

Lesson VII. ELIJAH'S VICTORY OVER THE PROPHETS OF BAAL

February 12, 1911

1 Kings 18 : 25-39. Study 1 Kings 18 : 1, 2, 17-40—Memory Verses, 38, 39.

Golden Text—Choose you this day whom ye will serve.—Joshua 24 : 15.

25 And Eli'jah said unto the prophets of Ba'al, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first ; for ye *are* many ; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire *under*.

26 And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Ba'al from morning even until noon, saying, O Ba'al, hear us. But *there was* no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

27 And it came to pass at noon, that Eli'jah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud : for he is a god ; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

28 And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

29 And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that *there was* neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

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 Lord that was broken down.

31 And Eli'jah took twelve stones, according to the number 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 Lord : 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 it 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

After Elijah had been living at Zarephath for a long time, God said to him : " Go, show thyself to the king, and I will send rain upon the earth."

So Elijah hurried across the country towards the king's palace. On the way Ahab met Elijah, and spoke to him very angrily. He blamed Elijah because there had been no rain for three years.

But Elijah told the king that he was not to blame for there being no rain in the land. It was because the king and his people had sinned against God by worshiping false gods, that no rain had come from the clouds. Then Elijah told the king to gather all the people together to a high mountain by the sea, and also four hundred and fifty priests of the

false god Baal. When this was done, Elijah spoke to the people. " Let the priests of Baal take an ox ", he said, " and cut it in pieces and lay it on a pile of wood, with no fire underneath ; and I will do the same with another ox." Elijah turned to the priests of Baal, and said to them : " Call ye on your god and I will call on the name of the Lord, and let the one who answers by sending down fire from heaven to burn the ox, be God." And all the people shouted, " It is well spoken."

So the wicked priests took their ox, cut it in pieces, and placed them on a pile of wood. Then they prayed to their god, Baal. " Oh Baal, hear us ", they cried, and they leaped upon the pile of wood, shouting this louder