

# THE SABBATH SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS  
FOR MAY 19,

Subject: Jesus Ascends Into Heaven.  
Luke xxiv., 44-53; Acts i., 1-11—Golden Text, Luke xxiv., 51—Memory Verses, 9-11—Lesson Commentary.

44. "These are the words." Now you will understand what seemed so dark to you when I told you about the Son of man being put to death and rising again. Chap. 18:31-34. "The law—the prophets—the psalms." The three Jewish divisions of the Old Testament Scriptures, here mentioned as containing, each of them, things concerning Christ.

45. "Then opened He." Now by the influence of Christ they see, not only the prophecies which pointed out the Messiah, but also the Messiah who was pointed out by these prophecies. "Understand the Scriptures." Jesus opened their minds by explaining to them the true meaning of the prophecies, and by unfolding the true nature of His kingdom.

46. "Thus it is written," etc. Here are the two great essential facts of the gospel. 1. The atonement of Christ. 2. His resurrection from the dead.

47. "Repentance." This implies that a measure of divine wisdom is communicated to the sinner, and that he thereby becomes wise to salvation. That his mind, purposes, opinions and inclinations are changed, and that in consequence, there is a total change in his conduct. "Remission of sins." The forgiveness of sins, and deliverance of the soul from the power of sin. "In His name." As obtained for sinful men by His atoning sufferings, as the fruit of His intercession, and the effect of His grace. "Among all nations." God wills the salvation of all, and Jesus tasted death for every man. "Beginning at Jerusalem." Because it was thus written. Isa. 2:3 Because there the facts on which the gospel was founded were transacted; and because Christ desired to give further proof of His love and example of forgiving His enemies.

48. "Ye are witnesses." They had been with Jesus throughout His ministry, they had heard His teaching, they had seen His miracles, they knew His character, they had seen Him after He rose from the dead, and now their work was to bear witness of these things.

49. "I send the promise." The Holy Ghost which was promised to the church through Christ. "Endued." Invested, or clothed with. "From on high." It is from on high, and therefrom draws the oil upward, and makes it sin high. This power was the promise of the Father; it could not fail.

50. "As far as Bethany." Not the village itself, but on the descent to it from Mount Olivet. "Lifted up His hands." Probably to lay them on their heads, for that was the ordinary way in which a blessing was given. Gen. 48:10-12.

51. "Into heaven." The disciples did not see Him rise out of the grave, because His resurrection could be easily proved by their seeing Him afterward; but they saw Him return to heaven, as there would be no other way to prove it.

52. "They worshipped Him." In gratitude to His blessing upon them. The cloud that received Him out of their sight did not put them or their services out of His sight. "With great joy." Every sorrow had been turned into joy. They were full of love and joy in the Holy Spirit.

53. "Continually in the temple." While they abode together at Jerusalem, waiting and praying with one accord for the Spirit of power, truth and holiness, they went to the temple at the proper times to join in the worship there performed.

1. "The former treatise." The gospel of Luke. Luke was the author of Acts. "O Theophilus." He was probably a magistrate or high official who had been converted to Christianity. "To do and teach." A very important statement, dividing the work of Christ into two great branches; the one embracing His work on earth, the other His subsequent work from heaven.

2. "Through the Holy Ghost." God gave not the Spirit by measure unto Him. John 3:34. Jesus who was anointed with the Holy Ghost (Luke 4; Matt. 12) in the power of the Holy Ghost, gave commandments to the apostles to be His witnesses, so that such commandments were given by the Spirit also. "Apostles." The twelve generally called disciples in the gospels are in the Acts spoken of as apostles, or "those sent forth."

3. "Passion." Sufferings on the cross. "Infallible proofs." The single Greek word, translated "infallible proof," denotes the strongest proofs of which a subject is capable, an irresistible proof.

4. "Not depart from Jerusalem." The coming of the Spirit was to be at the next great feast after the crucifixion. They waited by prayer, by conference together, by doing necessary duties. Vs. 13, 14. "Promise." Jesus thus termed it, because God the Father had promised the gift of the Spirit, through the prophets under the old covenant. "Heard of me." In His conversations with them. See on verse 49.

5. "John." The Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. "With water." John's baptism was a baptism unto repentance. "With the Holy Ghost." The outpouring of the Spirit upon them would eradicate all sin from their hearts and fill them with love and power.

6. "Come and power." At the Mount of Olives. V. 50. "At this time restore." "Wilt thou break the Roman yoke from off our necks and immediately erect the kingdom of the Messiah?"

8. "Shall receive power." They were promised the power of the Holy Ghost in order to properly carry on God's work. "Witnesses." They were to be witnesses to a crucified Christ, a risen Christ, a coming Christ. "Uttermost part," etc. They were to begin at home, with the Jews, and gradually reach out until the glorious gospel reached the whole human race.

9. "A cloud." Perhaps it was like the "fiery, cloudy pillar," the symbol of God, that led the Israelites through the wilderness; or Elijah's storm chariot, or the bright cloud of glory which overshadowed Him on the Mount of Transfiguration. This was His "royal chariot," as Chrysostom calls it.

10. "Were looking." (R. V.) Wondering what it all meant. "Two men." Angels in the form of men. "White apparel." Matt. 28:3. The white garments were an emblem of purity.

11. "Stand on the right hand of God." This will not be in obscurity like His first coming; but He will come in power and glory, on the clouds, and with His holy angels with Him. Matt. 24:30, 31; 26:64.

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