

What fact shows that the people also became very wicked? How was Joshua's prophecy fulfilled?

What facts in this lesson teach us—

- (1) The danger of beginning to do evil?
(2) The power of sinful companions over us?

LESSON IV.

JANUARY 28.] ELIJAH THE TISHBITE. [About 910 B.C.] READ 1 Kings xvii. 1-16. RECITE vs. 5-7, 13, 14.

GOLDEN TEXT.—In famine he shall redeem thee from death.—Job v. 20.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—“The Lord provides.”

DAILY READINGS.—M.—1 Kings xvii. 1-16. T.—Lev. xxvi. 14-30. W.—Matt. vi. 25-34. Th.—Ps. lxxviii. 15-32. F.—Luke iv. 25-32. Sa.—Matt. xv. 31-46. S.—Mal. iii. 8-12.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—The “man of God,” Ahijah, Hanani, and Jehu were prophets of Judah. The first two had given terrible warnings to Jeroboam because of his sins, and the last to Jehu. Elijah is the first and great, east of the prophets in the “kingdom of Israel;” he pronounces the Lord's judgment against Baal-worship by the Israelites.

TO THE SCHOLAR.—Notice how God takes special care of his servant; sends him to a safe hiding-place; feeds him there; and at just the right time, sends him to Zarephath to preserve the life of the poor widow, and his own life also.

NOTES.—E'li-jah (my God Jehovah), a prophet, perhaps born at Tishbi, or Tishbeh; lived in Gilead, east of the Jordan. He prophesies against Ahab's fed by ravens; by the widow of Zarephath; raises her son to life; calls fire from heaven; destroys the prophets of Baal; brings rain from heaven; flees to Horeb; calls Elisha; again calls fire from heaven; prophesies against Ahab and Jezebel; taken to heaven in a chariot of fire.—Cherith, a stream “before Jordan,” or facing the Jordan. Robinson and Tristram count it the Wady Kelt, 60 feet wide and three feet deep, running into Jordan south of Jericho. Some suppose Cherith to be Wady Basail, farther north, or some stream on the east side of the Jordan.—Ravens, any bird of the crow tribe; very numerous in Palestine, and now seen in flocks about the Wady Kelt, the supposed “brook Cherith.”—Zarephath, a town of Phoenicia, seven miles south of Sidon; the Sarepta of Luke (iv. 26); now in ruins.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

Lesson Topics.—(I.) ELIJAH'S PROPHECY. (II.)

I. ELIJAH'S PROPHECY. (1.) Elijah, see Notes; Tishbite, born or living in Tishbi; Gilead, a wild, mountainous country east of Jordan; before whom I stand, a solemn form of speaking, as if under oath in court; dew nor rain, this punishment had been threatened for idolatry. See Deut. xi. 17; xxviii. 23.

I. Questions.—State the name of the prophet mentioned? Meaning of his name? Where did he live? Why called Tishbite? What kind of a country was Gilead? To whom did Elijah prophesy? State his message.

II. ELIJAH FED BY RAVENS. (3.) ensr. ward, from Samaria; Cherith, see Notes. (4.) ravens, these birds about there staid. (6.) bread and flesh, so Israel was fed in the wilderness. See Ex. xvi. 12-15. (7.) after a while. Heb. “at the end of days,” probably a year or more; brook dried, as small streams now in summer.

II. Questions.—Whither was the prophet directed to go? By whom? Where was this brook? Of what was he to drink? How was he to be fed? By whose command? How was it fulfilled? v. 6. What happened to the brook? Where? Why did it dry up?

III. ELIJAH FED BY THE POOR WIDOW (9.) Zarephath, see Notes; sustain thee, the brook fails, but the Lord provides for Elijah and the widow also. (10.) gate of the city, it must have been a walled town with gates for entrance as at Jerusalem now; fetch me . . . water, which was very scarce from the long drought. (11.) morsel, a piece, mouthful. (12.) a cake, thin cake baked on hot stones or in the ashes; barrel, pail or small vessel (Kelt); cruse, flask or little pitcher; dress it, prepare and bake it; eat it and die, the famine must have been very severe in Phoenicia. (13.) little cake first, said, not from a selfish spirit of the prophet, but to try the woman's faith. (14.) God of Israel, the widow was not an Israelite, but a Phoenician, and perhaps a worshipper of Baal. Baal-worshippers would admit Jehovah to be a God.” v. 12. (Cook) (15.) many days, or “a full year.” (16.) wasted not, the promise faithfully fulfilled.

III. Questions.—When the brook dried up, where did Elijah go? By whose command? How far was Zarephath from Cherith? [Probably about 140 miles.] To whom was he sent? Where did he find her? What doing? How did he greet her? What more did he ask than water? How did the woman answer? What did Elijah propose? Why ask for his cake first? How did he encourage her faith? On whose promise? With what effect upon the woman? How far was it fulfilled?

What facts in this lesson teach us—

- (1.) That God will punish those who neglect to worship?
(2.) That he can provide food for his servants?
(3.) That he can bring unexpected help to the poor?

