

Lesson VI.

ELIJAH THE PROPHET APPEARS IN ISRAEL

February 5, 1911

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—King Ahab had introduced into Israel the worship of Baal (see ch. 16 31-33, Lesson IV., Jan. 22). and Elijah the prophet appears as the champion of Jehovah, the true God of Israel.

GOLDEN TEXT—They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.—Psalm 34: 10.

Memorize vs. 14-16. THE LESSON PASSAGE—1 Kings 17: 1-16. Study 1 Kings, ch. 17.

1 And Eli'jah the Tish'bite, *who was of the¹ inhabitants of Gil'ead, said unto A'hah, As the Lord² God of Is'rael liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.*

2 And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying,

3 Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cher'ith, *that is before Jor'dan.*

4 And it shall be, *that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.*

5 So he went and did according unto the word of the Lord: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cher'ith, *that is before Jor'dan.*

6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

7 And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, *because there² had been no rain in the land.*

8 And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying,

9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which *belongeth to Zi'don, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.*

10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, *the widow*

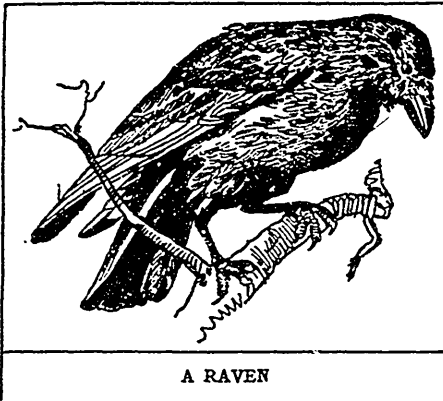
Revised Version—¹sojourners; ²the; ³was no;

⁴a; ⁵Omit of; ⁶forth; ⁷afterward; ⁸Omit And.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Elijah the prophet appears in Israel, 1 Kgs. 17: 1-16.

T.—Elijah the prophet appears in Israel, 1 Kgs. 17: 17-24. W.—Jesus refers to Elijah, Luke 4: 16-30. Th.—Elijah's prayer, James 5: 10-20. F.—Safety of the righteous, Ps. 37: 1-19. S.—God, a Deliverer, Ps. 33: 10-22. S.—The first thought, Matt. 6: 24-34.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



A RAVEN

I. ELIJAH AND THE KING.—1. **Eli'jah.** The name means "Jehovah is my God", a fitting name for one who was to stand up for Jehovah against Baal. **The Tishbite;** possibly a native of Tishbe, a place in northern Galilee. **Of the sojourners of Gil'ead** (Rev. Ver.). See Geography Lesson. Elijah, though perhaps a native of Galilee, dwelt for a time in Gil'ead. **Said unto Ahab;** bursting into the king's presence, perhaps at his capital Samaria, "like lightning on the midnight". **As the Lord God of Israel liveth.** Elijah spoke, not in his own name, but in the name of the living

woman *was there gathering⁵ of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.*

11 And as she was going to fetch *it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.*

12 And she said, *As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in² a barrel, and a little oil in² a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.*

13 And Eli'jah said unto her, *Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it⁶ unto me, and⁷ after make for thee and for thy son.*

14 For thus saith the Lord² God of Is'rael, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day *that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.*

15 And she went and did according to the saying of Eli'jah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat *many days.*

16 *And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Eli'jah.*

God. **Before whom I stand;** as His servant, and therefore under His protection. This thought drove away all fear from the prophet's heart. **Not be dew nor rain.** Drought was one of the punishments threatened if Israel should forsake the Lord for false gods (see Deut. 11: 17; 28: 23). **These years.** Three and a half years (Luke 4: 25; James 5: 17) the drought lasted. **But according to my word;** as the Lord shall proclaim through me.

II. ELIJAH AND THE RAVENS.—2-4. **Get thee hence;** away from Ahab's court. **Turn thee eastward;** in the direction of the Jordan and Gil'ead. **Hide thyself;** from the anger of Ahab and Jezebel, who would regard the prophet as not merely the announcer, but the cause, of the drought. **By the brook Cher'ith.** See Geography Lesson. **Before Jordan;** that is, to the east of the river. **Drink of the brook.** The Hebrew word translated "brook" really means a deep ravine down which, in the rainy season, a strong stream flowed, but which, at other times, was nearly, if not entirely, dry. **Ravens.** The raven is one of the commonest birds in Palestine. **To feed thee;** a miraculous provision.

5-7. He went; obeying the Lord without hesitation or question. **Ravens brought him bread and flesh . . . morning, and . . . evening.** Observers testify to the large supply which great birds, like the ravens, bring home. **Drank of the brook;** not yet dried up for want of rain. **After a while.** Perhaps it was a year before the brook dried up.

III. ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW.—8-11. **Zarephath;** or Sarepta (Luke 4: 26). The name means