

between the Master and his human saints. "He knoweth our frame, he remembereth that we are dust." Elijah had been under a tremendous strain. Overtaxed nerves will react. God had not changed; the victory on Carmel was real; the answers to prayer were no dream; Jezebel had no power to harm God's servants; the dark prospect was wholly in Elijah's mind because he was worn out and needed rest. How well God understood; how tenderly he cared for him! Sleep was what he needed most; then food. So when he had slept a while an angel touched him—one of the ministering spirits that encamp round about the Lord's people to deliver them—and said, "Arise and eat," and there was the food, warm and stimulating, and the refreshing drink ready for him. Then, carefully considerate, the angel left him to sleep again until it was necessary to take more food, "because," he said, "the journey is too great for thee." After that God spoke in the still, small voice, low, sweet, assuring, in the prophet's secret soul; then he gave to him Elisha to minister to him until the angels came again to take him beyond weariness and discouragements in a triumphal chariot to heaven. Do not give up when things look dark. They never look dark to God, for "he fainteth not, neither is weary," as we are. Sleep if you can; take nourishing food as God provides it; his angels are watching; he understands when his children are tired. And when their work is done his restful chariots are easy to step into, and it is not very far to heaven.

The Teachers' Meeting.

Three word pictures: I. The flight. 1. In the background: Elijah's triumph at Carmel; the overthrow of Baal's priests; the prospective reformation of court and people. 2. In the foreground: The wicked queen's threat; Elijah's dejection and flight. II. Angelic ministration. III. Divine revelation. (This scene, one of the most wonderful in God's word, should be made vivid to every mind).... Make sketch-map, showing Carmel, Samaria, Beersheba, Horeb.... The causes of mental despondency.... The unreasonableness of mental despondency: 1. It may alter our views of things, but cannot alter facts. 2. No true follower of God is ever alone. Jehovah was Elijah's friend, and angels were eager to minister to him. 3. There is no permanent failure possible to the advocate of the right. 4. The most discouraging events of life are interwoven by a kind Providence to secure us the victory.... God's sympathy with human infirmity: He sent an angel from heaven to do duty as a tender nurse.... Symbols of divine presence.... God's

work endures. His far-reaching plans take in Hazeel, Benhadad, Ahab and his sons, Jehu, Elisha, and the uncounted "sons of the prophets." Elijah's tried prayer was about to be answered, and he was to be removed to heaven, but not because of his failure. We need the standpoint of eternity to estimate properly any failure or success.... Suggestive points may be found in "Thoughts for Young People."

Before the Class.

Introduction.—The events of the present lesson follow almost immediately, perhaps the next day, upon those of last Sunday's lesson. The great triumph had been won, and now Elijah was hoping that the king and queen would turn again to the true God, and once more would the land of Israel, the land he loved, be prosperous under God's favor. Elijah did not enter Jezebel, but waited without to see what would be the effect upon Jezebel of the defeat of Baal and the slaughter of his prophets. In this he showed his native caution.

Development of the text. Place upon the board the lesson subject, "Divine Encouragement," and develop the lesson as follows: 1. The disheartening message, 2. The discouraged servant, 3. The ministering angel, 4. The divine revelations.

1. *The disheartening message.* Much depended upon Jezebel's action, for she was the power behind the throne, and for this reason Elijah was intensely anxious to hear what her attitude was to be toward the new state of things. Within a few hours the message came, the message which seemingly shattered all his hopes and took all the heart out of him. Note (a) The profanity—the message was coupled with an oath; (b) The hate—which would not hesitate even at murder; (c) The blind fury—which could not wait, but must needs send to Elijah the message of death. In her blind rage the queen overreached herself and gave the prophet an opportunity to escape.

2. *The discouraged servant.* Elijah fled for his life, cast himself down under a juniper tree in the desert and asked God that he might die. Why was Elijah so discouraged? Note the following among other reasons: (a) He was physically exhausted. The reaction had come and he was depressed and discouraged as a consequent of his bodily condition; (b) His utter loneliness. He knew of no other true worshiper of the Lord God; (c) The apparent failure of the great work of the day before from which he had expected so much.

3. *The ministering angel.* A cure must be effected by removing the cause. One of the