

below the surface at such places water can be obtained. **Save the horses and mules.** Selfish to the last, his first thought is of his own surroundings. He cares more to preserve his royal stud than the lives of his people. So William the conqueror drove thousands of people from their farms that he might plant the New Forest as a hunting park.

6. They divided the land. It was a great strait for Israel, when the king goes forth in person to inspect the land for water. **Ahab went one way.** He could not trust his Baal-worshipping servants, who might steal each water for themselves. **By himself.** But probably each was accompanied by a retinue appropriate to his state. Palestine is a small country, and it would not require much time to make the search.

7. An Obadiah was in the way. He was in the way of duty and of service, in helping God's people and in fulfilling the tasks of his office, when he met God's messenger. (5) *People who find blessings generally meet them in the path of duty.* He knew him. Either from description or from an earlier acquaintance, which suggests that there had been some concert of plan in the past among the followers of God. **Fell on his face.** Showing reverence for one who was recognized as God's messenger, and whose prediction of the long drought had been verified. **My lord Elijah.** He speaks to him as to a king; and truly, skin-clad though he was, he was far more a king than Ahab. (6) *The child of God, whose prayer calls down omnipotence, is mightier than a monarch.*

8. Go tell thy lord. He transfers the title to Ahab. "He is thy lord, not I." **Elijah is here.** It was necessary that he should appear before removing the curse from the land, in order to show that it was by his word, and not from Baal.

9. What have I sinned. We notice in Obadiah the signs of a weak faith. He had lived too near the world not to feel somewhat of its influence upon his trust in God. **Thou wouldst deliver thy servant.** For him to tell Ahab that Elijah was near might awaken the suspicion that he had kept him in concealment.

10, 11. There is no nation. That is, of the lands around Samaria, in friendly relation with King Ahab. **Sent to seek thee.** Perhaps not to kill Elijah, but to compel him to release the land from the drought. **He took an oath.** Not content with a mere statement, he exacted a formal, sworn statement. **And now anayest.** It was a bold act to go into the presence of the king with such a message, especially if it came through one who was suspected of friendship with Elijah.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Elijah meeting Ahab. 1 Kings 18. 1-18.
 Th. The blessings of obedience. Deut. 28. 1-14.
 W. Famine in Israel. 2 Sam. 21. 1-9.
 Th. Elijah a type of John the Baptist. Matt. 3. 1-12.
 F. Seeking for vengeance. 1 Sam. 19. 8-24.
 S. Cautioned to fear not. Luke 12. 31-40.
 S. Wickedness of forsaking God. Jer. 2. 1-13.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim. 1 Kings 18. 18.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 46, Dominion Hymnal.

Happy the child whose youngest years
 Receive instruction well,
 Who hates the sinner's path, and fears
 The road that leads to hell.

No. 58, Dominion Hymnal.

Come, every soul by sin oppressed,
 There's mercy with the Lord.

No. 55, Dominion Hymnal.

Lead us heavenly Father, lead us,
 O'er the world's tempestuous sea.

TIME.—B. C. 907.

PLACE.—In Israel, the precise locality unknown.

RULERS.—See Lesson IV.

CONNECTING LINKS.—While Elijah was at Zar-

12. The Spirit of the Lord shall carry. Such sudden transportations of men from place to place are hinted at in Scripture (Ezek. 3. 12, 14; Acts 8. 39); and may have taken place in Elijah's history, which throughout has such a supernatural element that some of the ancient rabbins believed he was not a man, but an angel. **Fear the Lord from my youth.** Here was the secret of Obadiah's character. A pious Israelite mother had trained him in early childhood, and the impressions of that tender age had ripened with his growth. (7) *Youth is the time to bring souls to Christ.*

13. 14. Was it not I who told you. He mentions this, not in a boasting spirit, but to show the sincerity of his service; and as a plea that his life might not be endangered. **He shall slay me.** Obadiah might have trusted God more fully, but few would have been as faithful in his place.

15. The Lord God of hosts. The word "hosts" means *armies*, and refers to the universe, whose parts form one vast army under God's command. **Before whom I stand.** Standing before God means in worship and in service. **I will surely show.** Thus relieving the prime-minister of his fear, and preparing Ahab for the meeting.

16. Obadiah went. When assured that it was the way of duty, he resisted his fears and went to bear the message. There is often more courage in victory over fear than in unconsciousness of it. **Ahab went to meet Elijah.** With mingled alarm and gladness; hoping to relieve the land, and perhaps to slay the prophet.

17. Art thou he that troubleth Israel. He blames Elijah for the drought, because he had not only predicted it, but declared that it should end only at his word. Yet he spoke only as the messenger of God, and not in his own name. (8) *How easy is it for a guilty conscience to shift the responsibility for crime!*

18. I have not cursed Israel. The true cause lay back of Elijah's trouble, in the sins that brought it; and for these sins, not Elijah, but Ahab, is responsible. **Thou and thy father's house.** Ahab had led the people into idolatry, and was accountable to God for the misuse of his influence. **Thy father's house** refers to the house of Omri, which surpassed not only its predecessors on the throne, but its successors also, in open disobedience to God. **Forsaken the commandments.** A hold, but well-deserved rebuke. **Followed Baalim.** Idols which were even more debasing in their influence than the worship of the golden calves.

ephath, the widow's son suddenly died, but was restored to life through the prophet's prayer. Read 1 Kings 17. 17-24.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The trouble of sin.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

- 1. Ahab and Obadiah,** v. 1-6.
 What command of God came to Elijah, and when?
 What was God's promise?
 What was the condition of things in Samaria?
 Whom did Ahab call to his assistance?
 What was the character of Obadiah?
 What good thing had he done?
 What did Ahab propose?
- 2. Obadiah and Elijah,** v. 7-16.
 Whom did Obadiah meet?
 What did Elijah say to him?
 Of what was Obadiah afraid?
 How did he prove his righteousness?
 How did Elijah re-assure him?
- 3. Elijah and Ahab,** v. 17, 18.
 How did the king greet Elijah?
 What was the prophet's answer?
 How did Elijah show that Ahab was responsible?

Practical Teachings.

Where in this lesson do we learn—

1. That the fear of the Lord is wiser than the fear of man?
2. That it is safe to serve the Lord?
3. That forsaking the commandments of God brings trouble?

QUESTIONS

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