

S. S. LESSONS.

Select Notes on International S. S. Lessons,
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LESSON VII. FEB. 18, 1877.

ELIJAH AND HIS SACRIFICE.—1 Kings, 18:36

(B.C. 906.)

36. Evening Sacrifice.—The time was probably that mentioned by Josephus (Ant. Jud. XIV: 8:3), "the ninth hour" or three o'clock. Thus there might still remain five hours of light, during which the other events of the day were accomplished.

37. That this people may know.—The glory of God and the salvation of the people,—these two things formed the entire object of all that the prophet did and said.

38. The fire fell.—This denotes not lightning, for an ordinary flash could have produced no such effect, but a fire miraculously proceeding from Jehovah.

39. They fell on their faces.—Then, as ever upon such occasions, unable to endure the brilliance of the divine light, the people fell on their faces before it, and hid their eyes lest they should be blinded.

40. The brook Kishon, i. e. tortuous or winding stream, drains nearly the whole plain of Esdraelon, and falls into the Mediterranean, near the base of Carmel. It was the scene of two of the grandest achievements of Israelitish history, the defeat of Sisera, and the destruction of the prophets of Baal.

41. Get thee up, eat and drink. Elijah, about to retire for prayer, wished to be relieved from the company of Ahab and his attendants, and he said unto him, "Get thee up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of abundance of rain."

42. Elijah went to the top of Carmel.—There he could converse uninterruptedly with the Lord. On the top of Carmel too he could the sooner perceive if his prayer was heard.

43. To his servant. Notice how Elijah expected an answer to his prayer. He sent his servant to the summit to look out for its appearance.

44. A little cloud. There is something remarkable to us in the sign by which the prophet knew that the rain was coming.

46. The hand of the Lord was upon Elijah. Divinely directed, and perhaps divinely upheld, Elijah, as God's minister, had overwhelmed the king with shame and confusion in the presence of his subjects. The natural tendency of this would be to lower him in their eyes and lessen their respect for his authority. It was not the intention however,

to weaken the government nor encourage rebellion. The prophet was therefore divinely directed to give a testimony of respect and honor to the king as public and striking as from necessity had been the rebuke to his idolatry.

LESSON VIII. FEB. 25, 1877.

ELIJAH AT HOREB. 1 Kings 19: 8-18.

(B.C. 906.)

8. He did eat and drink. As this fugitive from duty is stretched under the juniper tree, with his sheepskin mantle for a covering, to a bright angelic being—probably during the darkness of night—is seen approaching the sleeper's couch.

9. On the very same mount where Moses first saw God does Elijah see him. One and the same cave, as is probable, was the receptacle to both.

10. Jealous. Filled with anxious apprehension. Anxiously careful and concerned for anything.

11. Stand upon the mount. This was not fully done till after the still, small voice. He began to go forth, went toward the opening to see the storm and the fire.

11, 12. He heard in the strong and mighty wind an echo, as it were, of the dreadful reproofs and words of thunder with which he had struck the consciences of the people of Israel.

13. Wrapped his face in his mantle. The mantle was the upper garment,—a sort of short cloak or cape, perhaps made of untanned sheepskin.

15. Go, return. There were four things in God's treatment, of Elijah's despondency: 1, Food for body; 2, The influences of nature; 3 Assurance of Victory; and 4, Setting him to work as in this verse.

16. Jehu, founder of the fifth dynasty of the kingdom of Israel. He destroyed all the house of Ahab, and reigned in their stead.

17. The first subject of Elijah's grievance was, "The children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant"; the second, "They have thrown down thine altars and slain thy people with the sword"; the third, "I, even I only am left." "Go," says Jehovah in reply to the first, "pour the consecrating oil on the head of Hazael. He is to be the rod of mine anger against apostate Israel.

18. I have seven thousand. This is the answer to Elijah's third complaint, I, only am left. Seven thousand faithful shall survive all the persecutions of Ahab and Jezebel, and carry down the worship of Jehovah to another generation.

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