

INTERNATIONAL  
**Sunday School Lesson**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1915

**Elijah And The Prophets of Baal.**  
Motto Text—"Jehovah is far from the wicked; But he heareth the prayer of the righteous." Proverbs 15:29.  
Lesson Passage—1 Kings 18:16-40.  
Memory Verses—36, 37.

**In the Meanwhile**

It is thought that the length of Elijah's stay at Zarephath was about two years. His presence brought a blessing upon the good woman, especially in the resuscitation of her only child. The three and a half years of drought were now approaching an end, and the prophet was bidden simply to show himself to the king, Ahab. There is nothing in the record that he was told what to do, but a promise was given that the drought should cease. So Elijah simply went his way depending on circumstances to indicate what he should do. Thus he met the master of the palace, an officer named Obadiah. He feared the Lord, and had hidden the prophets of Jehovah from the wrath of Jezebel. Ahab was much more concerned about his beasts than about the human souls over whom he ruled, and had sent Obadiah to search for water while he was bent on a similar errand in another direction. It was on this march that Elijah came into the presence of Obadiah, from whom he learned that this officer had been commissioned to search for him. So when Elijah told him to inform Ahab that he was there Obadiah was alarmed, fearing to convey such a message, especially as when Ahab sought for him he might be caught away by the Lord so that he should not be found and then the king's wrath would be visited upon him as a deceiver. The prophet assured him, and the officer went and brought about the meeting between the two. In this meeting Elijah challenged Ahab to the contest now to be considered.

**Carmel.**

Looking at the middle of the coast line of Palestine, a promontory jutting out into the sea is easily perceived. This forms the western end of the range known as Mount Carmel. It stretches toward the southeast for a dozen miles, and then sinks with abruptness into the hill country of Samaria. The brook Kishon runs along side of the northern slope. The range reaches its highest point at the eastern extremity, while at the coast it sinks to about six hundred feet in height; the average height is about 1,500 feet. About four miles before the southeastern portion drops there is still to be seen a plateau overlooking the plain of Esdraelon, and this spot is associated by the natives with the events of this incident. A bright flame from here would have been easily observable from Jezreel, the summer place of the king. A very large concourse of people could be gathered on this plateau. The allusions in the Scripture account enable this spot to be as nearly identified as possible. The structure of the Carmel range is a soft limestone mingled with veins of flint, a condition favorable to the existence of caves under the corroding influences of weather, somewhat after the manner of the famous Mammoth Cave of Kentucky; one of the caves in this spot bears today an Arabic name which associates it with the place where the priests of Jehovah were sheltered by Obadiah.

**Special Topics.**

It was not an unreasonable proposition to test Baal and bring the popular idol into comparison with God. A god that is worshipped ought to be of some value to its followers. It is to be supposed that the priests of Baal showed little hesitancy, but they were not addressed in this fervent discourse of Elijah. Public sentiment and the orders of their king and queen required them to stand by their belief, and the most they could hope for was that neither project should prove successful. It was hard-conceivable in the eclipse of faith that Elijah could do anything and the result they anticipated would be a drawn battle in which they had nothing to lose.

We may yield to the temptation to be amused at the ridicule which Elijah heaped upon the priests of Baal, and it naturally provokes a smile at its fierceness. The prophet was terribly in earnest, and the spirit controlling him was the very reverse of the frivolous.

It was to mark the contrast between the helplessness of false gods and inanimate idols and the active helpfulness of Jehovah, which is one of his chief attributes. The worship of idols is ridiculous in the extreme, and their want of power is self-evident. Their ears do not hear and their eyes do not see, nor have they mouths which can speak.

The effect of any idolatry is a neglect of God's sanctuary and altar. When Israel apostatized its altars fell into decay through disuse. It is precisely so in these days. Indifference and neglect of God lead to open repudiation of him.

One of the strongest points that we get from this lesson is the fact that Elijah was faithful when all about him were faithless, and willing to be one with God rather than follow the trend of the people, and so, being bold and courageous, was able to prevail.

