

SCHOLAR'S NOTES

From the International Lessons for 1877 by Edwin W Rice, as issued by American Sunday-School Union

LESSON XI
MARCH 14: THE SPIRIT ON ELISHA (About 896 B.C.)

GOLDEN TEXT - The Spirit of the Lord rested on Elisha. 2 Kings II 15

CENTRAL TRUTH - The Spirit is given to those who ask.

DAILY READINGS - M - 2 Kings II 11-25 T - 2 Kings III 1-21 W - Num XI 24-30 Th - Isa XI 1-9 F - Josh VI 17-27 Sa - Ex XV 22-27 S - Gen XL 1-14

CONNECTED HISTORY - Elisha returned to Jericho and healed its fountains. Some suppose the events in this and the preceding lesson are, for obvious reasons, recorded out of the order in which they occurred, and that Elisha's translation took place after the beginning of the reign of Jehoram of Judah, which was in the fifth year of the reign of Jehoram, king of Israel. In that case the date at the head of these lessons should be 894 B.C.

TO THE SCHOLAR - In this lesson three successive miracles and the "sons of the prophets" unite in testifying that Elisha had received the spirit of Elijah and had become his successor.

NOTE - R H Sha, son of Japhat, lived at Abel-mehor. A farmer, called by Elisha, appointed his successor his translation to heaven. Healed the waters at Jericho, increased the widow's oil, raised the Shunammite's son, healed the poisoned portage, cured Naaman, made iron swim, smote an army with blindness, prophesied from 50 to 99 years, his bones revived a dead man. Bears, she-bears robbed of their young are particularly ferocious. See 2 Sam and 8. Bears are still common in Palestine.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS

LESSON TOPICS - (I) ELISHA SUCCEEDED ELIJAH (II) SEARCH FOR ELIJAH (III) THE WATERS HEALED (IV) THE MOCKERS PUNISHED

I. ELISHA - (C) EREDS ELIJAH (13) BANE OF JORDAN. "Up of Jordan Heb (15) WAS HE ALSO, Where is the Lord God of Elisha even he and when he said, 'Go - Lange (15) to view at Jericho," which were at Jericho, opposite. See 7. JERICO, work the miracle. S. OF ELIJAH BOTH REAL, Elisha has succeeded Elisha as leader of the prophets. HOW THEN BELIEVE, to acknowledge him as their future leader.

I. QUESTIONS - Whether did Elisha go after Elijah's translation? What did he take with him? How did he use it at the Jordan? What did he say as he crossed the waters? What did he mean by that? What happened to the waters? How did the sons of the prophets greet him? How show their respect for him?

II. SEARCH FOR ELIJAH (16) FIFTY STRONG MEN, fifty "sons of strength" (Heb.), perhaps those spoken of in 7. LAST PERADVENTURE, for fear that it may be. SPIRIT TAKEN, so Obadiah feared, 1 Kings XVII 12; SOX MOENTAN ON TALLER, either, but ingridied as Moses, they would hurt his body, or they hoped to find him alive (17) ASHAMED, to refuse their any longer.

II. QUESTIONS - What request did the sons make of Elisha? Why did they wish to search for Elisha? How did they take Elisha's permission? How long did they search, and with what result?

III. THE WATERS HEALED. (19) MEN OF THE CITY, perhaps some of the friends of the prophets, situated at Jericho, on a broad plain shaded by groves of palm trees, mulberries, and sweet-smelling shrubs (Speakers' Com.) WATER SAUGHT - that is, bad, perhaps from the ozone upon the city, ground narren, apt to miscarty (Speakers' Com.) that is fall of crops. (20) CUPES "dish," perhaps a small bowl. (21) SPRING OF THE WATERS, called "Elisha's fountain" and Sta. Esultion. is about two miles from the ruins of the old Elisha. CANT THE SALT IN, so Moses used the tree at Marsh Ex. II 25. (22) HEALED made the water wholesome.

III. QUESTIONS - Describe the situation of Jericho and character of the water. What the men expected? What did Elisha call for? How use the salt? Does salt of itself usually make water better for our use? Whose power did he say healed the waters? How effective was the cure?

IV. THE MOCKERS PUNISHED. (23) BY THE WAY that is, by the usual road. THE CHILDREN OF "little boys, possibly "rooth" but the word "Hido" shows that they were not "grown-up persons." NO UP THOU HAD HEAD - that is, "Asced to heaven as Elisha" (Krummacher) or "Go up into the air" (Lange) (24) CRESSED THEM pronounced a curse on them. TAK WOOD, or "forest" TARY - to rend, to ear in pieces, or THEM, there were more than forty-two in the crowd. (25) TO MOENT ANKEL, probably for some religious meeting or service see ch. IV 23.

