Lesson X. ELIJAH AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL September 5, 1915 1 Kings 18 : 30-39. Study 1 Kings 18 : 16-40—Memory Verses, 36, 37.

Golden Text—The Lord is far from the wicked : but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.—Proverbs 15 : 29.



30 And Eli'jah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lorp *that was* broken down.

31 And Eli'jah took twelve stones, according to the rumber of the tribes of the sons of Ja'cob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Is'rael shall be thy name :

32 And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lorp : and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour il on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

34 And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time.

35 And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

36 And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Eli'jah

the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of A'braham, I'saac, and of Is'rael, let it be known this day that thou art God in Is'rael, and that I

am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. 37 Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

39 And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces : and they said, The LORD, he *is* the God ; the LORD, he *is* the God.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The people of Israel were hungry. God had sent no rain because they had forgotten Him. So the green things would not grow and there was little to eat.

King Ahab blamed all this on Elijah, and was very angry with him. At last the Lord told Elijah to go and meet Ahab again. When the two met, Elijah told the king to bring the four hundred prophets of Baal, the false god worshiped by many in Israel, before a gathering of all the people on Mount Carmel. Now Mount Carmel was a high mountain looking out upon the Mediterranean Sea. The prophets of Baal would offer a sacrifice upon an altar and pray to their god ; and Elijah would offer a sacrifice and pray to the true Whichever should answer by sending God. down fire from heaven should be worshiped and honored by all the people.

So the prophets of Baal and all the prophets were gathered together to meet Elijah. He came and stood before them. "How long will ye wait ?" he cried. "If the Lord is God, follow Him. But if Baal is god, then choose him."

Elijah spoke again. "I am the only prophet of the Lord left. But look ! There stand the hundreds of the prophets of Baal.

"Now let them prove their god. Let them make an offering upon wood, but put no fire under. I will do the same.

"Then they may call upon Baal, and I will call upon the Lord. The God that answers by fire, let him be God."

The people answered, "Let it be done."

So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Ye may try first."

The wicked prophets placed the wood and