Lesson VIII. **ELIJAH'S FLIGHT AND RETURN** February 19, 1911

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—There is no break between to-day's and last Sabbath's Lesson.

GOLDEN TEXT—They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.—Isaiah 40: 31.

Memorize vs. 11-13. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—1 Kings 19: 1-16. Study 1 Kings 18: 41 to 19: 21.

1 And A'hab told Jez'ebel all that Eli'jah had
done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets
with the sword.
2 Then Jez'ebel sent a messenger unto Eli'jah,
saying, So let the gods do *to me*, and more also, if I
make not thy life as the life of one of them by to
morrow about this time.
3 And when he saw *that*, he arose, and went for
his life, and came to Beersheba, which *belongeth* to
Ju'dah, and left his servant there.
4 But he himself went a day's journey into the
wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper
tree: and he requested for himself that he might
die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take
away my life; for I *am* not better than my fathers.
5 And [1] as he lay and slept under a juniper tree,
[2] behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto
him, Arise *and* eat.
6 And he looked, and, behold, *there was* [3] a cake
baken on the coals, and a cruse of water [4] at his head.
And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.
7 And the angel of the LORD came again the
second time, and touched him, and said, Arise *and*
eat; because the journey *is* too great for thee.
8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went
in the strength of that meat forty days and forty
nights unto Hor'eb the mount of God.
9 And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged
there; and, behold, the word of the LORD *came* to
him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here,
Eli'jah?
10 And he said, I have been very jealous for the
LORD [5] God of hosts: for the children of Is'rael
have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine
altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and
I, *even* I only, am left; and they seek my life, to
take it away.
11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the
mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD
passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the
mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the
LORD; *but* the LORD *was* not in the wind: and after
the wind an earthquake; *but* the LORD *was* not in the
earthquake:
12 And after the earthquake a fire; *but* the LORD
was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small
voice.
13 And it was *so*, when Eli'jah heard *it*, that he
wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and
stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold,
there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest
thou here, Eli'jah?
14 And he said, I have been very jealous for the
LORD [5] God of hosts: [6] because the children of
Is'rael have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down
thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword;
and I, *even* I only, am left; and they seek my life,
to take it away.
15 And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy
way to the wilderness of Damas'cus: and when thou
comest, [7] anoint Haza'el *to be* king over Syria:
16 And Je'hu the son of Nim'shi shalt thou anoint
to be king over Is'rael: and Eli'sha the son of Sha'-
phat of A'belmeho'lah shalt thou anoint *to be* prophet
in thy room.

Revised Version—[1] he lay down and; [2] and, behold, an; [3] at his head; [4] *Omit* at his head; [5] the; [6] for the; [7] thou shalt anoint.

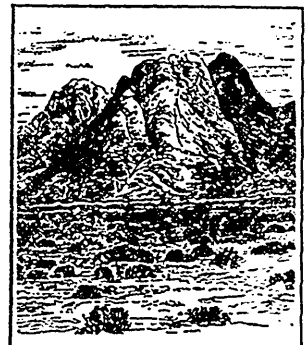
Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Elijah's flight and return, 1 Kgs. 18: 41 to 19: 8 T.—Elijah's flight and return, 1 Kgs. 19: 9-21. W.—Despondency of Moses, Num. 11: 10-17. Th.—A voice of despair, Ps. 55: 1-11. F.—Paul's reference, Rom. 11: 1-6. S.—God passing by, Ex. 33: 12-23. S.—Help from God, Isa. 40: 21-31.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Ch. 18: 41-46 tells of Elijah's announcement of *rain to* Ahab and the king's hurried return to Jezreel, the prophet running before his chariot.

I. THE PROPHET'S FLIGHT.—**1, 2. Ahab told Jezebel**; who had been rejoicing in the plentiful rain, believing that the priests of Baal had overcome Elijah. **Slain all the prophets**; tidings that would change her joy into fury against Elijah. **Then**; that very night. **Sent a messenger**; not stopping to think, in her blind rage, that the prophet might take warning and flee. **So let the gods**; the heathen gods like Baal. **Do to me**; slay me, as the priests of Baal had been slain. **To-morrow.** She was so sure of Elijah's being in her power that she thought she could afford to wait.

3, 4. He saw . . arose . . went; fled as we should flee from fire. **For his life**; to save his life. It was no part of his duty to run needless risks. **Beersheba**; the southernmost city of Judah, 95 miles from Jezreel, where Ahab and Jezebel dwelt, ch. 18: 46. **Left his servant**; according to tradition, the son of the widow of Zarephath, ch. 17: 17-24. **A day's journey**; 25 or 30 miles. **Wilderness**; to the south of Judah. **A juniper tree**; literally, "a certain broom bush", a bush ten or twelve feet high, with pink blossoms. **Requested . . might die**; a request showing how utterly worn-out and discouraged he was. **Not better**, etc.; but just a poor, weak man like others, and not fit for the great task of reforming the nation.



MOUNT SINAI OR HOREB

5-8. The Lord's answer to Elijah's prayer was threefold: (1) sleep to restore his energies after the terrible strain on Carmel; (2) food to strengthen him for further efforts; (3) sending him unto **Horeb the mount of God** (see Geography Lesson), where his faith might be strengthened by thinking of the great things God had done there for His people.

II. THE PROPHET'S VISION.—**9, 10.** A cave;