IV. QUESTIONS - To what place did Elisha go after healing the waters? Who met him? In what spirit? How did they mock him? How did Elisha rebuke them? What speeder followed? What lesson was this intended to teach? To whom? Whether did he signat journey? Probably for what purpose? state any lessons taught by these facts.

ILLUSTRATION - Elisha's fountain, across north at the eastern foot of a high double mound, or group of mounds, looking as if composed of rubbish and about a mile from the mountains. It is a large and beautiful fountain of sweet and pleasant water. It seems once to have been surrounded by a sort of reservoir, or sandstone enclosure of brown stones, but this is now mostly broken away and gone. The little brook serves to water many fields. - Robinson

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LESSON XII
MARCH 25: (About 875-891 B.C.)
REVIEW.

GOLDEN TEXT - But God is the Judge; he putteth down one, and setteth up another. - Pa. LXXXV. 7.

CENTRAL TRUTH - The righteous are exalted, the wicked rejected.

DAILY READINGS - M - 2 Chron. xxx. 14-24. 7 - Deut. IV. 14-28. W - Mat. VI. 24-34. Th - Josh. xiv. 10-28. F - James. 7-20. Sa - Acta. I. 1-11. S - Pa. LXXXV.

PLANS FOR REVIEW - One good plan for looking back at (reviewing) the past eleven lessons would be to study (I) THE WICKED KING. (2) THE RIGHTEOUS PROPHETS. Another good plan would be to make this period of the history centre about the life of Elisha, noting the rise of idolatry in Israel and his lifework in rebuking and destroying it. A third plan, which may be followed with profit, is to study (I) A PROPER GROWING MOOR WICKED. (II) A FAITHFUL WITNESS. (III) THE FAITHFUL REWARDED.

TO RECALL AND FIX THE FACTS CLEARLY IN THE MIND, STUDY - THE HISTORY - In what year B.C. was the kingdom divided? Write the names of the first eight kings of Israel in their order. Which of the eight reigned the longest? Give the length of reigns of the first and eighth king? Who reigned the shortest? Give the length of his reign. How many of the eight kings were slain? Which of them died natural deaths? Which one slew himself? Who tried to become king of "Israel," and was prevented by Omri? What prophets lived in King Jeroboam's days? In King Baasha's? In Ahab's reign? What city was rebuilt in Ahab's days? Name the king of Israel after Ahab. The second after Ahab. His relation to the first. The two great prophets of their time. How one of the went to heaven. What blessing the other received at the translation.

THE PLACE - State the capital of Israel before the division. The capital of Judah after it. Of "Israel" after the division. The next capital after Shechem. Where was it finally located? Who built it? Where was Ahab's summer residence? (Jeruel.) Where was Elisha's home? Describe Gilead. Syria. State four mountains named in the lessons. Locate Mt. Ephraim. Horah. Carmel. Name three streams spoken of in the lessons. Describe the Jordan. The Kishon. Name the two largest cities mentioned in the lessons.

A WICKED PEOPLE - State the great sin of Jeroboam. Of the people in his day. How are Omri's sins described? 1 Kings xvi. 26. Who was still more wicked? Of what now was Ahab guilty? Give the Central Truth of Lesson III.

A FAITHFUL WITNESS - Who was raised up to witness against these sins? What was his first message to Ahab? 1 Kings xvii. 1. How was Elisha cared for? How a poor widow? Where? When did Elisha again meet Ahab? How long after the first message? How had Elisha been sought for? 1 Kings xviii. 10. State Elisha's charge against Ahab. 1 Kings xviii. 18. His demand as to Baal priests. Describe briefly the trial at Carmel. Why made? The effect on the people? On Israel? Whether did Elisha flee? How was he encouraged? His idea of the number of God's faithful ones corrupted? Whether was he sent? On what errands? Why Naboth was slain? How?

THE FAITHFUL REWARDED - Describe the last journey of Elisha. What schools did he visit? State his repeated requests of Elisha. Why did he ask Elisha to tarry? State the answers of Elisha? The final request of Elisha. How answered by Elisha? How fulfilled? What miracles of Elisha are mentioned? What does this history teach us as to wicked men growing better or worse? How does this warn us to avoid the first sin? What fact it shows that God rewards his servants, and that he punishes the wicked? Recite the Central Truth of this review.

To which class do you belong? How may you know whether you belong to the first?

TWO SOLEMN QUESTIONS

Just ask yourselves this question, "On what am I resting for safety in the prospect of that day, when the Lord shall shake things to their very foundation?" If there be a mixture of anything with the work of the Lord Jesus - if there be a looking to any other atonement to make your peace with "d," if the "precious blood" of Jesus, you are standing on a hollow foundation which will not bear you.

