

or west bank of Jordan. There he drank of brook, and was miraculously fed with bread and flesh, which ravens brought him every morning and evening, and which, no doubt, they fetched from some person's table. When this brook dried up, he went, at the direction of God, and met with a Heathen widow of Zarephath. When he entered the city, he met this poor widow gathering a few sticks, to dress a handful of meal and a little oil, for her and her son, as their last entertainment; she neither having, nor knowing where to get any more food. Elijah assured her to bring him a drink of water. As she went to bring it, he called after her, and desired her to bring him a little bread also. She told him the wretched case of herself and her child. Elijah bade her first make a small cake for him and then dress for herself & child, for her portion of meal, and small quantity of oil, should never waste, till plenty should be returned to the country. The Zidonian widow believed the prophet, obeyed his orders, and received him into her house. After he had staid with her for about two years, her only son died. Oppressed with grief, she complained, that Elijah had come to call her sin to remembrance, and to punish her son. He took the child, laid him upon his own bed, stretched himself upon him, and earnestly begged the Lord would restore him to life. His request was readily granted, 1 Kings xix.

When the drought and famine had continued two years and a half, Elijah was divinely appointed to present himself before Ahab, and inform him of the return of the rain. While Ahab's servants were dispersed through the country, in quest of grass for the cattle that remained, Elijah met with Obadiah, one of the faithful ones, and bade him go inform his master that he wanted to see him. Obadiah replied, that Ahab had with murderous designs searched the whole kingdom, and kingdoms adjacent, for prophets; and that while he went to inform Ahab, the Spirit of the Lord would carry him off, and Ahab enraged would murder him in his head; which he begged might not be the case, as he had been an useful protector of the king's prophets, having fed an hundred of them in two caves, with bread and water. Elijah temporarily assured him, that he needed be under no apprehensions, as he firmly intended to shew himself to Ahab. Obadiah believed him and informed Ahab, who hastened to the place where Elijah was, and asked him, If he was the ruler of Israel? Elijah replied, that not he, but the king himself, and his family, by their idolatry and wickedness, had brought these judgments on the nation. He further required, that the people of Israel, with the 450 prophets of Baal, and 400 of the groves, should immediately be convened on mount Carmel, that they might have a fair trial, whether JEHOVAH or Baal was the true God. When they were assembled, Elijah, rebuked the Israelites for halting between the two, and begged they would follow whichever of the two was truly possessed of Godhead. The people being silent, he represented, that though he was the only prophet of JEHOVAH present, he was willing to make a public trial of the power of his God, in opposition, to all the 450 prophets of Baal. He proposed, that each of the two parties should offer a bullock in sacrifice; and that whichever of the gods, JEHOVAH or Baal, should with fire from

heaven, burn up their sacrifice, should be worshipped as the true God. The people acquiesced in this reasonable proposal. The prophets of Baal erected their altar, sacrificed their bullock, and laid it on the altar, crying to their god for celestial fire to consume it. Baal continuing deaf to their prayers, they leaped on the altar, slashed and stabbed their bodies, to procure his pity, and in the most earnest manner, begged that he would grant their request. Elijah too insulted them, and bade them cry aloud, for their god was certainly either at a great distance, or was on some journey, or fallen into some deep sleep. When the prophets of Baal had spent above half a day in this mad manner, Elijah bade the people attend to him. With twelve stones, one for each tribe of Israel he repaired a ruinous altar of JEHOVAH. Having slain his bullock, he laid the flesh thereon, but put no fire under. He then ordered the people to bring water, and pour on his sacrifice. They did so, till the flesh, the wood under it, and the altar, were drenched with moisture, and even the trench around filled to the brim. He next applied himself to request the Lord for a display of his power, in consuming his sacrifice. He had scarcely begun, when a flash of fire from heaven consumed the flesh, the wood, the stones, the water and the earth around. Surprised with the miracle, the people cried out, *The Lord is God.* Elijah then ordered them to apprehend and slay the prophets of Baal. While Ahab looked on, they laid hold on them, and dragging them to the foot of the hill, they slew them by the river Kishon. These principal causes of the famishing drought being removed, Elijah informed Ahab, that now he might look for a plentiful rain. He then returned, and on the mount prostrated himself in prayer for it, and directed his servant, perhaps Gehazi, to observe what he saw rise out of the adjacent sea. At the seventh time, the servant told him, he saw a little cloud like a man's hand, rising out of it. Elijah bade him desire Ahab to prepare his chariot, and ride post to Jezreel, lest the rain should stop him. Elijah girt up his own loins, and ran before the king to the entrance of the city. Meanwhile, there was a plentiful rain, attended, if we may believe Menander's annals of Tyre, with a terrible thunder, 1 Kings xviii.

