

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON IX.

August 29, 1915. God's Care of Elijah. 1 Kings, 17:1-16.

Commentary.—I. Tishbe, God's messenger to Ahab (v. 1). Elijah the Tishbite.—The name means, "Jehovah is my God." The prophet is suddenly introduced. No information is given regarding his ancestry. Authorities are not agreed as to why he is called the Tishbite. It is commonly held that he was a native of a place called Tishbe, or Tishbe, in Naphtali and re-moved eastward across the Jordan, and became an inhabitant of Gilead. Others believe that he was a native of a place called Tishbe in Gilead. In his disposition he partook of the rugged, untamable character of the region in which he lived. His dress was a mantle of camel's-hair cloth, and sheepskin worn with the wool outside, and gathered about the loins with a leather girdle. Such was his appearance as, having left his rugged, mountain home, he appeared at the splendid palace of Ahab. Said unto Ahab—The Lord has a way in training, under his own direction, for this important mission. The prophet appeared unheralded and abruptly began to deliver his message. As the Lord God of Israel liveth—"As Jehovah liveth," was an ancient form of oath in Israel. Ahab had undertaken to put away the worship of Jehovah and had denied that he was Israel's God. Elijah once affirms the existence and power of Jehovah. Before whom I stand.—As a servant stands before his master and waits to do his bidding, so Elijah waited for Jehovah's bidding. Not be dew nor rain.—To the people of that country the withholding of the rain meant famine. The rainfall was comparatively scanty at best, and no more than was necessary to produce the crops. A long drought would result in great suffering. Dew is very essential in that country to the growth of crops. The dew was so abundant upon Mount Carmel that vegetation there is green during the hot, dry summer, while in other parts of Palestine it is parched. These years—Three and one-half years. See Luke 4:25 and James 5:17.

II. Hiding at Cherith (vs. 2-7). 2. The word of the Lord—God gave directions to Elijah, but we do not know how. We know that the prophet understood them. 3. Eastward—From Ahab's palace in Samaria. Hide thyself.—Since Elijah was the apparent agency in bringing about the drought, the wicked Ahab would naturally seek his life, and it was prudent that he should conceal himself. By the brook Cherith.—Many scholars fix the location of this stream east of the Jordan from the expression, "before Jordan," which, they say, has that signification. The brook flowed into the Jordan, but whether from the east or the west is uncertain. Elijah was in hiding from Ahab, and it would be found if he should go to some point east of the Jordan, than if he remained nearer Samaria, but tradition locates Cherith as a wady, or ravine, extending from the hills of Judea eastward toward Jericho. The walls of the ravine at the point shown as Elijah's hiding-place are almost perpendicular and very high. 4. Drink of the brook.—This was to be his water supply. I have commanded the ravens.—Much has been said against the idea that unclean birds brought food to the prophet, and attempts have been made to substitute the terms, "merchants," "Arabians" or "peddlers" for ravens, but there is no reason why he should not accept the literal meaning of the text. 5. He went and did—His act shows faith in God and obedience to His command. 6. Ravens brought him bread, and flesh—As the feeding of Elijah during this period was miraculous, it is needless to conjecture as to the source from which the ravens procured the supply. Morning, evening.—Two substantial meals a day sufficed the prophet during this time of famine. 7. The brook dried up.—It was probably from six months to a year that Elijah drank of the brook before the lack of rain caused it to cease to flow. See 1 Kings, 18:1, compared with Luke 4:25, and James 5:17.

III. Sustained at Zarephath (vs. 8-16). 8. The word of the Lord—The prophet had believed God, and had been receiving food just as it was needed. One has said, "From hand to mouth is a comfortable way to live if it be from the hand of God." He was not surprised to receive further directions from the Lord. 9. Get thee to Zarephath.—A village north of Israel, between Tyre and Zidon, now known as Sarefend. Ahab had not yet been able to discover his hiding place, and now he passes out of his jurisdiction into a Gentile nation dwell there.—This was Jezebel's native country, and it was supporting and harboring the destroyer of Baal. 10. The gate of the city—All villages and cities were then defended by walls, and the gathering of sticks—it was the widow to whom the prophet was sent, and the prospects for entertainment were by no means flattering, a little water—it is always acknowledged as a duty to give water to the thirsty in the East, even to sharing the last drops. She at once started to fulfill the request. 11. A morsel of bread.—A large demand to be made of a widow in time of famine. 12. The God—She was a Gentile, yet she acknowledged the God of Elijah, whom she probably recognized as a prophet.

