

# THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Lesson II.—Second Quarter, For April 11, 1909.

## THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES

Text of the Lesson, Acts xii, 1-19  
Memory Verse, 7—Golden Text, Ps xxxiv, 7—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

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We have yet another lesson on Peter before we take up the story of Saul of Tarsus or the option of an Easter lesson from I Cor. xv, but as we desire to miss nothing from the Acts and as the regular lesson is a manifestation of the power of the risen Christ we take the regular order. We have seen thus far in this book that all the teaching has been concerning a crucified and risen Christ and that the thousands saved—the lame man, and the palsied man healed, and the dead raised—were all in the name and by the power of the risen and glorified Redeemer. From the time of the entrance of all into the world up to the present time and on to the end of this age the opposition of the devil, the god of this world, is very manifest. Peter felt it keenly and therefore wrote, "Ye are unworthy, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour, whom resist, stand firm, as the faithful of I Pet. v, 8, 9.

In this lesson the devil's instrument is one of the High Priests, a deacon, a god, an archangel, it would not be wise to waste time. He is permitted to vex the church, to kill James, the brother of John, and to imprison Peter. But in the end of the chapter he is taken from the earth, and there is nothing for him but the blackness of darkness forever. James, whom he killed, being the Lord's own, found himself instantly in glory, absent from the body, present with the Lord. Peter was kept in prison, guarded all ways by four soldiers, and it was Herod's intention to have him brought out and slain after Easter. This would have been a great gain for Peter, but it was not in the Lord's plan, as we shall see. Although Peter must have had poor fare and hard lodgings, we see him sleeping, probably as peacefully as in the trance of our last lesson, ready to be slain if that was the Lord's way for him.

Somewhere in the city, in the house of Mary, the sister of Barnabas, the mother of John Mark, many were gathered together, making instant and earnest prayer to God for him (verses 5, margin, and 12), and their prayers were heard and about to be answered, though they hardly expected it, for had they not been persistently asking, day and night, and was not this the last night of hope, and how could he be delivered? Well might our Lord say to us most of the time, "O ye of little faith!" Let us see God answering prayer, and may our faith be strengthened. One of those angels who excel in strength is sent to Peter as he sleeps in the prison, securely guarded by the two soldiers, to whom he is chained, and by the guard before the door. But the stone walls and the iron gates or doors are nothing to these messengers from the throne of God, and without disturbing one of the guards Peter's chains fall off, and he is told to arise, gird himself, bind on his sandals, cast his garments about him and follow his friend. Peter did as he was told, not thinking it a reality, but that he was enjoying a vision. No one spoke to them as they passed the wards, and the iron gates of its own accord opened to them (doubtless more angelic ministry), and, passing through one street, the angel left him, and Peter found himself alone and soon realized that it was no vision, but that an angel had in reality delivered him from Herod and from all the expectation of the Jews. The expectation of the people perishes, the counsel of the ungodly comes to naught, but the purpose of the Lord stands.

A light shone in the prison, the glory of the Lord shone upon the shepherds, a light from heaven shone upon Saul, for all is light and glory in heaven, and messengers from there carry light and glory with them. When we steadfastly behold the face of Him who is the brightness of the Father's glory we, too, will unconsciously carry some of the reflection of that light, a sweet savor of Christ. As to the guards being undisturbed, there must have been a deep sleep from the Lord upon them, as in I Sam. xvi, 12; Gen. ii, 21. All the wisdom and power of man are as nothing to Him of whom it is written, "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth" (Ps. xxxiii, 6).

When Peter found that he was really free he went at once to the house of Mary and began to knock and continued knocking till he gained admission. Had they been expecting the answer they would have had some one on the lookout for Peter to open quickly when he came. But they said that Rhoda was mad because she said he was at the gate, and when she insisted that it was so they said it was his angel. And all this time Peter was knocking. The answer to their prayers could scarcely get to them when he came. What do you think of them? Having commissioned them to tell James and the brethren, he departed and abode at Caesarea, but whether with the centurion of last lesson or with Philip we can only conjecture.

