

Lesson XI.

ELIJAH'S FLIGHT AND RETURN

September 12, 1915

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Ch. 18 : 41-46 tells of Elijah's announcement of rain to Ahab and the king's hurried return to Jezreel. Vs. 1-7 give an account of Jezebel's threat against Elijah, the prophet's flight to the wilderness south of Judah, where he lay down under a juniper tree and prayed for death, and of his being fed by an angel after he had been refreshed by sleep.

GOLDEN TEXT—Be still, and know that I am God.—Psalm 46 : 10.

Memorize vs. 9, 10.

THE LESSON PASSAGE—1 Kings 19 : 8-18. Study 1 Kings, ch. 19.

8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb 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 : God of hosts : for the children of Israel 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 : God of hosts : because the children of Israel 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 Damascus : and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria :

16 And Je'hu the son of Nim'shi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel : and Eli'sha the son of Sha'phat of A'bel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

17 And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Je'hu slay : and him that escapeth from the sword of Je'hu shall Eli'sha slay.

18 Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Ba'al, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

Revised Version—1 the ; 2 for the children ; 3 thou shalt anoint ; 4 from ; 5 will I leave me.

*HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Elijah's flight and return, 1 Kgs. 19 : 1-8.

T.—Elijah's flight and return, 1 Kgs. 19 : 9-14.

W.—Elijah's flight and return, 1 Kgs. 19 : 15-21.

Th.—Fleeing from duty, Jonah 1 : 1-10.

F.—"Why art thou cast down," Ps. 43.

S.—"Be not afraid," Ezek. 2 : 1-7.

Sunday—A ministering angel, Luke 22 : 39-46.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE PROPHET'S COMPLAINT.—8. He arose ; from sleep. Once before the angel had waked him to eat and drink (see v. 5). Now when he was refreshed, the heavenly messenger roused him and again provided food to prepare him for a long journey. v. 7. Meat ; food. Forty days and forty nights. The distance was less than 200 miles and might have been traversed in 8 or 10 days, but the prophet, instead of going straight to his destination, kept wandering about in the desert, thinking over all that had happened and wondering what God would have him do next. Horeb the mount of God. Horeb is another name for Sinai, where the law had been given. It is called "the mount of God" because there God had so wondrously shown His power and glory.

9, 10. A cave ; perhaps Moses' "clift of the rock" (see Ex. 33 : 22). Lodged ; literally, "passed the night." The word of the Lord came ; likely in a vision as Elijah slept. What doest thou here, Eli'jah ? A loving question, encouraging Elijah to open his whole heart, with its craving for light and help and guidance. Very jealous for the Lord. He had done his utmost to prevent the king and people from giving to a false god the honor that belonged to Jehovah. Forsaken thy covenant ; especially the law of Ex. 20 : 3. Thrown down thine altars ; the one on Carmel (ch. 18 : 30) and many others. Slain thy prophets. See ch. 18 : 4. The people seem to have consented to such acts of Jezebel and her agents.

II. THE PROPHET'S VISION.—11, 12. Go

forth ; just outside the cave. The Lord passed by ; and wondrous signs betokened His presence,—a great and strong wind rolling the huge granite rocks down the mountain side ; the lofty peaks reeling with the earthquake ; the sky ablaze with lightning.

—fire from God. But the Lord was not in these : they were only His servants, not Himself. A still small voice ; literally, "a sound of soft stillness," teaching Elijah and us, that God rules, not by force, such as the prophet had shown (see ch. 18 : 40), but by love (see Ex. 34 : 6 ; Isa. 42 : 2, 3).

13, 14. Wrapped his face, etc. ; like Moses (Ex. 3 : 6), "afraid to look upon God." Mantle ; a sort of plaid or cloak. Entering in of the cave ; the opening where Elijah stood looking out. What doest thou here . . . ? The question seeks to know whether Elijah yet understands that, though he may have



MOUNT SINAI OR HOREB