

Lesson I.

ELISHA SUCCEEDS ELIJAH

October 2, 1904

2 Kings 2 : 12-22—Memory Verses, 12-14.

Golden Text—Let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.—2 Kings 2 : 9.

he said, Ye shall not send. 17 And when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, Send. They sent therefore fifty men; and they sought three days, but found him not.

18 And when they came again to him, (for he tarried at Jer'icho,) he said unto them, Did I not say unto you, Go not?

19 And the men of the city said unto Eli'sha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren.

20 And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought it to him.

21 And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land.

22 So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Eli'sha which he spake.

THE LESSON RETOLD

As Elisha watched Elijah disappear into heaven in a chariot of fire, he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in pieces, as a sign of mourning for the loss of his master. Suddenly he noticed something lying on the ground. It was Elijah's long cloak, which he had dropped as he went upwards. Elisha quickly picked it up, and remembering the wonders that his master had worked by means of it, he folded it together, and running to the Jordan, he struck the water with it, saying, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?"

Then the river divided, so that Elisha crossed over and came to the spot where the fifty prophets were awaiting him. Seeing what Elisha had just done, the young men

12 And Eli'sha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Is'rael, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

13 He took up also the mantle of Eli'jah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jor'dan:

14 And he took the mantle of Eli'jah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the Lord God of Eli'jah? and when he also had smitten the waters they parted hither and thither: and Eli'sha went over.

15 And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jer'icho saw him, they said, The spirit of Eli'jah doth rest on Eli'sha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

16 And they said unto him, Behold now, there be with thy servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy master: lest peradventure the Spirit of the Lord hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley. And

now came near, and bowed themselves before Elisha, saying, "The spirit of Elijah doth rest upon Elisha." By this, Elisha knew that he must take Elijah's place before the people as God's messenger.

Though the prophets had been watching from afar, only Elisha knew that Elijah had indeed gone into heaven. The prophets now said to Elisha, "See! We are strong and ready. Let thy servants now go and search in the wilderness. Who knows but the Spirit of God has taken thy master to some lonely mountain-top or valley, where we may find him?" But Elisha answered, "You shall not go." However, when they urged him, though he knew it was of no use, he consented. The prophets when they had