

Lesson III.

ELISHA AND THE SHUNAMMITE

October 16, 1904

2 Kings 4 : 25-37. Study 2 Kings 4 : 8-37—Memory Verses, 32-35.

Golden Text—The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Rom. 6 : 23.



25 So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Car'mel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Geha'zi his servant, Behold, *yonder is that Shun'ammite :*

26 Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, *Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child?* And she answered, *It is well.*

27 And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet : but Geha'zi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone ; for her soul *is vexed within her : and the LORD hath hid it from me, and hath not told me.*

28 Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me?

29 Then he said to Geha'zi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way : if thou meet any man, salute him not ; and if any salute thee, answer him not again : and lay my staff upon the face of the child.

30 And the mother of the child said, *As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I*

will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her.

31 And Geha'zi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child ; but *there was neither voice, nor hearing.* Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked.

32 And when Eli'sha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, *and laid upon his bed.*

33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD.

34 And he went up and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands : and he stretched himself upon the child ; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.

35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro ; and went up, and stretched himself upon him : and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

36 And he called Geha'zi, and said, Call this Shun'ammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

37 Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

THE LESSON RETOLD

As Elisha travelled about the country, attending to his work as prophet, he often passed through Shunem, where lived a good woman and her husband, who had more than once invited him to dinner. One day this woman said to her husband, "It is plain that our guest is a holy man. Let us, therefore, build a little chamber for him on the wall of our house, and place in it a bed, a table, a seat and a candlestick, that he may stay with us whenever he comes to this part of the country." And it was done exactly as she had said to her husband.

In return for her goodness Elisha wished to do something for this woman, and, finding out that she had no children, and that what she most longed for was a little boy, Elisha promised that in return for her kindness to him God would surely send her a son. To her great joy the child came, and one day, after he had grown to be a boy, he begged to be allowed to go out with his father into the harvest field. But the sun was so hot that one of the reapers soon carried him fainting into the house, where he died soon afterwards in his mother's arms.