**SCHOOL LAW**

**An Act to Make School Attendance Compulsory—All Children, Age 8 to 12, Are Required to Attend School Four Months.**

Section 5. (Substitute for.) The county board of education in each county shall appoint and remove at will an attendance officer in each township enforce the provisions of this act. It shall be the duty of the school committee or district to furnish each superintendent, principal, or teacher in charge of each school, and to furnish also the attendance officer of each township and the county superintendent, with an accurate school census of each school district at the opening of the school in said township or district each year. The superintendent, principal, or teacher in charge of any school shall at the end of each week serve written or printed notice upon every parent or guardian or other person having in charge any child within the compulsory attendance age, notifying him of the absence or absences of such child during the week and shall file copies of all such notices with the attendance officer immediately; and said parent, guardian, or person shall be required to render promptly to such superintendent, principal, or teacher in charge of the school the excuse or cause of absence of such child. The failure of such parent, guardian, or person to render satisfactory excuse within three days after the mailing or serving such notice shall be prima facie evidence of the violation of this act in case of any prosecution of such person under this act; and shall subject said person to prosecution therefor and to the payment of the costs incurred in such prosecution. The names of all persons failing to render satisfactory legal excuse shall be reported immediately to the attendance officer. Prosecutions under this act shall be brought by the attendance officer in the name of the State of North Carolina before any justice of the peace, or police justice, or recorder of any county, town, or township, in which the person prosecuted resides. Upon failure of any attendance officer to prosecute, the county superintendent upon report and recommendation of principal or teacher in charge or of the school committee, shall prosecute for violation of this act. The attendance officer shall keep an accurate record of all notices served, all cases prosecuted, and all other services performed, and shall make an annual report of same to the county board of education. In the discretion of the county board of education, the attendance officer shall be allowed reasonable compensation from the county school fund for such services as are required of him under this act, compensation for which is not specifically provided for herein: Provided, that in case the county board of education shall appoint a school committeeman or township constable as attendance officer, the duties of such officer herein prescribed are hereby declared to be a part of his duties ex officio: Provided, further, that the school committee or board of trustees of any school in any town or city of five thousand or more inhabitants, operating its schools under special charter, is hereby authorized and empowered, if in their judgment such action is wise, to appoint an attendance officer for the schools under their direction, fix his compensation, and pay the same out of the special tax school funds of said town or city, and assign to him other duties in addition to those enumerated above.

**Teachers Must Co-Operate, Penalty for Non-Compliance.**

Sec. 6. (Substitute for.) It shall be the duty of all principals and teachers to co-operate with the attendance officers in the enforcement of this law. To this end it shall be the duty of the principal or teacher in charge in every school in which pupils between the ages of eight and twelve years are instructed to keep an accurate record of the attendance of such pupils. On or before the 4th Monday of each calendar month during the compulsory attendance term of each school the superintendent, principal or teacher in charge of each school in each township shall report to the attendance officer of said township and the county superintendent the names of all children that have been absent without legal excuse during said month, the number of absences of each child together with the name of the parent, guardian, or person in charge of said child. The said township attendance officer shall immediately upon receipt of said report notify each of said parents, guardians, or other persons having in charge such reported children to meet him at a designated place in said township at a designated hour on Saturday following said fourth Monday for the purpose of explaining the cause of such absence of such children, and said attendance officer, after hearing and passing upon the excuses rendered, shall proceed with the prosecution as provided for in this act against those parents, guardians, or other persons who fail to render legal excuse for the absence of such reported children.

Said attendance officer shall be paid out of the general school fund

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J. G. Hall recommends Dodson's Liver Tone to take the place of calomel. adv.

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of the county two dollars for his services rendered on said day for said purpose. The failure of any parent, guardian, or other person in charge of any child that has been reported absent, without excuse, to meet said attendance officer on said day without satisfactory excuse rendered shall be prima facie evidence of the violation of the provisions of this act and shall subject him to prosecution hereunder and to the penalty prescribed herein. Upon the willful or negligent failure of any principal or teacher in charge of any school to comply with the provisions of this section, the county superintendent shall deduct from his or her salary for the current month the sum of five dollars before approving the voucher therefor. adv 3t.

**SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

Pursuant to authority vested in me by a certain mortgage executed by N. N. Cupp on the 10th day of June, 1911 and recorded in Book 81, page 501 in the office of the Register of Deeds, default having been made in the payment of the bond secured thereby and being requested so to do by the holder of said bond, I shall on Monday the 13th day of Sept. 1915 sell at public auction at the court house door in the town of Oxford to the highest bidder for cash the following described land, situate near the town of Oxford and known and designated in the survey of the Reav-

is property as lot No. 19 and bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a stake on West College street corner of lot No. 20 and running thence in a northerly direction along the line of lots 20 and 26 to a stake in the line of lot 26, thence a westerly direction 30 feet along the line of lot No. 142 to a stake corner lots 142 and 18; thence south 20 feet to a stake in West College street thence east 120 feet along West College street to the beginning. There is a two story, six room house on this land, in good condition. Time of sale 12 o'clock M.

T. LANIER, Trustee.

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**Bear in Mind These Facts:**

- This stock of merchandise is acknowledged to be the best one ever brought here.
- That we bought it at a big discount under the factory and wholesale prices.
- That we can and are saving you money.

**We have already fitted out many boys and girls who are going off to school.**

**Let us do the same for yours.**

**Clothing, Dry Goods and Shoes.**

**Horner Bros., Co.**