Jezebel the queen, had no sooner heard of the slaughter of her idolatrous priests, then she sent Elijah a threatening message, importing, that to-morrow he should pay for his conduct, with the loss of his life. In a cowardly manner he fled off, without halting, to Beersheba, a place 84 miles, if not rather 110, south of Jezreel. Here he dismissed his servant, and pursued his course into the Arabian desert. On the first night after, he being extremely fatigued, lay down under a juniper tree, & begged, that since he was the only opposer of idolatry in Israel that had not been already murdered, God would take away his life that now was in danger. An angel touched him, and bade him eat the bread and drink the water he had brought him. He did so, and after he had slept some hours, the angel next morning bade him eat a similar meal, as he had a long journey before him. He obeyed, and without any more refreshment, travelled hither and thither 40 days, till at last he came to Mount Horeb. Here he lodged in a cave. The Lord called to him, and asked him, what was

his business there? Elijah replied, that he had been very zealous for the honour of the true God, whose covenant the Israelites had forsaken, whose altars they had thrown down, and whose prophets they had murdered, all except himself; and now sought to murder him. At the direction of God, he went forth, and stood in the mouth of his cave. A strong wind, an earthquake, and a flaming fire, having succeeded one another, the Lord again, in a still small voice, asked him, what business he had there? He repeated his former answer. The Lord assured him, that there were yet 7000 in Israel, who had not bowed the knee to Baal; he directed him to return home, by the very roundabout and solitary way of the wilderness of Damascus, and appoint Hazael to be king over Syria, Jehu to be king over Israel, and Elisha prophet in his own room, by which three, God assured him, terrible havoc should be made of the Israelitish idolaters. He called Elisha to be his attendant, to whom he referred the unction of two kings, 1 Kings xix.

About A. M. 3105, Elijah, directed of God, went to king Ahab, and denounced terrible judgments against him and his family, for the murder of Naboth, and the unjust seizure of his vineyard, 1 Kings xxi. In A. M. 3108, both Ahaziah's messengers, and to himself, he denounced his approaching death; and consumed with fire from heaven, two troops, of 50 men each, who came to apprehend him; but upon the humble request of the third, spared him and his troop, and went along with them. Knowing that his translation to heaven was at hand, Elijah took various methods to get out of Elisha's company, that it might be entirely a secret. But the matter being divinely suggested to Elisha, and other prophets about Bethel and Jericho, he would never leave him; and 50 young prophets followed them at a distance. When they came to the west bank of the Jordan, Elijah, with a stroke of his mantle, divided that deep river, and they went through on dry ground. Elijah then bade Elisha ask, what should be done for him? He begged for a double, or large portion of his spirit. Elijah assured him, that however great this request was, it should be granted him, if he witnessed his translation. They had walked together but a little way, when a company of angels, in the form of a chariot and horses of fire, appeared, and Elijah entering the chariot, was carried up by a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha cried after him, *My father, my father, the chariot and horsemen of Israel; that is the strength and protection thereof.* He took up his mantle, that fell from him as he entered the chariot, and therewith smiting the waters of Jordan, divided them, and returned to Jericho. Fifty strong men of the young prophets, contrary to Elisha's inclination, were by him permitted to go in quest of Elijah, as they imagined he might be only carried into some desert place. After they had spent three days in this vain labour, they returned 2 Kings xix.

About eight years after, letters from Elijah the prophet, were brought to Jehoram king of Judah, bearing, that on account of his forsaking the good example of his fathers, and since he had walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and made his people do the same, and had murdered his brethren that were better than himself, therefore the Lord would smite