IN REMEMBRANCE.

Very often we receive letters in connection with our business department which we might reproduce in our columns, but the very limited space renders this impossible. But the following beautiful letter from the bereaved parents of one of our young friends, who has finished her duties on this earth, we cannot but insert:

“Your circular accompanying the MESSENGER reminds us of a proposition made by our little daughter one year ago. She asked and obtained consent to raise a club, and succeeded in getting fourteen. It was a sunshiny day in her little history when it made its first appearance, and she delighted in reading her own number, and addressing and carrying the others to their destination. But in the last days of last June she sickened, and on the fifth of July passed from our embraces to live with God and His angels. We have taken a sorrowful pleasure in trying to carry out her little engagement to the end of the year. But as we have no one to take her place yet, and as each successive arrival is a kind of mocking reminder of our loneliness, we shall not try to renew the club.

“Yours in love and sorrow. J. D. BELL, “Ganacque.”

THE PRIZES.

An increased interest is being shown in regard to the prizes, and many letters are arriving, containing on them “In competition.” We would not object to receive very many more, and would like every boy and girl who reads the MESSENGER to try for the skates, if for nothing more. To give every one a full opportunity to win the skates, we have extended the time of competition for them till the close of the winter, so that if they are not obtained in time for use this winter, they will be all ready for the next one. In regard to the skates themselves, they are generally giving every one a pair, but we will again give one or two. From Bridgewater we hear: “I received the skates to-night by mail, and am much pleased with them; they are just what I wanted.” A postal-card, sent from Watford, contains the message: “I have received the skates you were so kind as to send me; they are a splendid pair, and fit nicely. Many thanks to you. The samples you sent have also come to hand. I will do what I can, and think you will soon hear from me again.” We would like to hear from our young friend at Watford, and our many young friends everywhere, whenever they have anything of importance to write.

ENCOURAGEMENT.

A few weeks ago it appeared as if there were not much probability of the MESSENGER increasing its circulation this year, but now every day's record shows that the spirit which increased its circulation from 15,000 to 50,000 in less than two years has not died out. Our boys and girls have set themselves to work again, and when they make up their minds to do anything it will be done. In every house where the MESSENGER is read, there must be some girl or boy who will get just one more subscriber for their paper. One each would make 50,000, when they were all added together, or ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND subscribers for the MESSENGER. That would be a number worth talking about, but would simply illustrate the power when everybody does a little. We are wondering how things will turn out this year, but very well know that the result will be just what the MESSENGER's friends decide. The improvements already in paper and engravings, are due to the rapid growth of the past. We have in this number introduced better paper, and as soon as possible, the type will be renewed, the effect of which will be very pleasing. If readers will do more for us, we will do more for them. The MESSENGER is the cheapest paper to be got anywhere. We want to make it also the prettiest.

THE CALENDAR.

The DOMINION CALENDAR, a copy of which will be sent to every subscriber of the MESSENGER or other WITNESS publications, will be ready for next number of this paper. Besides other matter referred to in the announcement of last number, it will contain a list of the International series of lessons for the year. The following paragraph gives some idea of the amount of information, which will be contained in a very small space.

1. January 7.—The Kingdom Divided, 1 Kings, xii, 12-20. Recite 16, 17. Golden Text, 1 Kings xii, 8. Central truth: Bad counsels bring division. Time, B.C., 975; 200 years before the Olympiads, the beginning of Grecian history; 222 years before the founding of Rome. Place; Shechem, in Ephraim. Circumstances: The kingdom of Israel at the height of its prosperity and glory.—a united and wide extended realm from the Mediterranean sea to the Assyrian Desert, and even to the Euphrates.”

This brief resume of the lessons, it is hoped, will add much to the value of the calendar, and add to the interest which may attach to it because of its unique appearance.

WHAT IS SAID ABOUT THE MESSENGER.

The following are extracts from letters:— From Temperanceville, O:—All the subscribers that I got last year like it splendid, and speak well of it, and I don't see how anybody could help liking it.

From Pittsburg:—We cannot keep house without it. It is the greatest treat that I can bring from town.

From Hinky, Ohio, U.S.:—We regard the WITNESS and the MESSENGER as household blessings.

From Waldron, Platt County, Mo., U.S.:—Those who have read the MESSENGER like it well.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

EPPS' COCOA.—Some time since, in a series of articles in these columns upon food, we spoke in terms of unqualified praise of Messrs. Epps' Cocoa, and 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. Epps' 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. Epps, 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. Epps on the sound and valuable addition they have made to our not over lengthy list of dietetic foods.—Civil Service Gazette.

M. BROWN-SEQUARD experiment, mented upon the stiffened arm of an executed criminal, by injecting warm blood into it: the muscles regained their contractility and the nerves their irritability. As the cutting of the blood is paralysis of nerve element, so a deficiency of blood is a cause of degeneration of nerve element. Fellows' Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites will cause the formation of healthy blood, and consequently increase nervous power, induce vital activity in debilitated constitutions, and tone all the organs dependent for health on muscular or nervous strength.

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