

Lesson II. JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD April 8, 1917
—EASTER LESSON

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The lesson belongs to a period three or four months later than the lesson for next Sunday.

GOLDEN TEXT—Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life.—John 11 : 25.

*Memorize John 1 : 4, 5. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—John 11 : 17-27, 43, 44. Study John 11 : 17-44.

17 ¹ Then when Je'sus came, he found that he had ² lain in the grave four days already.

18 Now Beth'any w^s nigh unto Jeru'salem, about fifteen furlongs off :

19 And many of the Jews ³ came to Mar'tha and Mar'y, to ⁴ comfort them concerning their brother.

20 ⁵ Then Mar'tha, as soon as she heard that Je'sus was coming, went and met him : but Mar'y ⁶ sat still in the house.

21 ⁷ Then said Mar'tha unto Je'sus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

22 ⁸ But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give ⁹ it thee.

23 Je'sus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

24 Mar'tha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise

Revised Version—¹ So when ; ² been in the tomb ; ³ had come ; ⁴ console ; ⁵ Mar'tha, therefore, when she ; ⁶ still sat ; ⁷ Mar'tha therefore said ; ⁸ And even now I know that, whatsoever thou shalt ask ; ⁹ Omit it ; ¹⁰ on ; ¹¹ die ; ¹² have believed ; ¹³ even he that cometh ; ¹⁴ had thus ; ¹⁵ Omit and.

again in the resurrection at the last day.

25 Je'sus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life : he that believeth ¹⁰ in me, though he ¹¹ were dead, yet shall he live :

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth ¹⁰ in me shall never die. Believest thou ¹¹ this ?

27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord : I ¹² believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, ¹³ which should come into the world.

43 And when he ¹⁴ thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

44 ¹⁵ And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes : and his face was bound about with a napkin. Je'sus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Lazarus sleepeth, John 11 : 1-16.

Th.—Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, John 11 : 39-44.

T.—Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, John 11 : 17-27.

F.—The widow's son raised, Luke 7 : 11-18.

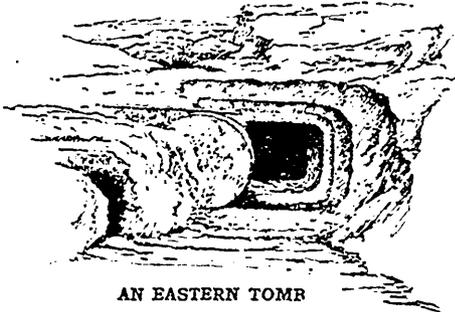
W.—Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, John 11 : 28-33.

S.—Death and life, 1 Cor. 15 : 35-44.

S.—Victory over death, 1 Cor. 15 : 50-58.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. JESUS AND MARTHA.—17-19. When Jesus came ; to Bethany. ¹ He found ; by inquiring : he had not known it before. In the grave four days. Burial, in the East, takes place on the day of death. If the death of Lazarus occurred about the time that the news of his illness reached Jesus, two of the four days would remain, after leaving Perca, for the journey to Bethany, a distance of 25 miles. (Compare vs. 3, 6.)



AN EASTERN TOMB

Nigh unto Jerusalem, etc. ; nearly two miles distant, a furlong being one-eighth of a mile. Many of the Jews. This shows that the family held a good position in the community. To comfort them. Deep mourning amongst the Jews lasted seven days, during which visits of condolence were received. This

was followed by a lighter mourning of thirty days.

20-22. Martha ; to whom, as the head of the house, moving about her home duties, the news of Jesus' arrival would first come. Went and met him ; active and eager as she always was. Mary still sat (Rev. Ver.) ; probably in an inner chamber, wrapped in her grief, sitting on the floor, on a low stool, as was the custom for mourners, the chairs and couches being turned upside down when the body was carried out of the house. If thou hadst been here ; not spoken in reproach, but out of a heart overflowing with grief. Even now. She still had a vague hope of help, strengthened, perhaps, by a report of Jesus' words when he heard of Lazarus' sickness.

23, 24. Thy brother shall rise again. We do not know whether or not Jesus, in using these words, referred to the immediate restoration of Lazarus or merely to the final resurrection. At any rate, Martha took the words in the second sense. In the resurrection. Martha believed that there would be a resurrection, but this did not satisfy her. She wished to have her brother back immediately.

25-27. I am the resurrection, and the life.

Jesus means that there is in himself a power to give life, of which Martha had never dreamed. He does not need to pray as man to God : the live-giving power is in himself. Nor is there any need to wait for a resurrection until the last day. He can bring about a resurrection whenever he will. Were dead . . . shall . . . live. Believing in Christ gives one the life which is in

* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in either Part of List IV, a Red Seal is added to the Diploma in Colors given for List III, and a Gold Seal for the verses of the other Part. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Building, Toronto

† Courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 50 Old Bailey, London, England.