

Lesson II. THE BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION OF JESUS January 9, 1910

Matthew 3 : 13-17 ; 4 : 1-11—Memory Verses, 10, 11.

Golden Text—In that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.—Hebrews 2 : 18.

13 Then cometh Je'sus from Gal'ilee to Jor'dan unto John, to be baptized of him.

14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me ?

15 And Je'sus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now : for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16 And Je'sus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water : and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him :

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Ch. 4 : 1 Then was Je'sus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by

every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down : for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee : and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7 Je'sus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them ; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Je'sus unto him, Get thee hence, Sa'tan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Now, one day, as John the Baptist was teaching and baptizing beside the river Jordan, Jesus Himself suddenly came and stood beside him, asking to be baptized also. At first John was surprised that Jesus should ask such a thing, and said, "I have need to be baptized of Thee, and dost Thou come to be baptized of me ?"

But Jesus insisted that John should baptize Him ; for Jesus came to be a Brother in the great family made up of all the people in the world, and wished to be treated just like others. So John baptized Him, and when He was coming up out of the water, the sky above Him opened and the Spirit of God came down like a dove and rested upon Him,

and God's voice spoke out of heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

And Jesus went out into the wilderness, and stayed there alone for forty days and forty nights, and during all those days and nights He ate nothing, but spent His time praying to God ; and afterwards He was hungry. Then came Satan to Jesus in the wilderness, when He was hungry and weary, and tempted Him to do wrong. He said, "If you are really the Son of God, change these stones that are lying on the ground into bread, that you may eat, for you are hungry." But Jesus was not to be caught by cunning. He told Satan that it was written in the