### Chrysanthemum Show.

The Woman's Betterment Association of Rameur has solicited the following premiums for a chrysanthemum show to be held this fall:

- Largest bloom on potted plant, any variety, \$5.00 in gold Bank of Rameur.
- Second best bloom on potted plant, any variety, \$2.50 in gold, Messrs. Kimrey, Hardin and Turner, of the postoffice department.
- Finest plant, ostrich plume, three or more blooms, 1 bolt shooting, Col. Mfg. Co.
- Finest plant, 3 blooms, pure white, 1 dozen brooms, Rameur Broom Works.
- Finest plant, 3 blooms, yellow, 1 porch swing, Novelty Wood Works.
- Finest plant, 3 blooms, pink, 1 handsome rug, I M Whitehead and E J Steed.
- Finest plant, 3 blooms, red, a Sunoco, Rameur Furniture Co.
- Best general collection potted plants, 1 linen table cloth, Rameur Store Co.
- Second best general collection potted plants, 1 pair shoes, Deep River Store Co.
- One vase, 10 largest blooms, white, a carving set, Watkins Leonard Co.
- One vase, 10 largest blooms, yellow, half dozen towels, H B Carter.
- One vase, 10 largest blooms, pink, 1 set silver teaspoons, E B Leonard and J A Brady.
- One vase, 6 largest blooms, bronze a rocking chair, Crescent Furniture Co.
- Finest plant, half dozen blooms, lavender, 1 piece china, Capt W D Lane.
- Finest general collection cut flowers in one vase, 1 pair shoes, T A Mullin.
- Second best general collection cut flowers in one vase, half dozen bottles pickles, W W Dixon.
- Finest plant, 5 or more blooms, white, a clock, J B Smith and W H Watkins, Jr.
- Finest plant, 5 or more blooms, Lillian Red, one lamp, V C Marley and J I Lane, Inc.
- Best general collection ostrich plume, 1 vase, 10 largest blooms, red, by C S Tate.
- Best plant, 6 blooms, yellow, half dozen silver spoons, Nida Thomas.
- Best plant, 6 blooms, pink, 5 items apple pie, Phillips.
- Best collection, old-fashioned wares, one-fourth dozen wax candles, W Hughes.
- Large number of blooms on plant but variety, one-fourth dozen ladies' handkerchiefs, J D Leonard.
- Second largest number blooms on plant but variety, 1 set napkins, H T Brady.
- For the second best plant, 3 blooms, or white, 1 set napkins, Miss Annie Clyd-Scott.

Competition is open to Columbia township.

### Morning Glory Items.

Mrs John Laughlin, of High Point, spent last week with her brother, Lester Davis. Little Misses Crissie and Clara Lanier spent last week with their aunt, Mrs C J Spence.

Several of the young people of this place attended the closing exercises of Gleola graded school.

The Bell telephone line that is being extended from High Point through this place, is almost completed.

Mr and Mrs S W Lanier have returned from New Salem, where they taught a successful school.

Misses Effie and Carrie Lanier spent last Saturday night and Sunday with their cousins, Mr and Mrs Kennedy.

Hugh Crowson has returned to Summerfield after spending a few days with his parents.

Mrs Millikan, of Randleman, has been visiting her sister, Mrs James Winslow.

The card party given at J E Lanier's Saturday night, April 3rd, in honor of Misses Nannie Gray and Pearl Crowson was greatly enjoyed by the young people of this place. The cards were drawn at 8 o'clock and the fun began. Many amusing and interesting games were played. The cake was awarded to Miss Carrie Lanier and Emmett Crowson. Music was furnished by Messrs Earl Balla and Emmett Crowson.

Rev. B F Fincher preached an excellent sermon at Mt. Vernon church last Sunday.

W Lanier is very sick. Miss Pearl Crowson spent last Saturday night with Miss Nannie Gray.

J A Crowson and brother in law from Julian, spent a few days with T M Crowson last week.

### Jackson Creek News.

J F Yates made a business trip to Asheboro last Thursday.

James Lackey is on the sick list. E M Yates had the misfortune of losing a horse last Thursday.

Mrs Minnie Yates visited Mrs Lizzie Nance last Saturday. Sunday School at Mt Tabor will be at 2 p m next Sunday.

### Providence Items.

On Thursday, March 25th, the death angel entered the home of Zimri Williams and claimed for its victim his wife, Mary Williams. Her remains were laid to rest at Bethel church.