But if, on the other hand, you can, as before the Lord, answer that question satisfactorily - if you can say, "The Lord knows there is not anything which affords peace to my wounded conscience, but the cleansing blood of Jesus;" then ask yourselves another question, "Is my testimony clear and distinct before the world: Am I evidenced amongst men as a servant of the Lord? Does the world understand me?" For, you may depend upon it, the world is very sharp in its discernment and marks the inconsistencies of God's people.

Though it wallows in sin, it can see sin as a blot upon the character of a professor. We ask, What testimony do you bear before the world? We live in trying times, and it behoves those who would honestly manifest to the world around them that they are the servants of God, to live very near to the Lord. Selected.

THE GRACE OF GIVING.

Near forty years ago, a small and feeble church in northern New England, soon after settling a young pastor, became noted in the vicinity for its largely increased, and as compared with those of other churches, its liberal contributions to objects of benevolence, and especially to the cause of foreign missions. Other pastors looked on with surprise, and more than one enquired of the young minister - how it came about. "What do you do among your people?" they asked. "How do you get them to give so much?" His reply was to this effect: "I do not know that I do anything very special. I try to set an example of liberal giving myself, according to my ability. I do what I can at the Monthly Concert." (At that time very nearly all the Congregational churches, in that region at least, observed the Concert.) "I always welcome good agents to my pulpit. I employ solicitors to go among the people and obtain subscriptions. I seldom preach a specifically missionary sermon, but my preaching generally bears upon the missionary work. I do not know how to preach the gospel, which is for the world, without often presenting the duty of Christ's disciples to be followers of him in labor and in sacrifice for the world's salvation. I do not know how to lead the devotees of a Christian assembly without praying for benighted nations, and for increased consecration to and more faithful effort in the work which Christ has committed to his people, in carrying forward his designs of atonement."

It is a most important question, - Is there among ministers, is there in the church at large, enough of prayer in full recognition of the fact that the church is, instrumentally, to enlighten and to Christianize the whole human family. Is there not room for improvement in this respect during the year 1877? If we have not silver and gold to give, can we not at least give sympathizing, loving, earnest intercession at the throne of grace? Missionary Herald.

BE COURTEOUS. - There are a thousand little courtesies and attentions and compliments of life, but it would be well if there were still more of them. Bluntness does not mean honesty, and a recognition of whatever is good in men does not mean insincerity. It would be promotive of happiness if every time men descended in the morning they would look for that which is comely and praiseworthy, and single it out, and tell it to their wives. Oh, if men would only court after they are married as they do before, what joy there would be. What praise there would be distributed in the community. But the faults of men are generally first thought of, and are condemned. There are a multitude of little imperfect, irregular things in human conduct; and a man says, "I am not one of those who go around and flatter folks. I tell them what I think of them, if they have faults I hit them strong." But it is not necessary to be hard and repellent and unsympathetic in order to be honest. There is good as well as evil in men, and it is surely as worthy of recognition. Christian Union.

CREDIT MADE EASY. - One of the plagues of the times is what we might call credit made easy. To use an Old Testament figure, credit is sweet as honey in the mouth, but it is very bitter in the belly. There are such ingenious and seductive ways of getting one to invest on time. Nothing seems to cost anything at the supreme but fatal moment. The unwritten book, which is too choice to be published in any other way than by subscription, is urged upon you because it costs "only half a dollar a number." The grocer's wagon comes to your door so promptly every morning, and you get things so easily by merely ordering them, and your wants are so often suggested before you know you had them, that you often wonder at the great conveniences of modern trade, only you do not think of the astounding score that will come at the end of the month. Every community now swarms with vendors of some sort who have put upon this happy and illusive notion of credit. - New York Evangelist

We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. 2 COR. 5, 10.

EPPE'S COCOA. - Some time since, in a series of articles in these columns upon food, we spoke in terms of unqualified praise of Messrs. Eppe & Co.'s "Prepared Cocoa." The opinion we then expressed as to its purity and nutritious qualities has been fully endorsed by the public, as shown in its increased and steadily increasing consumption. We believe that Messrs. Eppe's manufactories are now the largest of the kind in the three kingdoms, and the total quantity of "Prepared Cocoa" consumed at the present time approaches four millions of pounds annually. This result is not surprising. The dietetic properties of native cocoa are well-known, but in the form prepared by Messrs. Eppe, Homoeopathic Chemists, they are rendered additionally valuable, both on account of their increased nutritive power and digestible character. We rejoice to see the high opinion we originally held to have been so generally confirmed, and we again congratulate Messrs. Eppe on the sound and valuable addition they have made to our not over lengthy list of dietetic foods. - Civil Service Gazette.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

