

Lesson IX.

ELIJAH MEETS AHAB IN NABOTH'S VINEYARD

February, 26, 1911

1 Kings 21 : 11-20. Commit to memory vs. 17-19. Study 1 Kings, ch. 21. Read 1 Kings, ch. 20.

GOLDEN TEXT—Take heed, and beware of covetousness.—Luke 12 : 15.

11 And the men of his city, *even* the elders and the nobles who ¹ were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jez'ebel had sent unto them, ² and as it *was* written in the letters which she had sent unto them.

12 They proclaimed a fast, and set Na'both on high among the people.

13 And ³ there came in two men, children of Be'lial, and sat before him : and the men of Be'lial ⁴ witnessed against him, *even* against Na'both, in the presence of the people, saying, Na'both did ⁵ blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died.

14 Then they sent to Jez'ebel, saying, Na'both is stoned, and is dead.

15 And it came to pass, when Jez'ebel heard that Na'both was stoned, and was dead, that Jez'ebel said to A'hab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Na'both the Jez'reelite, which he refused to give thee for money : for Na'both is not alive, but dead.

Revised Version—dwelt in ; ² according as ; ³ the two men, sons of Belial, came in and sat ; ⁴ bare witness ; ⁵ curse ; ⁶ dwelleth in ; ⁷ take possession of it ; ⁸ do that which is evil.

LESSON PLAN

I. A Great Crime, 11-14.

II. An Apparent Success, 15, 16.

III. A Terrible Doom, 17-20.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Elijah meets Ahab in Naboth's vineyard, 1 Kgs. 21 : 1-19. T.—Riches without happiness, Eccl. 2 : 1-11. W.—Little with quietness, Eccl. 4 : 1-8. Th.—Evil ways, Prov. 1 : 7-19. F.—Greed and trouble, Prov. 15 : 16-27. S.—Snare of riches, 1 Tim. 6 : 1-12. S.—Sin of covetousness, Luke 12 : 13-21.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 82-87.

The Question on Missions—9. What should be

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—Ahab's reign, B.C. 874-853 ; near Jezreel.

Connecting Links—The third Elijah story, Naboth's Vineyard, is separated from the second by ch. 20. It should naturally be read after ch. 19. Like the preceding two narratives, it is an episode in the struggle between Elijah and Ahab ; it serves, like the others, to explain the overthrow of the house of Ahab and Jezebel. Some have actually thought that the murder of Naboth did more to bring about the revolution involving Omri's dynasty than did the religious policy of Ahab. In the Greek Bible the story stands between chs. 19 and 20. Its position between chs. 20 and 22 is perhaps intended to let the prophecy of Ahab's death (ch. 21 : 19) and its fulfilment (ch. 22 : 38) stand together.

Ahab set covetous eyes on the vineyard of one Naboth of Jezreel, which lay near his palace. He wished, it seems, to enlarge the

16 And it came to pass, when A'hab heard that Na'both was dead, that A'hab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Na'both the Jez'reelite, to take possession of it.

17 And the word of the Lord came to Eli'jah the Tish'bite, saying,

18 Arise, go down to meet A'hab king of Is'rael, which ⁹ is in Samar'ia : behold, *he is* in the vineyard of Na'both, whither he is gone down to ⁷ possess it.

19 And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession ? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Na'both shall dogs lick thy blood, *even* thine.

20 And A'hab said to Eli'jah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy ? And he answered, I have found thee : because thou hast sold thyself to ⁸ work evil in the sight of the Lord.

Revised Version—dwelt in ; ² according as ; ³ the two men, sons of Belial, came in and sat ; ⁴ bare witness ; ⁵ curse ; ⁶ dwelleth in ; ⁷ take possession of it ; ⁸ do that which is evil.

the strongest influence in the life of both city and country ? That of the Christian church, because through the church's work hearts are changed, and therefore life in the home and in business is made better.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 16 (Supplemental Lesson) ; 252 ; 262 ; 100 (Ps. Sel.) ; 288 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY) ; 251.

Special Scripture Reading—Ps. 15. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 390, Elijah Confronting Ahab in Naboth's Vineyard ; B. 930, Jezebel. For Question on Missions, A Canadian Adult Bible Class, the Organizer Now a Missionary in Africa Supported by the Class.

Stereograph—For Lesson, Gideon's Battlefield and the Hill of Moreh, North from Jezreel (Underwood & Underwood, see page 67).

royal gardens. He approached the owner, but the latter refused to sell his ancestral lands. Ahab was displeased, but could do nothing but acquiesce. Jezebel found him sullen and ill-humored, and set about translating his bad temper into vicious deeds. She arranged the matter with the elders of Jezreel. Vs. 1-10.

I. A Great Crime, 11-14.

Vs. 11, 12. *Men of his city* ; Jezreel, Ahab's second capital, about twenty miles from Samaria, where Naboth's vineyard was situated. *Elders, and the nobles* ; the "judges" or magistrates required by Deut. 16 : 18 to be appointed in every city of Israel. *Did as Jezebel had sent* ; carrying out her wicked plan through slavish fear of her wrath if they should refuse. *In the letters* ; which Jezebel had written in Ahab's name ; but we are not to think that she used his seal without his consent. *They proclaimed a fast* ; a day of humiliation, of confession and supplication