13. Fear not.—The prophet spoke words of assurance as well as authority. His command was a severe test of her faith. If she should provide food for Elijah, she and her son must the sooner perish. 14. Thus said the Lord God of Israel—He declared the authority upon which he spoke, and shall not waste neither.—all fall—Here was to be a miracle containing as long as the famine lasted. 15. She went and did—Here was faith on the part of a Gentile woman in this same region (Matt. 15:23). Did eat many days.—From two and a half to three years. In nourishing Elijah she saved herself and her son. 16. Wasted not.—The

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These Peaches will be peeled, halved and packed in heavy Syrup, each can containing from 6½ to 7 lbs. of Fruit. The cans will be packed in cases (6 cans in each case) for OVERSEAS DELIVERY through the CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

COST PRICE
The actual Cost price to us is 50 CENTS Per Can and your order will be filled at this price. If you wish to contribute towards providing a choice DELICACY for OUR SICK AND WOUNDED, REMIT DIRECT by Money Order or through ANY BRANCH of the CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY, when due acknowledgment will be made.

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meal and the oil multiplied, not in the hearing, but the spending.—Henry. Questions.—When did Elijah appear to Ahab? Describe Elijah's appearance and character. What was his message to Ahab? Why was his famine sent upon Israel? What reason was there for Elijah to hide himself? Where was he directed to go, and how was he supported? How long was he there before the brook dried up? Where was he sent from there? In what direction? What requests did he make of the woman? What miracle was performed?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—Divine sovereignty vindicated. I. To the confusion of idolaters. 1. In the safety of God's servants. 2. To the confusion of idolaters. The revolt of the idolaters had not altered the fact of God's supremacy in Israel. That Ahab had raised a temple to Baal and though Jezebel had gathered around her an army of false prophets, and though the people were willing to have it so, the God of Israel had in reserve a man trained and willing to go forth to proclaim his sovereignty to that crooked and perverse nation. Never was redemption more called for, and never were supernatural works more necessary. Great miracles were necessary because of great and general apostasy. The appearance of such a champion as Elijah, armed with high credentials and wielding great power, marked a crisis in the history of God's ancient church. A great struggle was impending. The very existence of the church was at stake. Elijah was summoned to the court to declare God's judgment against Israel. Drought was one of the punishments declared by the law if Israel forsook God. Elijah went directly to Ahab, who could avert the calamity by his repentance. Elijah's message threatened a terrible plague, long and protracted suffering, a great national calamity. This appalling message voiced the wrath of God. The material elements were worshipped by the heathen and at this time by Israel, while the God who made them was forgotten. It was meet that men who practically denied the living God should be practically reminded of their dependence upon him. It was well that those who held Baal to be lord of nature, should be left to discover his impotence. Elijah trusted in the wisdom of God and obeyed His command. He recognized himself to be God's representative and as such manifested utmost fidelity and loyalty. He spoke under inspiration. Looking upon the scene, we recognize the value of one noble witness in the midst of public corruption and decay, and the grandeur, as well as the necessity, of a distinct personal profession of godliness. The issue was not a combat between Elijah and Ahab. It was right against wrong, faithful-ness against treachery, purity against corruption.

II. In the safety of God's servants. God made his own selection among men to meet the demand at that crisis. Elijah was in the right attitude of mind for his work. He had 24 unbroken years for his work. He had placed himself absolutely and directly under the guidance of God. Strict, implicit and instant obedience characterized his life. He went forth into the world as a prophet, not as a priest, not as a ruler, but as a witness. He then followed the word of the Lord and went into the wilderness to be prepared for his future

