

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson II, October 10, 1915.

Elijah Taken up into Heaven.—2 Kings, 2, 1-12.

Commentary.—I. Elijah called to depart (vs. 1-8). When the Lord would part with Elijah, the prophet's life-work was drawing to a close, and he was to enter upon his eternal reward. The events of that particular day indicate that he was still vigorous and capable of further labor. It is clear that there was still work to be done, but God's purpose called for the removal of his servant from earthly scenes. The question why God's workmen are removed to heaven in the midst of successful labor must remain unanswered until we shall know as we are known. Into heaven—into the eternal dwelling-place of the saints. Whirlwind—A tempest. From Gilgal. In the hill country of Ephraim, eight or nine miles northwest of Bethel. We learn from 2 Kings 4, 38, that there was a school of the prophets here. Elijah had been associated with Elijah for several years, in fact, since the return of the latter from Horeb. 2. Tarry here—Both Elijah and Elisha knew that the former was to be translated that day. Elijah desired to be alone when he went to heaven. Several reasons have been presented why Elijah requested Elisha to tarry at Gilgal. 1. His humility led him to avoid publicity while that great honor was being bestowed. 2. His love for solitude ascribed itself in view of this, the most momentous event in his life. 3. He wished to spare Elisha the sight of his departure from earth. 4. He desired to test Elisha's devotion to him and to the work in which he was engaged. The first and the last of these views seem the most reasonable.

3. Knowest thou—The "sons of the prophets" knew what the day would bring forth, probably by a direct revelation to them, for it is not likely that Elijah had told them of his approaching departure. From thy head—Recognizing that Elijah was the chief of the prophets, they must have considered it a serious thing for him to be removed when the work was so near its completion. 4. Elisha's service of the God of Israel were greatly neglected and idolatry was prevalent. Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace—This knowledge brought with it a sadness and a sense of the responsibility that must rest upon him, that made him feel that the subject was too sacred for discussion. 4. Jericho—About twelve miles southeast of Bethel in the valley of the Jordan. Here also was a school of the prophets. These schools were places where young men were trained, under the direction of a recognized prophet, for religious service. They were necessarily the sons of prophets. Their study was principally the law of Moses. Elijah was evidently making a farewell visit to the "sons of the prophets" at Gilgal, Bethel and Jericho. 6. The Lord hath sent me to Jordan. The journey was toward the place from which he was to be taken up to heaven. It led from Gilgal to Bethel, to Jericho, to Jordan, and beyond. Elisha proved his devotion and fidelity by not allowing himself to be separated from Elijah.

7. Fifty men stood by view afar off. There were twenty men in what was soon to take place. Stood by Jordan—Evidently he was not at a ford—place. 8. Elijah took his mantle—It was doubtless of undressed skin, and the symbol of his office, which he had worn for years. "The power of wonder-working rested not with the prophet individually, but was attached to his office, of which this rough garment was the badge."—Edersheim. Wrapped—The prophet would the mantle tightly into a coil in the form of a staff. Smote the waters—Moses smote the waters of the Red Sea and they parted to permit the Israelites to escape from the pursuing Egyptians. Elisha smote the waters, which were obstructing his progress toward the place where he was to bid farewell to earth, and a path was opened through the Jordan. In some respects the lives of Moses and Elijah were much alike.

11. Elisha's request (vs. 9, 10). 9. Ask what I shall do for thee—Elisha had yielded to Elijah's entreaty to tarry behind he would have missed this exalted favor. The request which Elisha would make would be a further index to his character. Solomon had been granted a similar privilege. (1 Kings 3: 5.) Before I be taken away from thee—Elijah's departure had now become a subject of their conversation. A double portion of thy spirit—He did not ask for twice the amount of Elijah's spirit, but his request was for the portion falling to the first-born son under the Mosaic law. He was entitled to twice as much as any other child, so Elisha wished such a portion of his master's spirit that he might be equipped for the grave responsibilities which would soon fall upon him. Elisha showed his greatness of soul in this request. 10. A hard thing—Elijah had no power to impart his spirit to Elisha, for that power must come from God.

