

LESSON XI. ELISHA THE PROPHET RESTORES A CHILD March 12, 1911 TO LIFE

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Ch. 3 narrates the story of a campaign against Moab by Jehoram, king of Israel and Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, in which the allied armies were saved by following the directions of Elisha. In ch. 4: 1-7 we are told of the increase of the widow's oil.

GOLDEN TEXT—The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Romans 6: 23.

Memorize vs. 32-35. THE LESSON PASSAGE—2 Kings 4: 25-37. Study 2 Kings 4: 8-37. Read Luke 7: 11-17.

25 So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, yonder is ¹ that Shunammite:

26 ² 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 ³ him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. ⁴ 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 Gehazi, 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.

Revised Version—the Shunammite; ² run, I pray thee now to meet; ³ hold of his feet. And ⁴ but; ⁵ returned to; ⁶ him; and; ⁷ once; ⁸ she.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Elisha restores a child to life, 2 Kgs. 4: 1-8-24. T.—Elisha restores a child to life, 2 Kgs. 4: 25-37. W.—The Shunammite's land restored, 2 Kgs. 8: 1-6. Th.—A widow's son restored, Luke 7: 11-17. F.—A girl raised to life, Luke 8: 41-56. S.—Faith and life, John 11: 14-26. S.—Eternal life, 1 John 5: 5-13.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



AN EASTERN HOUSE SHOWING GUEST CHAMBER

In his journeys Elisha frequently visited Shunem. Here he was entertained by a wealthy lady, who at last persuaded her husband to build a guest chamber for the prophet's use. As a reward for her hospitality, Elijah promised her a son should be born to her the following year. In due time the

child grew up, but received a sunstroke in the harvest field and died the same day. In her distress the mother seeks out the prophet. Vs. 8-24.

I. A TOUCHING APPEAL.—25, 26. So she went; riding on an ass driven by a servant on foot, as is the custom in the East. (See vs. 22, 24.) **Man of God**; a common Old Testament title for a prophet.

31 And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he ⁵ went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked.

32 And when Elisha 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 ⁶ 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 Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. 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 ⁸ took up her son, and went out.

Mount Carmel. See Geography Lesson. Here Elisha was living, probably near the place of Elijah's sacrifice. Saw her afar off; from a hilltop looking down into the valley. Behold... that Shunammite; his hostess and friend,—now, the prophet swiftly suspected, in some trouble. Run now... to meet her. His eager sympathy could not wait for her approach. Is it well with thee... husband... child? The prophet's sympathy takes in the whole circle of the woman's interest. It is well. The Hebrew is a single word, "Peace",—a reply intended to put Gehazi off. The woman's errand was not to him, but to his master.

27, 28. The hill; that is, Mount Carmel. Caught him by the feet; an Eastern custom, still practised, to add force to supplication. To thrust her away; as if she were taking too great a liberty. Let her alone. Elisha pitied the woman's sorrow, and would not interfere with the expression of it. Soul is vexed; literally, "bitter" with grief. The Lord hath hid it; a frank confession of ignorance. In this case the prophet was to learn the cause of the woman's distress, not by a revelation from heaven, but from her own lips. Did I desire a son...? She had not asked this favor; the prophet had offered it to her. Did I not say, etc.; but this is worse than deceit, to give a son and then take him away. (Compare v. 16.)

II. A FRUITLESS EXPERIMENT.—29-31. He