

How can we account for the fact that a woman's threat seemed to make a coward of a great courageous soul that seemed to be devoid of all fear? (See Lesson Applied.) Note how good God is to His servant, in keeping near to him and in ministering unto him (vs. 4-7), and how good God is to us in our times of failure. We may not get much sympathy from men but we are sure to get it from God. The Lesson embraces the following:

1. *The Cave in the Desert*, vs. 8, 9. How long did it take Elijah to reach this dreary, desolate cave, this dungeon of Giant Despair? Bring out that Elijah hid himself in this cave with a desolate, despairing sense of the complete failure of his life-work brooding over him, with a longing in his heart that he might die, that he might get away out of this warring world where right is forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne. Remind the class that a good many people take refuge at some time in life in this cave of discouragement. They get discouraged with what they themselves are doing or with what others are doing.

2. *Questions and Answers*, vs. 9-14. What question had God to ask Elijah? (V. 9.) Note that this question implies that Elijah was away from home, away from the post of duty, away from his sphere of work. What answer has Elijah? (V. 10.) What excuse for hiding away in a cave in the desert? He felt that it was just as well for him to be there as anywhere else for all the good he could do. What does God ask him to do? (Vs. 11-13.) What is the meaning of these divine manifestations?

3. *Divine Directions*, vs. 15-18. Note that God's way of getting discouragement out of the heart of the prophet was to give him something to do, and to assure him that the times were not so bad as he thought, v. 18. The ages have never improved upon God's way of lifting us up. If we feel a touch of discouragement, instead of giving up, we must keep at it till the day breaks and the shadows flee away.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Let the teacher try to show the scholars, from this Lesson, "that God's work is going

on in the world all the time, quietly, but slowly and surely, and that every one may help in this work."

First, get the facts of the story clearly before the minds of the scholar. The main points are these: Ahab tells Jezebel what had happened on Mount Carmel, v. 1. Jezebel sends a message to Elijah, telling him that she will have him killed the next day, vs. 2, 3. Elijah flees to Beersheba (be sure the scholars know where this is), and then a day's journey into the wilderness, where he lies down under a shrub and prays for death, but an angel comes and gives him food and drink, vs. 4-7. Elijah goes to Mount Horeb (question about this place and the distance which Elijah would have to travel in order to reach it), v. 8. God appears to Elijah and gives him some work to do, vs. 9-18. Elijah calls Elisha to be his helper.

Bring out, next, what happened upon Mount Horeb. Take up God's question to Elijah and the prophet's answer, vs. 9, 10. The point to bring out is, that Elijah, in his discouragement, thought that his work for God had been a complete failure.

Take up now (vs. 11, 12) the signs by which the Lord's appearance to Elijah was accompanied,—the wind and earthquake and fire. Use these as a picture of the way in which Elijah had thought that God's work was to be carried on,—by force and with wonderful outward signs. Then turn to the "still small voice," as teaching the true thought about God's work is that it goes on quietly and that the great power behind it is not force but love.

Get the scholars to describe the effect on Elijah of what he had seen, and call for the question which the Lord again asked and the prophet's answer, vs. 13, 14. The point to bring out is, that Elijah did not yet understand the lesson which God was seeking to teach him.

Call for an enumeration of the new tasks assigned to Elijah (vs. 15-17): the anointing of Hazael and Jehu and Elisha (see Lesson Explained), and contrast the Lord's word in v. 18 with Elijah's despairing thought (vs. 10, 14), that he stood alone in Israel as a follower of Jehovah. Get the scholars to tell