VERY MUCH ATTENTION has been directed to the subject of weather predictions by Mr. Vennor's Almanac, and in answer to his request in it, he has received letters from all sections of the country containing much valuable information which it would have been almost impossible to have obtained in any other manner. The Almanac is still selling rapidly. The price is 20 cents a copy. JOHN DODGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

AMERICA NEEDS A Protestant paper in the French language, and to supply that need, L'ACROAS was established. It is a live paper, and is conducted on the same principles as other French publications. During the past few months, its success has been very encouraging and satisfactory. It is the size of the MASSACHUSETTS, and published weekly. The price is \$1 per year, for which it is mailed post free, to any address in America. JOHN DODGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

ON THE WHOLE, the number not only sustains the reputation of the MONTHLY, but gives evidence of fresh and successful effort on the part of the editors. This periodical is now, we believe, the oldest magazine in the Dominion, having outlived the ebullience which have proved fatal to so many other literary ventures. - Montreal Gazette in reference to the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY for February.

THE BROCKVILLE "MONITOR," after bewailing the death of so many magazines in Canada, says: "Under these circumstances, we are always glad to see the New Dominion Monthly make its appearance, to give tangible proof that a monthly periodical can flourish in Canada, and be sustained by some of the real desiderata of such ventures. Its publishers, Messrs. JOHN DODGALL & SON, have their own excellent printing establishment at their back; and therefore, produce their monthly at the lowest possible cost, and that is one of the merits of its success. It is very well printed, too, sold at the very moderate price of \$1.00 per annum, and supplies a large amount of pleasant reading material. A little more discriminating care in the editing of its more tedious periodical would add greatly to its value, and make it more acceptable than it is now to readers of a higher intellectual culture than it offers for at present. The English magazines do not circulate at all as largely as they used to do in Canada some years ago, and that is in proportion to the increase of population, and that is in proportion to the number of papers, and those who deal in them were to copy an article or two from these magazines on important current topics, which largely interest the popular mind, it would certainly be a step in the right direction. But even as it stands at present, it is a well worthy of support, and we heartily recommend it to the attention of those who would introduce cheap and best literature into their families. The January number of it contains several interesting papers, and those who deal in it to be at once instructed and amused, should provide themselves with a copy of it."

THE FEBRUARY NUMBER OF THE NEW DOMINION MONTHLY contains an illustrated article on the "Capital of Canada," with pictures of "The Chaudiere Falls as they once were," "Chaudiere Falls in Winter," "Bideau Falls," "Suspension Bridge," "The Parliament Library," "Lovers' Walk," "Chaudiere Falls in Summer," "A View of the Parliament Buildings," &c. The number contains many other interesting articles, the "Home" and "Young Folks" departments being especially interesting. The price of single copies of this magazine is 16 cents; the price per year, \$1.50. JOHN DODGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE opinions expressed by some of our correspondents with regard to DRESS and LEARNERS. Dr. Nathaniel Allen, of Lowell, Mass., well-known as the author of various pamphlets and essays on the laws which govern population and similar subjects, says: "If my views on laws of Population are correct, this Dress Reform must come up, be studied and proscribed. Your work is calculated to do great good. I am glad it is selling so well."

A lady in Bristol, Conn., writes: "I wish every young lady in the land had a copy of this book, and that it would contain the weight how the next generation would be healthily, comfortably, and greatly dressed." A lady, who dates her letter from a town in New Brunswick, in ordering a number of copies, says: "I intend them for our Church Bazaar, where they will be to hand, at cost price, for those who, in my opinion, very much need them. I regret not having had their teaching earlier in my life."

A lady in Brooklyn writes: "I sincerely hope the lady will meet with success. It is a book which every lady should be proud to possess." Price, 30 cents. JOHN DODGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

ONCE IN TEN YEARS, the eagle loses his plumage, and during this period much debilitated, he is quickly overcome, and his feathers are so much soiled, that he is unable to fly. He is then unable to grow to enable him to clear the air, and he dies, like the eagle, in a few days. We have a remedy, like the eagle, has six periods of weakness - from say as he approaches the age of twenty, forty, sixty, &c. while others please it earlier, but owing to his artificial mode of living, he cannot, like the eagle, renew his feathers to nature for necessary treatment, and it generally requires great care to enable the subject to pass safely through the critical periods. Feltow's Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites, by its great tonic and health-renewing properties, will restore tone more quickly than any other preparation known, it being the surest remedy for all debilitating maladies.

THE CLUB RATES FOR THE MESSENGER are: when sent to one address, as follows: - 1 copy, 20c; 10 copies, \$2.50; 25 copies, \$6.00; 50 copies, \$11.50; 100 copies, \$21.00; 1,000 copies, \$200. J. DODGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

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