

Review Service for First Quarter.

BY REV. J. L. HURLBUT.

LEADER. Where are the lessons of the past quarter found?

SCHOOL. In the first eight chapters of the Acts of the Apostles.

LEADER. What is the subject of this book?

SCHOOL. The Acts of the Apostles tells us the early history of the Christian Church, from the ascension of Christ to the imprisonment of Paul in Rome.

LEADER. Who wrote this book?

SCHOOL. The evangelist Luke, the beloved physician and friend of the Apostle Paul.

LEADER. How long a period of time is embraced in the lessons of this quarter?

SCHOOL. Perhaps seven years, from the founding of the Church to the death of its first martyr, Stephen.

LEADER. In what place did most of the events of these lessons take place?

SCHOOL. In the city of Jerusalem.

SINGING. S.M.

I love thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of thine abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With his own precious blood.

I love thy Church, O God!
Her walls before thee stand,
Dear as the apple of thine eye,
And graven on thy hand.

LEADER. Let us now repeat the Golden Texts, and notice some of the principal facts of the lessons. The first lesson—The Ascending Lord.

TEACHERS. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up.

SCHOOL. We see the risen Saviour appearing through forty days to his disciples, instructing them in his kingdom and its laws, and finally ascending to his throne in heaven, leaving the promise of his coming. The disciples meet in the upper room, with unceasing prayer for the promised Holy Spirit.

LEADER. The second lesson—The Descending Spirit.

TEACHERS. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.

SCHOOL. The day of Pentecost comes, the Spirit of God falls upon the company of disciples, and Peter preaches the first discourse of the new Gospel to the assembled multitude.

LEADER. The third lesson—The Believing People.

TEACHERS. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized.

SCHOOL. Under the word of the Apostle Peter three thousand souls are won, and unite to form the Church of Christ, whose members show love for each other, faithfulness to their Lord, and growth in grace.

LEADER. The fourth lesson—The Healing Power.

TEACHERS. Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing.

SCHOOL. Peter and John while entering the temple to worship, meet a lame man at the Beautiful Gate. At the apostle's word he is healed, and leaping and praising God, is seen by all the people, who are thus prepared to hear with eagerness the preaching of the Gospel.

LEADER. The fifth lesson—The Prince of Life.

TEACHERS. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

SCHOOL. Peter preaches in Solomon's Porch to the throng gathered around the healed cripple. He proclaims Jesus, crucified by men, but raised from the dead, as the worker of the miracle and the Saviour of the world, and he exhorts the people to repentance and faith in Christ.

LEADER. The sixth lesson—None Other Name.

TEACHERS. Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

SCHOOL. The address of Peter is interrupted by the officers of the temple, who seize the two apostles, and put them under guard for the night. The next day they are brought before the council, and, in the presence of the rulers who crucified Jesus, Peter proclaims him the Christ of God, the King of Israel, and the only Saviour of men.

LEADER. The seventh lesson—Christian Courage.

TEACHERS. If God be for us, who can be against us?

SCHOOL. The rulers forbid the apostles to teach the Gospel of Jesus, or even to speak his name in public. But Peter and John declare that they will obey God rather than men, and the threatenings of the council do not move them. They are set free, and with the Church rejoice in God their helper.

LEADER. The eighth lesson—Ananias and Sapphira.

TEACHERS. Lying lips are abomination to the Lord.

SCHOOL. In the company of believers are a guilty couple who seek to gain honour for generous giving while deceiving the Church of God by withholding a part of their offering. Their crime is revealed by the Holy Spirit through Peter, and they both fall dead as its penalty, bringing warning to the Church and fear upon the world.

LEADER. The ninth lesson—Persecution Renewed.

TEACHERS. We ought to obey God rather than men.

SCHOOL. Once more the apostles are seized and imprisoned. But at night God's angel opens the door and sets them free. They are again brought before the council, again rebuked for preaching Jesus, and again declare that He whom they have crucified is the Prince and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

LEADER. The tenth lesson—The Seven Chosen.

TEACHERS. Seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom.