will and affections and reason were wholly under His divine influence and control, so that they were his instruments.