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of God, come down *quickly*." But instead thereof the *fire* comes down quickly, and in turn he and his fifty are destroyed. Next comes a man (the third captain) who has learned to measure himself by the divine standard, and owning his life as worth nothing, casts himself on God's mercy, and could say "I mercy *sought* and mercy *found*." So if we take our true place before God, and say "We must needs die, and be as water spilled upon the ground," unless God looks in His pity on us, then He will not judge us because we have judged ourselves—justifying Him, He justifies us. He goes on his knees a poor penitent—knowing the just judgment fallen upon the two previous captains, he pleads for mercy. Will God have mercy; *can* He have, and maintain the rights of His Throne? "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy." He says "Go down with him, Elijah," and he goes down. *Whom* will God take to heaven? These very people who are thus self-condemned; those who judge themselves never will be judged. There are some who say, Why did Almighty God do this? He is Almighty, and He will prove His almightiness by pouring out His judgment on them, unless they bow to Him and seek His mercy. Elijah goes to the King's bedside, and again delivers the message that he shall die. Do you mean that God had no mercy for that sick man? No. He would have taken him to heaven, if he had only bowed to the grace of God, and owned His claims. How many a sick bed is sent to save a man's soul. In *Revelation* we find God saying to men, in effect, by all His judgments, *Will* you give in, will you repent?—But they will not,—they gnaw their tongues for pain, but they will not repent, they dare God to His face, and He has to send them to the pit. He would not do so, if He could *righteously* save them; but there can be no heaven for us, unless we submit to God on earth.

Next, we have *Jehoram* mentioned, and in 2 Chron. xxi. 12-15,—“There came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet”; he may have been no longer able to visit him in person, and writes him a letter announcing God's judgment upon him for his sin.

One last point, after all these messages of judgment, Elijah says: Now I am going to be translated, but I have one thing to do yet; Elisha, if you have never counted the cost of the Lord's path, I want to test you. He reaches Gilgal, where the reproach of Egypt was rolled away, Elisha