

Lesson VII. *

'S VICTORY OVER THE PROPHETS OF BAAL February 12, 1911

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The Lesson follows closely on that for last Sabbath.

GOLDEN TEXT—Choose you this day whom ye will serve.—Joshua 24: 15.

Memorize vs. 38, 39. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—1 Kings 18: 25-39. Study 1 Kings 18: 1, 2, 17-40. Read ch. 18.

25 And Elijah said unto the prophets of Ba'al, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.

26 And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Ba'al from morning even until noon, saying, O Ba'al, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

27 And it came to pass at noon, that Eli'jah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure, he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

28 And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

29 And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

30 And Eli'jah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.

31 And Eli'jah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Ja'cob, unto whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Is'rael shall be thy name:

Revised Version—1 god; 2 about the altar; 3 musing; 4 gone aside; 5 lancets; 6 was so, when; 7 that they; 8 oblation; but there; 9 thrown down; 10 it; 11 he; 12 offering; 13 oblation; 14 O Lord, the God; 15 of; 16 thou, Lord, art God; 17 Omit the.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Elijah's victory over the prophets of Baal, 1 Kgs. 18: 1-16. T.—Elijah's victory over the prophets of Baal, 1 Kgs. 18: 17-20. W.—Elijah's victory over the prophets of Baal, 1 Kgs. 18: 30-40. Th.—Warning against idolatry, Deut. 4: 14-26. F.—Answer by fire, 2 Chron. 6: 12-21; 7: 1-3. S.—Idols and the true God, Jer. 10: 1-11. S.—A call for decision, Josh. 24: 1, 2, 13-18.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

In the third year, either of the drought or of Eli'jah's sojourn with the widow, at God's command, Eli'jah again went to Ahab to announce the termination of the drought. Vs. 1, 2.

Vs. 3-24 record the prophet's meeting, first with Obadiah and then with Ahab, and the gathering of the people on the top of Mount Carmel.

I. THE PROPHETS OF BAAL.—25, 26. The

prophets of Baal; that is, the priests in charge of the Baal worship. There were four hundred and fifty of them present, v. 19. Choose you one bullock. . . dress (prepare it for sacrifice) it first. Eli'jah gives his opponents every advantage, so as to take away every excuse for failure. Ye are many; a good reason for their leading the way: they



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could have their bullock ready sooner than he could prepare his. Your gods; Rev. Ver., "god", that is, Baal. Put no fire under. See on vs. 3-24. O Baal, hear us; and answer us by sending down fire. Voice, etc. The wild chorus from among the rocks was met by a dead silence in the heavens. Leaped upon; danced wildly up and down.

27-29. Mocked them; urging them on to still greater exertions, to make their failure more marked. For he is a god. So the Baal priests believed. Why, then, did he not answer? Talking, etc. The heathen picture their gods as being like men, even to their wants and weaknesses. Out themselves; to induce Baal to answer. It was a heathen belief that the gods were pleased with the shedding