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### THE SUNDAY SCHOOL,

Lesson II.—First Quarter, For  
Jan. 10, 1909.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Act II, 1-21—Memory Verses, 2-4—Golden Text, John xiv. 16, 17—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

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On that last night before His crucifixion He said, "It is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart I will send Him unto you, and when He is come He will convince the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment" (John xvi. 7, 8). As He left them on that ascension day He told them to tarry in Jerusalem until the Spirit came, as He said that He would; hence we find them in an upper room in Jerusalem, perhaps the same one where He had kept the Passover with them, continuing in one accord in prayer and supplication. The women are there, too, and Mary, His mother, and His own brethren (Acts i. 14), who had evidently come to the point of receiving their brother as the Messiah. Contrast John xvi. 5. I think this is the last mention of Mary, His mother. How blessed to say farewell to her till we meet her in glory at a prayer meeting! "With one accord" is a very important phrase in this book. It is used just seven times in a good connection and four times in a bad one (I. 14; II. 1, 46; IV. 24; v. 12; viii. 6; xv. 25, and vii. 57; xii. 20; xviii. 12; xix. 29).

This is suggestive also, for seven is the greatest number denoting perfection, while four is the worldwide number, and we know that the whole world lieth in the wicked one (I John v. 19, R. V.). Seven is also a three and a four, the Trinity and the resurrection, on behalf of the whole world. If any do not see significance in numbers, let them be teachable and patient with those who do. If believers could only be of one accord, what great things might be seen in answer to prayer and patient waiting upon God! Whether the election of Matthias was of God or only of Peter and the others, we may perhaps not be able to decide till we know as we are known. We shall surely know when we see the twelve thrones occupied of which Jesus spake.

Ten days having passed since He left them, which, added to the forty days between resurrection and ascension, completed the fifty of Lev. xxiii. 12-16, they being with one accord in one place, the Holy Spirit came as promised, accompanied by a sound from heaven as of a rushing, mighty wind, which filled all the house where they were sitting. There appeared unto them cloven tongues, like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (verses 2-4). Thus was His word before His ascension fulfilled, "Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence" (I. 5). The women present must have been filled as well as the men. This filling was not sufficient for all future time, for we find some of the same people filled from time to time, again and again (iv. 8, 21). In chapter x. 44, 46, we read that the Spirit fell on those to whom Peter was speaking, even as he preached the word to them, and they also spake with tongues and magnified God.

When tongues were given there was always a reason why. In our lesson story there were gathered at Jerusalem devout men out of every nation under heaven (5), and in their own native tongue they heard these men speak the wonderful words of God (11). In the Babel story of rebellion against God, all people being of one language, they were caused by God to speak many, to their own confusion (Gen. xi). But here at Pentecost people of one language were enabled to speak many languages, to the glory of God. There seems to be somewhat of the gift of tongues granted by God again in these days (1908), but it is to be feared that there is much that is not of God, much delusion by the wicked one. There is great need to study closely I Cor. xiv. with special attention to verses 5, 9, 19. A greater test of the Spirit's presence and power and working than any other gift is that of the love described in I Cor. xiii. The love that exalteth the Lord alone, that unites believers in one great desire to magnify Him regardless of all sects or divisions of the church and to give the glorious gospel to all the world as quickly as possible—this is the filling of the Spirit to be greatly desired.

At Pentecost many mockingly said, "These men are full of new wine" (verse 13), but Peter became the mouthpiece of the Holy Spirit to call their attention to the prophecy of Joel (and other Scriptures) to be considered in our next lesson and that this was a fulfillment of that prophecy concerning the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It was said by a man of God that prophecy has many a germant and springing accomplishment throughout the ages, while the complete fulfillment may be for some future period. That the complete fulfillment of Joel's prophecy will be in connection with the return of Christ in power and glory is evident from our Lord's own words in Matt. xxiv. 29, 30. Joel iii. 1, 2, shows that it will be in connection with the resurrection of Israel and the judgment of nations which precedes the millennium of Christ's personal reign to subdue all things unto Himself. The special word for every believer now is Eph. v. 18-21.

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Banking houses and fixtures, 10,792.73	Deposits, 480,016.90
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Total, 661,737.95	Total, 661,737.95

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