11. Elijah taken to heaven (vs. 11, 12). 11. As they still went on and talked—Some think they approached Mount Nebo, from which Moses viewed the land of Canaan. They were making their last journey together and holding their final conversation. A chariot of fire, and horses of fire—These were creations of the spiritual world. This heavenly chariot was no hallucination, but the chariot was horses of fire were a part of that vast host, the sound of whose movements David once heard over the mountains (2 Sam. 5: 24), and which at a later time filled the mountains round about Elisha (2 Kings 8: 17)—Whedon. And parted them both asunder—The parting time, but it was accompanied by glorious displays of the divine presence and power. Went up by a whirlwind—We do not read that Elijah was borne by the chariot and horses of fire, but by a whirlwind. The fiery chariot and horses may have been simply a conveyer for the prophet in his flight to heaven. 12. My father—Elisha saw the chariot and the horses, and he beheld his master's as-

cent. He thus fulfilled the conditions upon which the request he made of Elijah was to be granted. In his astonishment he called after the departing prophet, and made an exclamation as he saw the chariot and horses.

Question.—About what was the time of this lesson? How long had it been since the events on Mount Carmel? How were the schools of the prophets conducted? In what cities had such schools been established? Why did Elijah visit them at this time? What questions did the prophets ask Elisha? What was his answer? Why did Elisha refuse to leave Elijah? What request did Elisha make?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—Perseverance Rewarded.

I. Elijah admitted to heaven.

II. Elijah appointed to service.

I. Elijah admitted to heaven. The translation of Elijah embraces more than a mere historic statement. The theme has to do with the great scriptural doctrine of immortality. It gave to Israel a powerful confirmation of that great fact. When God would transfer one of his faithful servants to heaven and place another in his stead, he did it in a way most in keeping with the characteristic life of each. Elijah and Elisha were two of the most remarkable men in the history of the world. Both stood faithful in a faithless age. Elijah's departure was in harmony with his life. He was not destined to come to his end in weakness and decay. His entire public life and work had the character of a judge, on the one hand destroying and consuming, on the other hand reforming and constructing. His last hours were as full of service as if no change were coming. On the borders of heaven he was full of genuine humility. He displayed a spirit of calm self-possession. He had no thought of his own needs. His great desire was to leave a blessing for those remaining in service. He saw with clear vision that Elisha was the man to be considered most at that hour. The parting meant most to him. He was to continue the struggle of life. He was to stand before wicked kings and ungodly men as the messenger of God. The change which passed over Elijah which culminated in his reception into the invisible world is incomprehensible to us. We regard the entire event as a singular honor placed upon a singularly great and good man. It is an assured fact that God directed in the matter of closing a career which he had so perfectly controlled. Elijah's movements were directed by the spirit of the Lord even to the last. He moved in sublime calmness to the most solemn crisis, ever thoughtful of the interests of others. His lifelong obedience and fidelity to God and zeal for his name, made him fearless when he approached the close of life. With him there was no murmur, no unwillingness to depart, no shrinking from entrance into the unseen world. He was fully prepared for translation.

II. Elisha appointed to service. The great responsibility which was to rest upon Elisha on the departure of Elijah was the matter which weighed upon the mind of the former as the two traveled together. His master had displayed a spirit of fidelity to duty, of faithfulness in rebuking sin, of fearlessness and courage in the presence of danger and also of marked tenderness and love. Elisha's suggestion that Elisha tarry drew out the qualities of his nature which proved him capable of receiving the answer to his request. It was no vain curiosity which prompted Elisha to go with Elijah. He had a correct conception of real worth with true aspiration after it. Admiration, reverence and devotion mingled in Elisha's love for Elijah. He made the wisest choice that could have been made in view of his future life-work. As Elisha was used from view, Elisha's experience was similar to that of Isaac when he received his prophetic call. Hitherto he had looked to his prophetic master for direction and encouragement. Here his eyes were fixed upon the embattled might of Jehovah. He was conscious that the place was filled with God's presence. His view of the situation was unselfish and patriotic. The falling mantle was a symbol of the transference of Elijah's unfinished tasks as well as an indication of Elisha's appointment as his successor. Elisha was assured by this token that his request was granted. His prayer for spiritual endowment for his work was answered. His importunity had prevailed. He had witnessed the departure of Elijah and recognized the hand of God in his translation. A vital faith in the power and power of God in the world was begotten. That faith had sustained Elijah in all his service. It should also become an anchor to Elisha. In the school of prophets with Elisha as their head, the influence of Elijah would be perpetuated. Through the young men the vital life of godliness should be kept alive in the world. The theocracy which Elijah had founded, regardless of Ahab and Jezebel, could be perpetuated through the schools of prophets. Elijah had worked with view to the future continuance of true piety in the world. Though the nation should continue in its tolerance of idolatry, and though it should at last go into captivity, there should be a body of faithful witnesses through whom God would declare His love and mercy, and through whom He could warn and admonish his people.

