

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

ELIJAH, A COURAGEOUS PROPHET

International Sunday School Lesson for August 6th, 1950

Memory Selection: "How long go ye limping between the two sides? If the Lord be God, follow him."—I Kings 18: 21.

Lesson Text: I Kings 18: 30-39.

Highly dramatic is the lesson for this week. Spectacular are the scenes in the drama enacted from life as they are retold in living words.

Approximately seventy-five years had elapsed since the division of the Kingdom of Israel. Judah had been ruled by several kings and, at this time, by Jehosaphat. Israel had seen several dynasties and seven kings until Ahab's day and all of her leaders had been false to Jehovah. The start toward national heresy began with Jeroboam, the first king of Israel, who set up golden calves for political reasons and these had led to idolatry and the abandonment of the worship of Jehovah.

Ahab was even more wicked than his predecessors and had for his mate the Phoenician princess, Jezebel, whose name had become synonymous with wickedness. She, at least, was vigorous and arduous in the support of her pagan gods and goddesses. Her influence with the king was such that the priests of Baal were supreme and the priests of Jehovah had been killed, scattered, or were in hiding from the royal wrath.

Into the scene comes a strange, mystic figure—that of a rugged priest, emerging out of the wilds east of Jordan, dressed in skins and contrasting sharply with the luxury and vice of the capital. Before the amazed court of Ahab, Elijah stalks, representative of the ancient Israelitish Jehovah and, in words which were to be long remembered, foretells the drought of several years: "There shall not be dew nor rain these years but according to my word." From then on, the land thirsted for water.

During this great suffering, Elijah remained in seclusion. At length the time came for the final act and Elijah went back into Israel. Encountering Obadiah, a member of the court circle and a faithful, though timid, believer in Jehovah, Elijah sent word to Ahab to meet him.

The king came, greeting the prophet with the query: "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" How often do human beings attribute their sufferings to unreal causes! How human it is to relieve ourselves from responsibility for disaster! But Elijah points out the real trouble: "I have not troubled Israel, but thou and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord."

Then Elijah proposed a contest with the forces of evil. He suggested that the king summon the priests of Baal to Mount Carmel where a contest could demonstrate which god was the greatest. The king agreed and, on the appointed day, there gathered 450 priests of Baal to oppose the lone prophet of Jehovah.

What a climax this scene represents! Evil enthroned and in power but about to be dethroned by one brave, faithful and daring spokesman for Jehovah. Elijah placed the issue squarely up to the people assembled: "How long halt ye between opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him," otherwise if Baal be god, follow him.

The contest was carried out. Every student of the Bible knows the details. The priests of Baal were given every opportunity to demonstrate the power of their god. They prayed but their prayers were unanswered. Then Elijah took over and, after preparing his altar and having the wood thereon thoroughly wet he prayed to God and God answered his prayer by sending lightning from the sky to consume the offering.

Elijah was full of faith. He knew the righteousness of his cause and did not hesitate to challenge into battle the hosts of ignorance, superstition and idolatry. The world needs more of this great faith and courage today. Too often the forces of evil go unrebuked because the representatives of God lack sufficient faith to stage the contest.

BE A BETTER CITIZEN!
GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY



You would not think of putting children like these in an open boat, without rudder or oars, and letting them drift wherever wind and waves chose to carry them.

No, you're not that kind of a parent!

But let's look at life as your children will face it. Life is an open sea upon which today's young people must embark. The winds often will be strong and the waves will be high. Their voyage will be far safer if the rudder and oars of proper spiritual training have been given them.

Fifteen million boys and girls are growing up in homes that pay no attention to and have no part in the Church or in religious education. These children are drifting!

The Church makes life safer for young and old alike. It provides a program designed to serve humanity in countless ways. The truths it teaches are basic and everlasting. Can you afford not to be a part of it?

THE CHURCH FOR ALL... ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of a character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For the sake of his community and nation. (3) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Psalm	1	1-3
Monday	II Timothy	2	11-15
Tuesday	II Peter	3	2-4
Wednesday	John	9	46-49
Thursday	Matthew	10	34-42
Friday	Psalm	103	13-15
Saturday	Genesis	27	15-24

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Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
C. W. Duling, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

BETHLEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST
Harold C. Turner, Pastor
Church services at 3:00 P. M.
Christian Union, 7:30 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. R. Byarly, Pastor
Church services first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES

E. B. Edwards, Pastor

First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 7:30 P. M.

Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.
Woodland Church, 7:30 P. M.

Third Sunday
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
New Hope Church, 7:30 P. M.

Fourth Sunday
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.
Winfall Church, 7:30 P. M.

Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church at 7:30 P. M.

ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH

E. R. Meekins, Pastor
Church School, 11:00 O. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Carl Bjork, Pastor
Sunday School, 11 A. M. every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 8 P. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH

Elizabeth White, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services, 11 A. M.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. E. G. Willis, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Preaching first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Preaching second and fourth Sunday evening at 7:30.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH

Carl J. Yow, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Morning worship—11:00 A. M.
Youth Fellowship, 6:30 P. M.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

G. M. Singletary, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:30 A. M. on first and third Sundays and 2:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.
Church services, 3:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Ben O. Merritt, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM

Coy S. Saunders, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Young People's Meeting, 6:30 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

E. T. Jilson, Pastor
Holy Communion, 9:00 A. M.
Every Sunday except first Sunday at 9:00 A. M.
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11:00 o'clock.
Holy Communion first Sunday at 11 A. M.

BERRA CHURCH OF CHRIST

Walker Perry, Pastor
Bible School, 10:00 A. M., except second Sunday, at 10:30 A. M.
Morning worship on first Sunday at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first Sunday at 8 P. M.

CHAPEL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

A. H. Galloway, Pastor
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.
Church Services 2 P. M. every first Sunday.
Sunday School at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Go