

Lesson IV.

PAUL'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

April 26, 1903

Acts 21 : 3-12. Study, vs. 1-16 —Memory Verses, 11, 12.

Golden Text—The will of the LORD be done.—Acts 21 : 14.

3 Now when we had discovered Cy'prus, we left it on the left hand, and sailed into Syr'ia, and landed at Tyre: for there the ship was to unlade her burden.

4 And finding disciples, we tarried*there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jeru'salem.

5 And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed.

6 And when we had taken our leave one of another, we took ship; and they returned home again.

7 And when we had finished our course from Tyre, we came to Ptol'ema'is, and saluted the brethren, and abode with them one day.

8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Cæ'sare'a: and we entered into the house of Phil'ip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and

abode with him. 9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

10 And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judæ'a a certain prophet, named Ag'abus.

11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jeru'salem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gen'tiles.

12 And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jeru'salem.

THE LESSON RETOLD

After a time Paul's ship brought him to Tyre. Here the Christians, knowing that he was on his way to Jerusalem, tried to persuade the apostle to change his plans saying, "We have been warned by God's Spirit that great harm shall befall you at Jerusalem." But at the end of seven days, when they saw that he was still determined to go on, all the Christians of Tyre gathered on the shore to bid him good-by; and when they had knelt and prayed with him, they watched Paul's ship until it was out of sight, and returned sorrowfully to their homes.

The next morning Paul reached Cæsarea, where he lodged with his old friend, Philip, the evangelist, and his four daughters, who, with their father, were giving their lives to the spreading of the gospel.

Soon Philip's household was joined by the old-prophet, Agabus. who hearing that the

apostle was in Cæsarea, had come down from Judæa to see him.

One day, as they were all talking together in Philip's house, Agabus picked up the long girdle or scarf which Paul wore around his waist, and tying it about his own hands and feet as if he had been a prisoner, he said, "Thus saith the Holy Spirit, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the owner of this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the heathen."

Soon, not only Philip's family but all the believers of Cæsarea had heard what the old prophet had said, and again they begged and entreated Paul not to go up to Jerusalem, for fear he should be put to death by the Jews.

But Paul answered, "Why should you weep and discourage me? I tell you I am willing not only to be taken prisoner in Jerusalem, but even to die, if need be, for the