T. R. A.

TORREON TAKEN

Gen. Obregon, Carranza Leader, Captured Town Yesterday.

Vera Cruz, Mexico, Report.—The city of Torreon fell to General Obregon yesterday, according to a brief telegram from General Obregon to General Carranza. The telegram announced that General Obregon had taken his position in Torreon, and that he intended to push on and completely rout "the reactionaries."

General Carranza, on receiving the message, immediately gave orders for the ringing of all the church bells in the city.

THE POULTRY WORLD

CALL OUT YOUR FLOCK.

Calling the flock, or rejecting all but the best of specimens, requires nerve, and because many poultry-keepers lack this essential they fail to make the most out of poultry by retaining many fowls that are up to standard and develop into star boarders. It is then the owner keeps poultry when poultry should be sold. The keeping of fowls that do not come up to standard goes further than just the poor production of hen fruit. But when used as star boarders, they are not up to the mark and in many cases worse than the parent stock, for in the majority of cases like begets like.

With the experienced poultry-keeper, the weaker chicks, those not developing well, are sold for market. They are generally sold at the broiler age, when weighing to 1.5 to 2 pounds. The chicks that show normal growth for the age and variety of the breed are retained as broilers. Weighing then from 3 to 5 pounds. All females should be kept until they come up to standard weight for the breed and show rapid maturity. Rejecting all those that do not show thrift in their development from chickhood. With many poultry-keepers, the weaker chicks are put under the trap-net system and the practice of some of the leading breeders is to reject all that do not weigh over 100 eggs upward in 365 days.

The great majority of poultry-keepers do not care to go the extra trouble of trap-netting the pullets, and in this a creditable flock can be maintained by selecting the best. The weaker chicks are healthy and have developed without coming to maturity. The weaker chicks are a constant source of trouble and are a drain on the pocket. They are a constant source of trouble and are a drain on the pocket. They are a constant source of trouble and are a drain on the pocket.

The day is coming when the blood lines of each strain of fowls will be known to a large part in the profit to be derived from poultry. The future fowl must have a reputation for productiveness, not one, but the majority of the flock must be good. The first step towards its improvement.

RIGHT EQUIPMENT NEEDED.

The chief cause of failure in poultry is due in many cases to underestimation of the cost in properly equipping and conducting a plant. The last desperate effort to make a plant pay is to invest in any other line of business, nevertheless those who have not attempted to understand the poultry business, have to their sorrow, found that while the statement was true, the expenditure of money was far greater than that to be derived from the off-time article of the cheapness of a start in poultry. The one man plant, which will not only protect the flock, but will also protect the flock, cannot be started on practically nothing. The proper poultry buildings and equipment must be provided. No one could run a drug or grocery business without the proper equipment, and the proper equipment must be provided. No one could run a drug or grocery business without the proper equipment, and the proper equipment must be provided.

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NOTES.

Keep the pullets growing steadily. It is these fowls that have received no check in their growth and handling that will pay on schedule time. The hens that have been retained for future use should receive good care during the moult which is now on with the majority of hens. Too few realize the importance of the moult. The pullets that are they should have. Neglect now will tell in January, February or March when strong stock is required. This is the season when the beginner is purchasing breeding stock for the 1916 hatch. The pullets that are they should have. Neglect now will tell in January, February or March when strong stock is required.

The turkeys have a shady place in their range during the summer, and if part of it is low damp ground they will get more natural food.

It is a good idea to have a dish or fountain in a shady, cool place and renew the water at least three times a day in hot weather.

