

REVISED BIBLE INTERNATIONAL Sunday School Lesson

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LESSON FOR MAY 20

ELIJAH, THE BRAVE REFORMER

LESSON TEXT—I Kings 18:1-19:18.
SUBJECT—Elijah the Prophet.
REVISION—Matthew 23:34-35; Luke 11:17; John 8:12-13; James 5:17.
FOCUS—Elijah and the False Prophets.
TOPIC—Elijah's Wonderful Victory.
IMMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The Old Testament.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—What Reformers Can Learn from Elijah.

I. Elijah Meets Ahab. (vv. 17, 18).
At the Lord's command Elijah showed himself to Ahab. When Elijah last was seen by Ahab he announced that rain would only be given by his word (17:1). In connection with the prophet's appearance before the king, rain was promised.

1. Ahab's Question. "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" (v. 17). Ahab's aim was to intimidate Elijah, to awe him into submission.

2. Elijah's Answer. (v. 18). He denied the charge and boldly declared that the calamity which had befallen the nation was caused by the iniquity of Ahab and his family.

II. Elijah's Challenge. (vv. 19-24).
1. The People Assembled. (vv. 19, 20). The king convened the people of the utmost request of Elijah.

2. Elijah's Kinging Call to Decision. (vv. 21-24). (1) The question asked, "Who is your God, Baal or the Lord?" (v. 21). Many of the people had not wholly forsaken God. They attempted to worship both God and Baal. Many today are halting between two opinions. They are halting between self and service, sin and holiness, man and God. (2) The silence of the people. (v. 22). This may have been because of fear of the king or of ignorance, for many were of the opinion that to be religious was the only thing necessary. In respect to the being worshipped, there is all the difference between merely worshipping and really worshipping God that there is between hell and heaven. (3) The method of decision. (vv. 23-24). Two sacrifices were to be provided—one to be offered to Baal, the other to God. The god who answered by fire was to be the God of the people. Connected with this was a hair test. Accepted sacrifices in the grand and sublime test by which God is calling upon men everywhere to make the decision between Christ and the heathen gods.

III. The Test Applied. (vv. 25-40).
1. The Offer of Sacrifice. (vv. 25-29). To prove to the people as to whether Baal was a real god. The real difference in the issue of prayer is the person to whom prayer is made.

2. The Offering by Elijah. (vv. 30-33). (1) The people invited bear (v. 30). His object was for them to see the entire proceedings in order to fully grasp the genuineness of the test. (2) The altar repairs. (v. 30-32). Elijah took twelve stones representing the twelve tribes. (3) The offering on the altar. (v. 33-35). After the bullock was in place, he had four horns of water three times emptied upon the sacrifice and the wood so as to fill the trench about the altar. So sure was Elijah that God's power was sufficient that he heaped difficulty upon difficulty. (4) Elijah's prayer. (vv. 36, 37). (a) It was based upon covenants (v. 36). The foundation upon which all real prayer rests is covenant relationship. (b) Its object was God's exaltation (v. 37). Elijah was jealous for God's glory. His supreme desire was to honor and magnify the Lord. (c) It was for the salvation of the people (v. 37). His heart yearned after Israel. He was most desirous that they should come to God. (d) The result. (vv. 38, 39). (a) The fire of the Lord fell and consumed not only the sacrifice but the wood, stones and dust, even licking up the water in the trench. (b) The people fell on their faces and confessed that the Lord was the God.

IV. The Execution of Baal's Prophets. (v. 40).
The reason for this drastic action was that Israel's government was a theocracy. God was their king. Idolatry was treason against the king. These false prophets were traitors to God and therefore should die. W. Baal's Prophet Violated. (v. 40-41).
The proof that Elijah was God's prophet was incomplete till rain came Israel under his ministry had now turned back to God and God made known unto them His graciousness.

How Much is Lost.
Would that we could at once pain with the eyes—in the long way from the eye, through the arm, to the punch how much is lost!—Loving.

Our Words.
The eternal wisdom of supplying our wants by tugging at our desires is the cutting of our feet when we want shoes.—Swift.

Deserving Trust.
No deserves small trust who is not very cautious to himself.—Ford.

The bravest battle that ever was fought;
That I tell you where and when?
On the maps of the world you will find it not;
It was fought by the mothers of men.—Joseph Miller.

The farmer who doesn't worry today
In the one who has a steadily
Increasing check from children, cows,
hens, and a big check when his cash
crop is sold.

