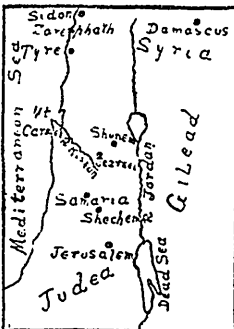


"Smelting House", and probably the place had workshops for refining metals. **Belongeth to Zidon**; Sidon, on the Mediterranean coast, the home of Jezebel, Ahab's wife, ch. 16 : 31. His enemies would not think of searching for him there. **Widow . . gathering of sticks**; chance bits of wood from trees outside the city walls,—a proof of her deep poverty. **A little water**; his first need after traveling through the drought-stricken land. **A morsel of bread**; a request which would soon reveal whether this was the widow who was to provide for him.

**12-16. As the Lord thy God liveth.** The woman recognized Elijah as an Israelite by his speech or dress. **Not a cake**; the thin, flat, circular or oval cake of unleavened dough common in that country. **Barrel**; an earthen jar. **A little oil**; used with bread, as we use butter. **A cruse**; an earthenware bottle. **Two sticks**; as we would say "two or three". **Dress it**; prepare it for eating. **Eat it, and die.** It was her last food, and she knew not where she could get more. **Fear not**; a cheering word of encouragement betokening the prophet's own strong faith in God. **Make me . . cake first**; a severe test of the woman's faith. **Thus saith the Lord**; and she may safely venture on His promise. **Went and did**; and found that the promise did not fail. **Many days**; perhaps two and a half years.

In vs. 17-24 we have an account of the widow's son and of his being restored to life by Elijah.

## THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



Across the Jordan to the east of Palestine lay the country known as Gilead. This is a beautiful land, with streams and springs, forests and rich fields, gentle slopes and quiet valleys, to attract the eye. The eastern boundary was the vast desert over which roamed the wandering Arab tribes. Probably it was somewhere in Gilead that Elijah found the brook CHERITH, which flowed through one of the watercourses of Gilead into the Jordan. Since the prophet was one of "the sojourners of Gilead" (1 Kgs. 17 : 1), he would be familiar with the hiding-places of that region.

## LESSON QUESTIONS

1 Describe Elijah's appearance before Ahab. What prediction did Elijah make? Where had drought been threatened as a punishment of idolatry?

2-7 Whither was Elijah sent from the presence of Ahab? How were his wants to be provided for there? Where does Jesus use God's care for the birds to illustrate His care for His people? (Matt. 6 : 26.)

8-11 To what place was Elijah sent from Cherith? Why were his enemies not likely to look for him here? How was he now to be provided for? What did he find the widow doing? For what did he ask her? Whom did Jesus ask for a drink of water? (John 4 : 7.)

12-16 Give the woman's reply. How did Elijah encourage her? How did he test her faith? How did the woman act? What was the result? Tell of Jesus' visit to the neighborhood of Tyre and Sidon. (Mark 7 : 24-30.)

Describe the restoration to life of the widow's son.

## FOR DISCUSSION

1. The contrast between Elijah and Ahab.
2. God's care for the heathen.

## A LESSON FOR LIFE

In many large cities water is pumped up from a lake or stream into a high reservoir. It is sent thither that it may be distributed all over the city. God, in olden times, gave the knowledge of Himself to the one chosen people, Israel. But He always intended that they should share that knowledge with other nations. We know about God and His salvation. It is His will that we should send the glad tidings to every part of the heathen world. We shall have no excuse, if we do not share our gospel blessings.

**Prove from Scripture**—That God provides for His creatures.

**Shorter Catechism**—Ques. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ? A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

**The Question on Missions**—(CANADIAN PROBLEMS: February, Problems of the City and Country.) —6. What does the country give to the city? The country existed before the city, and is still its feeder. City dwellers must get their daily bread from the soil. The country produces the strong young men and women who become the workers in the industries and professions of the city.

**Lesson Hymns**—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 16 (Supplemental Lesson); 25 ; 23 ; 26 (Ps. Sel.); 513 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 456.

## FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What punishment was sent upon Israel for its idolatry? .....
2. How was Elijah provided for at the brook Cherith? .....
3. In what way did the widow of Zarephath show her faith? .....