Ducklings are very likely to suffer from sunstroke during the hot weather unless they are kept in the shade. If there are no trees, make some shade for them.

During hot weather, it is best to have only a few chicks in each brood. There is less danger that they will crowd together and overheat, or suffocate, or both.

Unless the young stock is free from lice.

It is useless to expect profitable growth from use of lice-killing powder for the ordinary lice.

Do not compel the fowls or chicks to drink stale or filthy water, but be sure that they always have clean, fresh drink within easy reach and given in clean, frequent disinfected dishes or fountains.

All kinds of chickens and fowls breed rapidly in hot weather, and as they will soon spoil the profits if allowed to live, they must be destroyed by the use of lice-killing powders on the fowls and lice-killing fluids on the perches, etc.

The fall months are the ones to guard against regarding colds. More poultry contract colds, many leading to death, during the fall months than at any other time in the year.

Fresh eggs should command just as high a price this fall and winter as last year, and the poultry-keeper with a well-matured flock, properly cared for, should have the fat and lean years, and the sticker is the one who makes the most out of poultry.

Like a bee, the poultry-keeper should be busy all the time.

For a few days after hatching the worker bee devotes its time as a nurse in the hive, either feeding the queen or young brood, or maybe in helping to build comb, on pleasant days taking exercise flights in front of the hive to develop wing power and learning to make their home location. When three or five days old, if the bee was hatched during the honey flow, it will begin its field labor of gathering nectar, making many trips per day, working night and day as if the destiny of the entire colony depended upon her, so that the life or age of such a worker bee is from three to four weeks.

In normal conditions, when a swarm leaves the hive, the old queen goes with a greater portion of the workers to make for themselves a new home in some distant tree. There is left in the hive a small colony of worker bees and an abundance of drone bees, and all the way from two or three to twenty or fifty queen cells, and the most of them ready to hatch.

If one bee hatches a few moments before her rival sisters, she, with attendant workers, at once begins to gnaw in the side wall of the queen cell, and when opened the outside queen can easily send her death sting into her sister. But often before all such queens are killed there will be several hatched, and when they meet there is a pitched battle, biting off one another's legs and wings, at the same time each one thrusting against its rivals until one or both are killed.

Only one queen will stay in a hive, so it often happens that there will be two or three of these young queens, who, rather than fight for life, will take a portion of the bees in the hive and go to the woods. Such second or after swarms are seldom of any profit unless returned where they came from.

All queens when four to seven days old, if weather permits, take their wedding flight, leaving the drone of the choice, and while on the wing become mated, only once and for life. When several colonies of bees are near together, as in an apiary, it is not necessary to allow but a few drones to hatch in each colony. Better select the colony and raise all in that one, as the above mission is all the drone is good for. The drone bee never gathers any honey nor helps in the household duties. He is simply an extravagant eater and a loafing gentleman.

The queen, when from eight to ten days old, or three to five days after mating, will begin to lay eggs. Only a few the first day, but rapidly increasing the number until during the best of the brood-rearing season 2,000 to 2,500 eggs are deposited daily.

Some bee men clip every queen as soon as she is laying. It is no damage to her. She will live as long and produce as much brood as if she had both wings, and it will prevent her from going in the woods with a colony of bees.

They clip the feathery portion of both wings of one side of her body. To clip her they take her by the left hand, holding her by the waist or thorax with thumb and finger, leaving the legs and wings free. Often she is held by the left wing with thumb and finger, letting her stand on the thumb with the right wing loose, and then with small round-pointed scissors clip the feathery portion of both wings of right side of body. It is as cruel to cut the body part of a queen bee's wing as it would be to chop off the wing of a human being.

If several colonies of bees are ready to swarm, it is a great convenience to the owner on a bright morning when swarms are coming out to take their leisure time, to go to each hive where a swarm has just issued, and in the grass near the hive find a bunch of bees and the queen with them. He can then climb to get the queen. Simply return the queen after taking out all the queen cells, and if necessary remove one or two brood combs for empty ones. In short, he does with the bees as he thinks best, and he has no bees going to the woods or trouble in getting them hived.