great and solemn mission in the overthrow of idolatry and the vindication of the worship of the true God. For three and one-half years Israel heard no more of him. That he must hide so long showed how great was the danger to which he was exposed. Elijah's food was supplied by the ordering and special providence of God. There was positive divine interposition in Elijah's preservation. His needs were provided for, though no man knew his dwelling place. Irrational creatures were divinely directed and engaged in the service of man. The inhospitable fowls knew his servant's destination and secret refuge, and toward a stranger, a man set to feed the most unexpected and seemingly impossible conveyance and as surprising to Elijah as his presence had been to Ahab. The brook dried up only to give place to greater marvels. Elijah was then sent to what seemed to be the most dangerous of all places, the territory of Jezebel's power, and to one who was an object for charity, a widow needing help. Elijah was to find a refuge and welcome. The widow was to receive temporal support and spiritual blessing. God honored the widow with his command to feed his prophet. He saw that she would believe on him if only she had a promise to authorize her faith. She was given a sharp test of faith and trust. She was to perform a generous act toward a stranger, a man set to feed a servant of Jehovah. She had to make a sacrifice and trust to a promise which seemed least likely of fulfillment. She gave her only meal to the prophet and proved God's sustaining care through two years of famine. She was a striking example of obedience and submission.—T. R. A.

CROP CENSUS

Latest Bulletin as to Wheat, Hay, Clover and Alfalfa.

The Dominion Census and Statistics Office issued recently a bulletin giving a preliminary estimate of the crop of wheat, hay and clover, and alfalfa, based upon appearances at the end of July, as estimated by crop inspectors, and a report on the condition of other field crops at the same date. Fall Wheat, Hay and Clover and Alfalfa.—The preliminary estimate of the average yield per acre of fall wheat in Canada for 1915 is 23.10 bushels, as compared with 21.41 bushels last year, and with 21.73 bushels the average of the five years 1910 to 1914. The harvested area of fall wheat in the five provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia amounts in 1915 to 1,208,700 acres, as compared with 1,200,000 acres in 1914, and the estimated yield to 33,957,900 bushels, as compared with 28,837,000 bushels in 1914, an increase in total yield of 63 per cent. In area harvested, in average yield per acre and in total yield the fall wheat harvest of 1915 is therefore expected to be the largest on record. In Ontario the total estimated yield is 27,030,000 bushels from 1,175,000 acres, an average of 23.06 bushels per acre, and in Alberta, the other large fall wheat province, the total yield is 6,225,000 bushels from 269,700 acres, an average of 23.06 bushels per acre.

The estimated yield of hay and clover in 1915 is 10,559,800 tons from 7,875,000 acres, as compared with 9,206,000 tons from 7,997,000 acres in 1914, the average yield per acre being 1.34 tons, as compared with 1.15 tons in 1914. Alfalfa shows a total yield of 155,755 tons from 92,665 acres, as compared with 129,750 tons from 90,355 acres in 1914; the average yield per acre is 1.71 tons, as compared with 1.44 tons. Condition of Spring-Sown Crops.—Spring-sown grain crops continue to show an excellent average condition, all being for Canada above 90 per cent. of the standard representing a full crop. Beans, buckwheat and flax are 88 per cent. of the standard; potatoes and turnips are about 90, and the remaining crops are as follows: Corn 82, mangolds 89, hay and clover 81, alfalfa 87, sugar beets 89, and pasture 89. Converted into a standard wherein 100 represents the average yield per acre of the seven years 1905 to 1914, the condition of the principal grain crops at July 31, 1915, is as follows: Fall wheat 129, spring wheat 112, all wheat 113, rye and barley 111, oats 105, flax 107. That is to say, the yields per acre of these crops, according to their appearance on July 31, are expected to be above the average yields of the previous seven years. The extent of 29 per cent. for fall wheat, 12 per cent. for spring wheat, 13 per cent. for all wheat, 11 per cent. for rye and barley, 8 per cent. for oats and 7 per cent. for flax.

FARM GARDEN

USING POOR SEED CORN.

Bad germination in seed corn, combined with prolonged cold weather at time of planting, has been the cause of much disappointment this season to small growers. The seed corn growers of southwestern Ontario were almost equally disappointed, through being unable to find a market for their thoroughly-dried corn of strong vitality. Many samples were taken by seed inspectors, and the investigations made indicate clearly that at least 75 per cent. of the cause for a poor stand can be traced to the ensilage growers. Unfortunately, high priced seed is not always a guarantee of high quality, but low priced seed is possible only with corn that has had no special care in curing for seed. The farmer who gets \$1.50 per bush of 70 lbs. on the ear for corn taken out of his corn crib in the spring has more profit than the farmer who receives \$2.50 a bush, of 70 lbs. on the ear for corn that has been kiln-dried or rack-dried in special corn-drying buildings. If harvested in dry weather and kept in narrow cribs through the winter, the cheap corn may give a fairly satisfactory stand of plants with thick seedling and good soil and weather conditions. But too many farmers have learned to their sorrow the very serious risk they take in using corn wintered in this way. It is always advisable for growers to procure seed corn on the ear as during moist weather sealed corn in transportation or storage will absorb moisture and mold within a very few days, thus destroying its vitality. Seed Branch, Ottawa.

