

Lesson XI. ELISHA THE PROPHET RESTORES A CHILD March 12, 1911
TO LIFE

2 Kings 4 : 25-37. Study 2 Kings 4 : 8-37—Memory Verses, 32-35.

Golden Text—The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Romans 6:23.



25 So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Car'mel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Geha'zi his servant, Behold, *yonder is that Shunam'mite* :

26 Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, *Is it well with thee ? is it well with thy husband ? is it well with the child ?* And she answered, *It is well.*

27 And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet : but Geha'zi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone ; for her soul *is vexed within her* : and the Lord hath hid *it* from me, and hath not told me.

28 Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord ? did I not say, Do not deceive me ?

29 Then he said to Geha'zi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way : if thou meet any man, salute him not ; and if any salute thee, answer him not again : and lay my staff upon the face of the child.

30 And the mother of the child said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her.

31 And Geha'zi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child ; but *there was* neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked.

32 And when Eli'sha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed.

33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the Lord.

34 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and he stretched himself upon the child ; and the flesh of the child

his eyes, and his hands upon his hands : and he stretched himself upon his hands : and he stretched himself upon him : waxed warm.

35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro ; and went up, and stretched himself upon him : and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

36 And he called Geha'zi, and said, Call this Shunam'mite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

37 Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

THE LESSON RETOLD

After Elijah was carried away to heaven, Elisha took his place as a prophet, and traveled up and down through the land, teaching the people many things. In his journeyings he often passed through the little town of Shunem. A good woman who lived there, knowing he was a prophet, got her husband to build a little room for him in their house, where he might stay whenever he wished. Elisha was very grateful for this kindness, and, because she wished very much for a little son, told her that God would reward her by sending her one very soon, which He did. But one day it happened when the child had grown, that he took suddenly ill and died. He had gone out in the morning with his father to the field, but while he was there he took sick. The father sent one of his young men to carry him to his mother, and he died on her lap at noon.

The poor mother carried the little body up to Elisha's room, and laid it on his bed ; then she hurried away to look for the man of God, feeling sure he would be able to help her. At last she found him at Mount Carmel. Elisha saw her a long way off, and said to his servant, Gehazi, " Run and meet the woman, and ask her if everything is well with her husband and child."

So Gehazi ran and asked her, and she answered, " All is well." But when she came to Elisha, she knelt down at his feet and cried out bitterly, " Did I ask you to give me a son ?" Then Elisha knew that her little boy was dead. So he said to Gehazi, " Take my staff, and hurry to the house. Do not stop to speak to any one, and lay it on the face of the child." But the woman said to Elisha, " I will not go home without thee." So Elisha went with her.