DUKE NEWS

Duke, May 8.—The Woman's Community Club held a reception in honor of Mrs. Annie W. Thibbighast former librarian and community worker here, last Thursday evening in the school auditorium. Mrs. Thibbighast was the organizer of the Woman's Club here, and was here for the night from her home in Fayetteville, in order to aid Miss Cantwell in getting things running smoothly. W. A. Erwin Sr., secretary-treasurer of the Erwin Mills, spoke to the ladies only, impressing upon them that they and not the men were now being looked upon as the leaders. Calling attention to various things being done by the women everywhere, he characterized this as a "Woman's Day."

Later in the evening he spoke to men and women on topics which are a vital necessity to the town. He also took a fling at Evolution, assailing its teachings as being a trifle and citing the Scriptures as proof that man was created by God and not as the theory of evolution would have us to believe. Several hundred people who taxed the seating and standing capacity of the auditorium heard Mr. Erwin and voiced their approval time and again with applause.

Miss Winnie Willis, of Southport, has accepted a position here with the

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U. S. COMPANIES WRITE TEN BILLIONS IN LIFE INSURANCE DURING 1922

New York, May 9.—American life insurance companies wrote ten and a half billion dollars of life insurance in 1922, a new high record, and for the first time in history paid out more than a billion dollars to policyholders it was disclosed today in statistics prepared by the Spectator, an insurance publication. The payments totalled \$1,006,431,784.

Of the \$10,600,000,000 new business written, \$8,400,000,000 was ordinary insurance, including group. This was about \$500,000,000 less than the amount written in 1920, the previous banner year, but the loss was more than overcome by the gain in new industrial insurance. The industrial insurance for 1922, was \$2,100,000,000 against \$1,400,000,000 the year before.

Luther P. Prince spent last Friday in Greensboro, where he went to receive initiation as a member of the Elks.

C. F. Neighbors, of Benson was a visitor here.

"Mickie" O'Quinn, of the Greensboro baseball club spent the week end here with his parents.

Several from here attended the Raleigh-Durham baseball game in Raleigh Monday.

The local baseball team is caried to play two games this week, one here and the other away from home. They play Fuquay Springs Thursday and Smithfield plays here Saturday afternoon.

SENTENCED TO ROADS FOR IMMORAL CONDUCT

Fayetteville, May 8.—Alva S. Phillips, of Rock Hill, S. C., whom a department of Justice agent had declined to prosecute on "white slave" charges, is under sentence of twelve

months on the Cumberland county roads for immoral conduct. The sentence was imposed by Recorder Chas. W. Barefoot. Phillips is charged with bringing two girls here from Rock Hill. The Federal agent who followed them here dropped the case because the girls gave conflicting testimony. Only one of them, however, was produced as a witness in the Recorder's Court, and her testimony convicted Phillips. The defendant pleaded not guilty but offered no testimony and had no counsel.

SIX-MILLION BALES COTTON ON HAND APRIL 1

Washington, May 8.—Stocks of American cotton on hand April 1, the commerce department estimated today, totaled 6,039,000 bales, while the total world stocks of cotton on the same date amounted to 19,010,000 bales. During the eight months ending

April 1, the department estimated consumption of American cotton at 9,021,000 bales and world consumption from all sources at 15,881,000 bales. On July 31, 1922, stocks of American cotton were estimated at 5,123,000 bales and the world's stock at 5,839,000 bales. It was also calculated that 1922 production of American cotton amounted to 9,037,000 bales and that the world production was 17,755,000 bales.

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L. P. Surles, Dunn, N. C.

Town Tax Notice!

The tax books for the town of Dunn have been turned over to me. As all taxes are past due I am compelled to insist on prompt payment and hope you will see me at once and make settlement.

THE TOWN NEEDS THE MONEY

B. A. Rowland,
Tax Collector, Town of Dunn

Gum-Dipped Cords Gaining New Fame for Service

194% Sales Increase in Last Six Months Shows Trend Toward Firestone

The public has emphatically spoken. The popular preference in all territories is unmistakably the Firestone Gum-Dipped Cord.

A standard of service has been set by these famous tires without parallel in the past. It has brought a sales increase of 194% for the past six months over the same period of a year ago—the greatest gain in all Firestone history.

The Firestone Gum-Dipped Cord is the mighty achievement which has enabled Firestone to break the tremendous record of past Firestone success.

The tire buying public has been educated to the results in economical mileage of the Firestone process of double gum-dipping. The buying-swing toward Firestone shows how it has advanced the public's standard of tire value.

Ask owners about Firestone performance on their cars. Note the big taxicab fleets Firestone-equipped. Watch the new cars you see—just from the factories! Firestone Gum-Dipped Cords are seen everywhere in fast increasing numbers.

Get the maximum extra mileage that only the Firestone name assures you. Only by insisting on this name can you be sure of getting the genuine gum-dipped construction.

Firestone

GUM-DIPPED CORDS

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