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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for January 1

is come upon you: and ye shall be taken up bodily into Heaven, part of the earth.-Acts 1:8

Approach to the Lesson

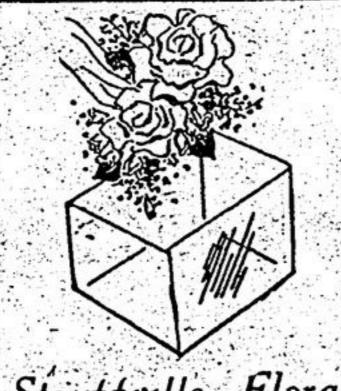
called the Acts of the Holy Spirit the resurrection of Jesus Christ is than the Acts of the Apostles. the best attested fact of ancient Actually it tells us very little about history. God gave to the disciples coming, they were cheered by the the work of the Twelve, with the such positive proof of our promise of Christ's second advent exception of Peter and John, the Saviour's triumph over death that disappear from the historical days preceding His ascension. account of the council at Jerusalem ise of the Father." Our Lord them. Throughout the entire Book, how- Until this promise was fulfilled ever, we see the mighty working they were not to begin their public of the Holy Spirit of God, energiz- testimony. They had, however, the ing the servants of the Lord and definite assurance that before commission given them by the which had thus been prophesied risen Christ. It was not until after should be fulfilled. Comforter, came to continue the work which Jesus had begun. Dur- Israei?" The question was in power and in glory. This, of second advent. Until that time, the world, as such, will continue to been made known. refuse to acknowledge the divine

3: 3, 5; 1 Peter 1:: 23, 25). The little group which comes before us in this first chapter was composed entirely of those who had thus been begotten of God, but they were not prepared to go forth as proclaimers of the Gospel message until empowered by the Holy Spirit, for whose advent they were bidden to tarry in Jerusalem until the day of Penetcost, which God had ordained of old as the

The Historical Setting historical book of the New Testament. He summarizes the events of the fifty days that elapsed between Christ's resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit in this first chapter. These were days o instruction and preparation as the disciples waited for the promised Comforter.

would begin.

Verse by Verse Acts 1:1 .- "The former treatise." to whom the later book was evidently a close friend of "the beloved physician" (Col. 4: 14), was a Roman governor, as we gather Verse 11:-"This same Jesus." written to him concerning the life death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Luke now continues his



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narrative, showing how the Holy Spirit carried on the work which the Saviour had begun.

Verse 2.—"He was taken up." Four times in this chapter these words are found. See also verses 9, 11, 22. It was the Father's expres-Golden Text.-Ye shall receive sion of delight in the work of His power, after that the Holy Ghost Son, which resulted in His being witnesses unto me both in where He now sits as the lorified Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and Man at the right hand of the in Samaria, and unto the uttermost Majesty on high. Before His ascension He revealed to His disciples the divine plan for carry-

ing the Gospel into all the world. The Book which we are now to Verse 3. - "Many infallible study might more properly be proofs." It has been well said that former occupying the chief place every possibility of doubt was of fellowship one with another. in the first half of the Book. In the removed, as Jesus met and con- Their experiences illustrate for us latter half the Twelve practically versed with them during the forty the manner in which our risen

record with the exception of the Verses 4, 5.- "Wait for the prom- to do the work which He asks of and Paul's interview with James referred to the declaration given on his last visit to that city. It is through John the Baptist that the Paul himself who occupies the Lord Jesus should baptize His chief place in these later chapters. followers with the Holy Spirit. enabling them to carry out the many days should elapse, that

Pentecost that He, the promised Verse 6 .- "Wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom ing the forty days between our natural one. They realized that beascension, He appeared to His Christ as king, the people of Israel on many different had forfeited all title to the kingoccasions, instructing them regard- dom (Matt. 21: 43), but they also ing His own program of world knew that the prophets of old preevangelization and the part they dicted the restoration of the kingwere to have in proclaiming the dom in the latter days (Hos. 3:4 Kingdom of God soon to be set up 5). Therefore the question of the disciples was a reasonable one, course, will be at our Lord's inasmuch as the revelation of the mystery of the Church had not yet

authority, but those who realize know the times or the seasons." their lost condition and their need These words should forever put money. The bar will be made of a Saviour become children of a stop to all date setting in regard the Kingdom by new birth when to unfulfilled prophecy. It has not the popular nickel price. they believe the Gospel (John pleased God to reveal the time of the second advent or of the setting up of the Kingdom. These things form part of the Father's secret counsels, to be fulfilled in accordance with His own will.