### Franklinville News.

The second quarterly meeting of the M E Church for Rameur and Franklinville charge was held at this place Sunday and Monday. Rev W R Ware was with us and preached two most excellent sermons and at the conference Monday morning. The reports were very gratifying and shows that the churches are in a thriving condition.

The following were elected delegates to the district conference to be held at Ruffin in July: I F Craven, C B Smith, L F Featris and G H Jones. Alternates: J H Barrow, V C Marley and T E West.

J R Lutterloh and Ader Hayes are visiting friends at Salisbury this week.

Mrs Connie Allred spent a few days with friends and relatives at Coleridge.

O F Brown, of Moore Co, has moved his family to this place and are now occupying the McKinnon residence on Walnut Creek St.

The Franklinville and Randolph stores are now displaying their new goods and the millinery department, under the management of Miss Lena Severance, has as nice a line of goods as can be found anywhere.

Several of our people made business trips to Asheboro Saturday.

Lambie Zothel, the infant daughter of Mr and Mrs M W Free, died of pneumonia Saturday evening and was tenderly laid to rest in the M E Church cemetery Sunday evening at 7 P M. She was about two and one half years old and was a bright and lovely child and will be sadly missed by her loved ones, but it is sweet to be remembered that the loving Father has only lifted her up to a brighter and more successful duty where sorrow and pain are forever unknown, and may his precious love ever sustain the grief-stricken parents and surviving ones. The hearts of the people of this community go out in sympathy for the bereaved ones.

### Mt. Gilead News.

Prof. Cox's sister, Miss Annie Spencer, who has been teaching in Cumberland County, has come to live with him and to assist him in the school.

Jasper Lisk, one of the school boys, had the misfortune to dislocate his ankle while playing ball last week.

Miss Frances Ingram, of High Point, has been visiting relatives in Mt Gilead.

The Baptist Church is being repainted, which adds greatly to its appearance.

The Ladies Aid Society will give a Musical Measuring Tea on Monday night of Easter for the benefit of the Methodist Church.

Mt Gilead and its surrounding country has been very unfortunate in the way of fires for the past few days. On last Monday night, the fire alarm was heard between ten and eleven o'clock. It was found that a fire had started in the boiler room of the Snow Lumber Company's planing mill, but the fire was extinguished before any harm had been done. On Saturday the alarm was given again and this time a dwelling house on Main Street in the upper part of town was discovered on fire. All efforts to stop the fire was of no consequence. The wind was blowing fiercely and in a short time the whole building was in a flame. It was only with a great effort that the adjoining buildings were saved. The house belonged to Jim Crouch, but was occupied by Baxter Danton. Only a few things were saved. There was no insurance on the house. On Sunday, a house occupied by a darkey, on Jack Little's plantation was burned. On Monday the train set fire to the woods about two miles above here, and it was only by hard work that the dwelling house of Colie Robinson was saved.

Misses Mabel Hayward and Ruth Ingram spent Friday night and Saturday at Norwood.

### Seagrove, R F D 2.

Rev Tillman preached an excellent sermon at Hopewell Sunday.

Mrs James Bright spent Sunday night with her brother, F Cooper.

Mr and Mrs W F Newsom visited at H F Vuncannon's Sunday.

Miss Bessie Humble spent Sunday at C T Luck's.

Messrs R L Tant and W J Spencer passed through this neighborhood Sunday.

Mr and Mrs D A Cornelison and Miss Mattie Luck spent Saturday and Sunday with home folks.

Mrs Frank Smith, of High Point, is visiting her sister, Mrs J V Crawford.

### Cedar Falls News.

The little child of Mr and Mrs Hay worth Allred died Friday and was buried Saturday.

J H Allred is building a new house near his father's grist mill and will take part with his father in the grist mill as soon as his house is finished.

The funeral of Mrs Harris Jennings was preached Sunday at 11 o'clock by Rev Joe Allred.

Mr and Mrs D M Meredith spent Sunday evening in Worthville.

Shelley Glass, of Randleman, was in our town Sunday.

Ruff Brookbanks has been on the sick list for the past week.

Miss Grace Langley, of Sanford, is spending a few days in our town visiting friends and relatives.