FROM HON. DUFF'S REPORT. Farmers' Clubs in Ontario now total over 30. Ontario's Horticultural Societies have 14,000 members enrolled. Onion Smut is reported in Ontario for the first time, and means have been adopted to keep it under control. Food farmed among Bees, while held in check by the methods of the Department, does not seem to be disappearing.

Seventy-five per cent. of the farm place placed through the Ontario Department of Agriculture have been placed on yearly engagements. Yellow and Little Peach disease have been practically eliminated in Ontario, and measures have been adopted for the control of the cherry fruit fly.

Alfalfa is being grown in various parts of the province under the direction of the department, in order to supply farmers with seed suited to this climate. In the acre-proportion competition last year 501 bushels of potatoes were raised on one acre by a Middlesex competitor at a cost of \$32.62, and with net profit of \$167.18.

The average net profit of the five coming highest last year in the acre-proportion competition for potatoes totalled \$124.06, and that of the lowest five was \$18.49.

Vegetable growers in Ontario are warned of the necessity of developing a home seed supply, since the former sources of supply, chiefly Germany and Holland, have been cut off.

There were 992 dairy factories in operation in Ontario in 1914, with 38,092 patrons; 161 creameries, with 36,834 patrons, and a total output of about 25 million pounds of butter. In the dairy herd competition, conducted by the Dairywomen's Association of Western Ontario in 1914, the first prize herd produced 7,293 pounds per cow for the six months from May to October.

Experiments at the Ontario Agricultural College continue to show that the variety of oats known as A. C. No. 72 is still at the front in all tests, and is being more generally grown by the farmers of the province. To clear Ontario of "scrubs" and undesirable affres, the Department is proceeding to enforce the law which requires the compulsory inspection of stallions. This law provides that no grade stallion shall be allowed to stand or travel after August, 1915.

Farmers' sons take great interest in the Feeding Hogs for Profit Competition, and in the 20 competitions last year the average net profit of the 20 winners was \$6.40, while the average of the first five winners was \$10.10 per hog, and that of the lowest five \$4.55.

Experiments being carried on at the Experimental Fruit Farm at Vineland, include one to determine the value of plum roots for the peach under certain conditions; another in pruning, in which 200 Spy trees are being used; one to determine the value of dynamited holes; others to test varieties of strawberries, plums, peaches, cherries, currants and gooseberries.

GERMAN ATTACK IN RHODESIA. London, Cable—A message, just arrived from Livingstone Post, says that Salai, on the northern border of Rhodesia, was attacked on July 26 by 2,000 Germans with guns.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

FARMERS' MARKET.	
Eggs, new-laid, doz.	0.30 0.32
Butter, creamery, 1 lb.	0.22 0.25
Butter, creamery, 1/2 lb.	0.12 0.15
Butter, creamery, 1/4 lb.	0.06 0.08
Butter, creamery, 1/8 lb.	0.03 0.04
Butter, creamery, 1/16 lb.	0.01 0.02
Butter, creamery, 1/32 lb.	0.00 0.01
Butter, creamery, 1/64 lb.	0.00 0.00
Butter, creamery, 1/128 lb.	0.00 0.00
Butter, creamery, 1/256 lb.	0.00 0.00
Butter, creamery, 1/512 lb.	0.00 0.00
Butter, creamery, 1/1024 lb.	0.00 0.00
Butter, creamery, 1/2048 lb.	0.00 0.00
Butter, creamery, 1/4096 lb.	0.00 0.00
Butter, creamery, 1/8192 lb.	0.00 0.00
Butter, creamery, 1/16384 lb.	0.00 0.00
Butter, creamery, 1/32768 lb.	0.00 0.00
Butter, creamery, 1/65536 lb.	0.00 0.00
Butter, creamery, 1/131072 lb.	0.00 0.00
Butter, creamery, 1/262144 lb.	0.00 0.00
Butter, creamery, 1/524288 lb.	0.00 0.00
Butter, creamery, 1/1048576 lb.	0.00 0.00
Butter, creamery, 1/2097152 lb.	0.00 0.00
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