Verse 8 .- "Ye. shall receive power.....ye shall be witnesses." In this verse our Lord outlines the entire program for world evangelization during this age of grace, which covers all the centuries between His return to Heaven and time when the new dispensation His coming to claim His Church at the end of its testimony here. Witnessing, to be effective, must Luke, who wrote the third be in the power of the Holy Spirit, Gospel, was the instrument chosen who is the true vicar of Christ and of God to give us this great who came on Penetecost to convince the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Verse 9 .- "While they behold, he was taken up." The forty days of instruction' having expired, the Lord ascended visibly into the heavens until the divine chariot of cloud hid Him from the view of His astonished disciples.

Verse 10 .- "Two men stood by them in white apparel." While This refers to the Gospel of Luke, spoken of as men, these two were which was inscribed to Theophilus, undoubtedly angelic messengers who came from Heaven to reasaddressed. Theophilus, himself sure the hearts of the perplexed apostles and remind them again of Christ's promised return.

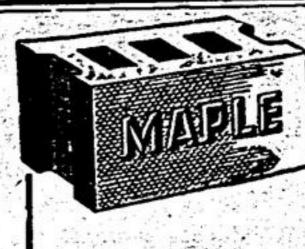
from the title given him in Luke shall so come in like manner as ye 1:: 3, "most excellent." Having have seen him go." How precious the word, "this same Jesus!" Nearly twenty centuries have elapsed since the words were spoken, but He remains still the same unchanging Jesus who once walked this earth, manifesting God to those whose eyes were opened to see in Him "(.....the only begotten of the - Father,) full of grace and truth."

Verse 12. Then returned they unto Jerusalem." They returned to Jerusalem, there to await the promise He had made concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit to empower them for service.

... Verse 13 .- "They went up into an upper room." We are not told whose house was thus placed at their, disposal but tradition says it was the home of Mary, the moth of John Mark, where the early Jerusalem church later met for prayer (Acts 12:12). The eleven apostles were thus gathered together to wait upon God in prayer until the promise was fulfilled.

Verse 14.—"And Mary the mother of Jesus." Other friends of Jesus besides the Eleven were there, among them several of the godly women who, during our Lord's life upon earth, had ministered to Him of their substance. His own mother, Mary, in specially nmaed, and it is enteresting and instructive to observe that this is the last time her name is mentioned in Scripture, and we do not find the disciples praying to her as Roman tradition might have it On the contrary, she joins with the rest in their intercessions. The Heart of the Lesson

The Lord never asks any line of service from His disciples without adequately -preparing them for it. Augustine wrote, "God's commandings are God's enablings." Before the aspostles launched forth upon their great task of giving the Gospel to a lost world, they were instructed by the Lord Himself and were commanded to tarry at Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit as the power, for testimony. While they walted for Ilis



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and fortified by prayer and the joy ROOFING Lord prepares all of His servants

ALMIRA

We wish 'all our readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Mr. and Mrs. Mansell Timbers spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Bert Paisley of Stouffville. Miss Mabel Shank of Markham

visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Phone Stouffville 63703 Allan Wideman. Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Conner had supper Sunday with Mr. and Mrs.

John Timbers. -Christmas was a blessing to those farmers who are short of water and have not enough to carry over weeks of hard winter.

NICKEL CHOCOLATE BAR WILL BE SMALLER

Chocolate bars will go back to a Engineers Consultants nickel at the beginning of the year, according to daily newspaper Verse 7.—"It is not for you to reports, but that doesn't mean you will buy more chocolate for your

> Many people think too much is spent on expensive wrappings, and this means too little chocolate for the money. Attractive wrappers may sell the first bar, and the chocolate inside will sell the next. If there is not enough in there to make a taste, then the customer will avoid the bar next time.

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This is the time of the year when people all over the world rejoice with their family and friends. May this holiday season prove to be a joyous one and the New Year bring an abundance of good health and prosperity to all our friends and cus-STOUFFVILLE RADIO ELECTRIC