Dennis Nelson has recently bought a fine team of mules and harness and farming is now expected.

Through mistake it has been published that the Easter entertainment will be on Monday night, but it will be on Sunday night at the M P Church.

### Millboro News.

Wm C Routh, better known as "Democrat Bill" celebrated his 74th birthday last Sunday.

The Chair Factory at Millboro suspended work for a short time last Saturday. Mr Harris says he hopes to resume work again in a short time.

We are sorry to say that Mrs E H Ellis, who has been on the sick list for some time, does not improve.

Will S Lineberry had a peculiar "April Fool" on the first of April. He went to his barn early in the morning to feed his swine and on entering he found in one of his stalls a well developed calf, except it was minus its left front leg.

Verney Nelson has built a new kitchen and dining room to his house on his farm near Millboro.

Little Misses Bertell and Frances, accompanied by their mother, Mrs C has F Lineberry, of Winston, spent last week with their grandparents, Capt and Mrs W S Lineberry.

The new phone line from Grays Chapel to Lineberry is near completion.

### Rameur Items.

Mrs Geo Williams and Mrs Henson, two very good women, died at their homes in Rameur last week.

Mr and Mrs Harby Allred went to Greensboro shopping Saturday.

J C Watkins, of Greensboro, came down Sunday in his automobile and returned Monday.

Mrs I A Moffitt visited friends at Liberty last week.

D P Pharr, express messenger, was a visitor in town last week. He is transferred to the Mt Airy run for a few days.

Mrs I P Moffitt and Miss Anna Smith went to Greensboro shopping Monday.

### Spero Items.

Mrs. Myrtle Milliken and Frances Balla spent one day last week in Worthville.

Mr and Mrs J W Rich, of Asheboro, spent Sunday with their parents, Mr and Mrs F I Balla.

Charles Harrelson spent Sunday at home. Mr and Mrs B F Newby visited at F I Balla's Sunday.

Messrs James and Harry Balla spent Sunday in Asheboro.

J A Thurber was in Spero Tuesday. Joe Hill and daughter, Miss Eva, spent Saturday at the farm near Spero.

Mr and Mrs G R Bonkemeyer visited Mrs Jane Hughes Sunday.

Rev John Connor spent Sunday at A S Clapp's.

### Why Not Items.

Mr and Mrs J A Kinn spent Sunday with Mrs King's brother, Lonnie Owens, near Kandy.

Mrs J P Boroughs spent last week with her daughter, Mrs Thaddeus Ferree, at Asheboro.

N C Lowdermilk and E L Ferree, of Asheboro, spent Sunday at C E Stuart's.

At the home of W L Stotts on Sunday, April 4, Miss Ida Kennedy and Daniel Reeder were united in holy wedlock by Rev J L Smith.

Mr and Mrs J A Auman spent Sunday evening with Mr and Mrs E K Auman, of Asbury.

There will be an Easter service at Fairgrove church on the third Sunday night in April.

### West Randolph News.

Sam Younts and wife, of Trinity, visited H H Frazier and C W Wilson Sunday.

C C Frazier spent Sunday with friends in Davidson.

The closing debate of the young people's debating society of the Frazier School will occur Saturday night.

Rev J H Matus preached at Fairgrove Sunday to a large congregation.

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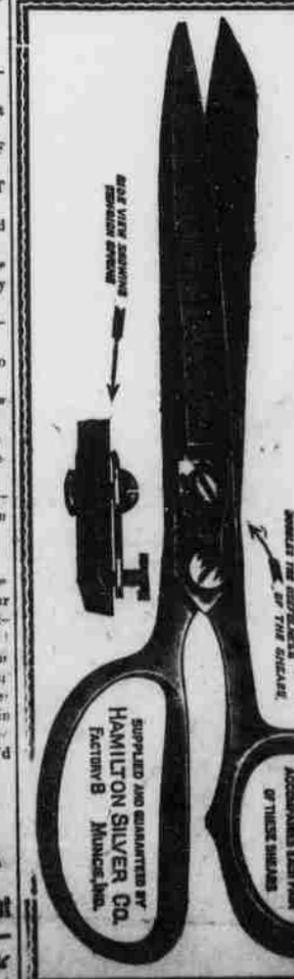
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