Alfalfa is rich in protein. So is cotton-seed cake. Corn is low in protein, being like alfalfa or cotton-seed should be fed with it. Which is

cheapest? Farm and Fireside thinks it depends on conditions. A test made in Nebraska shows that the use of cotton-seed cake in place of alfalfa in that State increased the cost of the meat and lowered the profits of the feeder. The reason is that the alfalfa can be produced on the farm and the cottonseed had to be brought from afar. A feeding test in Alabama or Georgia might have shown opposite results. We must study our own conditions, that's sure.

The soil provides the plant not only with certain plant foods, but also with water and air; and the extent and nature of these supplies go more to determine the crop than anything else. Therefore, although manuring is often necessary, it is of vital importance that the soil should be well cultivated and properly.

Young pigs are often afflicted with cholera or St. Vitus dance. It usually follows where a lack of vitality is found. The symptoms show mostly in the hind legs, which kick out often. Inbreeding is the common cause, but this is not well understood by veterinarians.

Cows are nervous, timid and sensitive and they suffer with homesickness. The newly-purchased cow is apt to fall off in her milk flow for a time until she gets used to new surroundings.

German dead piled four deep. Another Graphic Story of the Capture of Loos.

New Army's Bravery Equals Britain's Best.

London Cable.—A correspondent of Reuters' Telegram Company sends the following despatch from British headquarters under date of Tuesday describing the fighting in the great offensive of the allies on the western front.

"The first charge made by our men from the Vermelles trenches in the grey light of Saturday morning, which carried them right through the village of Loos and to the summit of Hill 70 and beyond this, will rank as one of the most glorious exploits of the British army."

"Nothing could stop them. Two German trenches defending the village fell first; then a race across some open country and they were in the streets of Loos. Some hand-to-hand fighting with bombs and bayonets, and then out of the village to the top of Hill 70, about half a mile to the east. The last desperate rush took them to the summit, some going even beyond until checked by a strong earthwork defence with numerous machine guns."

"The enemy's batteries had by this time begun to concentrate on the slopes of the hill, and therefore our men were ordered to dig in about a hundred yards from the summit."

"Fierce fighting continued around the hill on Sunday and Monday. The new army battalions played an important part in the attack; men who had no experience in light fighting sprang forward to the sound of the officers' whistles with a dash and gallantry which nothing could stop. Paying no heed to the terrible fire poured on them from the hidden guns, they pressed forward at a steady pace, making their way through the barbed wire entanglements, forcing the enemy's trenches and bayoneting the Germans in them."

"Germans caught hiding in cellars from which they kept up a steady fire on the men dashing through the streets of the village, were hauled forth; machine guns firing through holes in the walls of cottages were charged and captured."

"The village was protected by a triple line of barbed wire of extraordinary thickness and strength, the barbs being nearly an inch in length. The first two lines had been well destroyed by the artillery, but the third still stood, and this had to be cut by men standing in the open exposed to the enemy's fire."

"One man said that in the trenches around the town the German dead in some places were piled four deep. Many cellars contained Germans seeking protection from the bombardment and into the houses dashed the bombs. They pulled up the flap of the cellars and dropped in a couple of bombs. In one burst one German officer was found with a telephone receiver to his ear. He had been directing the fire of the German artillery on the village after the British occupied it."

"The village itself was badly damaged. The church was a shapeless mass of bricks; houses were blown to pieces; streets were piled with debris, and which lay many hundreds of dead and wounded. The few French inhabitants still living in the village consisted of two or three families, mostly women."

FRENCH WOMEN HONORED. Paris Cable.—Five society women, Mmes. Armagnac, Delatour and Maubourg de Chabannes, and Mlles. de Bal and de Lyr, Red Cross nurses who were taken prisoner at Maubeuge, have been decorated with the Military Cross and commended to the general army orders for heroic conduct in attending wounded throughout the siege of Maubeuge, and for taking up their work as soon as they had been liberated after three months' of detention in Germany.

SERBS DECORATE AMERICANS. Nish, Serbia, Cable.—via London.—Crown Prince Alexander has decorated 43 American physicians and sanitary engineers in recognition of their services in stopping the epidemic which broke out in Serbia after the war began. The Americans decorated are representatives of the Rockefeller Foundation and the American Red

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FARM NEWS AND VIEWS.

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MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS

FARMERS' MARKET.

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