664 THE ACTS. Ii.   
   
 of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of   
 sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.   
   
 4 Joel 28. 89 For the promise is unto you, and ‘to your children, and   
 ch, iff, \* to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God   
 k ch. x. 49 And with many other words did he testify   
 shall call. h Save yourselves from this 1 untoward   
 and 8 erhort, saying, Then they that [1 gladly] received his   
 generation. and the same day there were added   
 word were baptized :   
   
   
 8 render, exhort them. h render, Be saved : see note,   
 i render, crooked. ¥ render, So then.   
 1 omit.   
   
 thinking Jesus an impostor, and scorning was their conversion as Gentiles, which   
 Him as ore crucified, to being baptized in yet to be revealed to Peter. It is sur-   
 His name, and looking to Him for remis- prising to see Commentators finding a   
 sion of sins, and the gift of the Spirit.— difficulty where all is so plain. The very   
 The miserable absurdity of rendering this expression, as many as the Lord our God   
 word by ‘do penance,’—so the Rheims shall call, shews in what sense Peter nn-   
 (Roman-Catholic) Version,—ornnderstand- derstood those afar off; not a//, but as   
 ing it as referring to a course of external many as the Lord our God shall summon.   
 rites, is well exposed by this passage—in to approach to Him,—bring near,—which,   
 which the ixternal change of heart and in his present understanding of the words,   
 purpose is insisted on, to be testified by must import—by becoming one of the   
 admission into the nnmber of Christ’s chosen people, and conforming to their   
 followers. be baptized every one of legal observances. 40.] The words   
 you] Here, on the day of Pentecost, we cited appear to be the conclnding and   
 have the first mention and administration inclusive summary of Peter’s many exhor-   
 of CHRISTIAN BAPTISM. Before, there tations, not only their general sense: just   
 had been the baptism of repentance for as if ver. 36 had been given as the repre-   
 the remission of sins, by John, Luke 3 sentative of his whole speech above.   
 but now we have the important addition, The Apostle’s command is improperly ren-   
 in (or, on) the name of Jesus Christ,—iu dered in A. V. ‘save yourselves? it is   
 the Name—i.e. on the confession of that strictly passive,—be saved, —‘Tet: us save   
 which the Name implies, and zxto the bene- you’—‘let God by us save you.’ In saying   
 Sits and blessings which the Name implies.— this crooked generation, St. Peter alludes   
 The Apostles and first were thus to Deut. xxxii. 5. 41.] This first   
 baptized, because, ch. i. they had received baptism of regeneration is important on   
 theBAPTISM yr Hor Gurost, the dhing many accounts in the history of the Chris-   
 signified, which superseded that by water, tian Church. It presents us with two   
 the outward and visible sign.—The result remarkable features: (1) It was conferred,   
 of the baptism to which he here exhorts on the profession of repentance, and faith   
 them, preceded by repentance and aceom- in Jesus as the Christ. There was no   
 panied by faith in the forgiveness of sins. instruction in doctrine as yet. The in-   
 in Christ, would be, the receiving the gift faney of the Church in this respect cor-   
 of the Holy Spirit. 39.] your responded to the infancy of the individual   
 children, viz. as included in the prophecy mind; the simplicity of faith first,—   
 cited ver. 17, your little ones: not, as in the ripeness of knowledge followed. Nean-   
 ch. xiii, 32, ‘your descendants, which der well observes that, among such a mul-   
 would be understood by any Jew to be titude, admitted by a confession which al-   
 necessarily implied. 'Thus we have a pro- lowed of so wide an interpretation, were   
 vidential recognition of Infant Baptism, at probably many persons who brought into   
 the very founding of the Christian Church. the church the seeds of that Judaizing   
 to all that are afar off] i.e. to the form of Christianity which afterwards   
 Gentiles; see Eph. ii. 13. ‘here is no proved so hostile to the true faith; while   
 difficulty whatever in this interpretation. others, more deeply touched by the Holy   
 The Apostles always expected the conver- Spirit, followed humbly the unfolding of   
 sion of the Gentiles, as did every pious that teaching by which He perfected the   
 Jew who believed in the Scriptures. It apostolic age in the doctrine of Christ.