

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

ELIJAH CHALLENGES BAAL WORSHIP

International Sunday School Lesson for May 9, 1954.

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

Lesson Text: I Kings 17:1; 18:17-39.

Highly dramatic is the lesson for this week. Spectacular and high-strung are the scenes in the drama enacted from life as they are told to us in living words.

Approximately seventy-five years had passed since the division of the kingdom. 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 her leaders had been false to Jehovah. The start toward national heresy began with Jereboam, 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 a Phoenician princess, Jezebel, whose name has been synonymous with evil. She, at least, was vigorous and ardent in the support of her pagan gods and goddesses. Her influence over the king had been 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. The nation had forsaken its ancient religion, although here and there were those who still secretly clung to their racial faith and worship clandestinely.

Onto this 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 courts in 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 drought, Elijah remained in seclusion. In the ravine Cherith first, where he was miraculously fed either by the ravens, or the Arabians—some difference exists as to the correct translation of the original Hebrew. This refuge afterwards suffered from the drought, along with the rest of the country, and Elijah went into Phoenicia, where again by miraculous manifestations, Jehovah testified to the credentials of his prophet. At length the time came for the final act of the play and Elijah went back into Israel.

Encountering Obadiah, a member of the court circle but who had remained a faithful though timid believer in Jehovah, Elijah sent word to Ahab to meet him. The king came, greeting the prophet with the question: "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" How often do human beings attribute their suffering to unreal causes! How human it is to try to relieve our own selves from responsibility for disaster! But Elijah points to the real trouble: "I have not trouble Israel, but thou and thy father's house in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord."

Elijah, great prophet and courageous spokesman for righteousness, was not afraid to contest with the forces of evil, and he proposed to the king that the false priests of Baal be summoned to Mt. 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 defeated by one brave, faithful, and daring servant of Jehovah. Elijah placed the issue squarely up to the assembled people: "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God follow him," otherwise, if Baal be god, follow him.

The test was carried out. Two altars were erected and the priests of Baal given the opportunity to have their fire lighted by their gods. In vain they prayed. In vain they danced and performed. In vain they gashed themselves, wounded their bodies, in zealous efforts, but no answering spark came. Elijah taunted him until finally they ceased their efforts and it becomes Elijah's opportunity. This prophet has his altar and the wood thoroughly wet but in answer to his prayer that Jehovah demonstrate his power, the fire strikes from the sky

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY



MOTHER vs. INFECTION

Maybe most of those cuts and scratches would heal without any medicine. But who can tell when a simple scratch is going to develop into a serious infection?

Mother is alert to every possibility of danger for her children. Guarding them against infection is part of her daily responsibility.

Incidentally, that accounts for Mother's constant concern for her children's religious training. She knows that there are "infections" which destroy our moral and spiritual well-being.

Every Sunday, with her husband and her children, you'll find Mother in Church. For the Church is one of the few things that Mother considers even more essential to the well-being of her family than that bottle of antiseptic in the medicine closet.

THE CHURCH FOR ALL... ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of 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 his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) 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.

Sunday	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Matthew	5	21-30
Monday	Matthew	18	24-25
Tuesday	Matthew	18	1-12
Wednesday	Luke	10	28-46
Thursday	I Corinth's	5	1-8
Friday	Psalms	34	1-11
Saturday	Psalms	34	12-22

THIS PAGE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING FIRMS:

Lynch Funeral Home
PHONE 2811 HERTFORD, N. C.

Simon's
OUTFITTERS FOR THE FAMILY

Robertson's Cleaners
PHONE 5731 HERTFORD, N. C.

DOZIER'S FLORIST
FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS PHONE 4606

W. M. Morgan Furniture Company
HOME FURNISHINGS HOT POINT APPLIANCES

Winslow-Blanchard Motor Co.
YOUR FORD DEALER

Reed Oil Company
ESSO PRODUCTS

Towe-Webb Motor Company
CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH SALES AND SERVICE

J. C. Blanchard & Company, Inc.
"BLANCHARD'S" SINCE 1832

CANNON CLEANERS
PHONE 2511 DEPENDABLE SERVICE

Hertford Livestock & Supply Co.
PHONE 2501 HERTFORD, N. C.

Hertford Bldg. & Loan Association
"Own Your Own Home Through Building & Loan"

TOWE OIL COMPANY
SINCLAIR PRODUCTS — U. S. TIRES

Jordan's Barber Shop
BILL JORDAN, Prop.

Hertford Banking Company
MEMBER F. D. I. C.

Hertford Hardware & Supply Co.
PAINTS - HARDWARE - BUILDING MATERIALS

Hertford Furniture Company
"MOVED IN TOWN, IT'S TRUE, BUT STILL RETAIN LOW PRICES, TOO"

The Southern Cotton Oil Company
HERTFORD, N. C.

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
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor
First Sunday
11 A. M. and 8 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
W. E. Thompson, Pastor
Church services second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES

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

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

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

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

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

ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH

C. H. Beale, Pastor
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Harvey L. Coppidge, Pastor
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
First and Third Sundays at 7:45 P. M.

Sunday School 9:45 A. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH
James Rahenkamp, Pastor

Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services 11 A. M., - 7:30 P. M.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.
Prayer Service, Wednesday 7:30 P. M.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. J. D. Stoner, Pastor
Sunday School 10 A. M.
Morning Worship 11 A. M.
Evening service 8 P. M.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH
D. Virgil Pike, Pastor
Church School 10 A. M.
Morning Worship 11 A. M.
Young People's Meeting 7 P. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Caleb Goodwin, Jr., Pastor
Sunday School, 10:30 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
A. L. Chaplin, 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 EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. Charles F. Wulf, Rector.
9:45 A. M., Church School, every Sunday.
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 1st Sunday.
8:30 A. M., Holy Communion, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday.
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
10:00 A. M., Holy Communion, Fridays and Saints' Days.

BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Walker Perry, Pastor
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Vivian Evans, Pastor
Sunday School second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
Preaching service at 3 o'clock every first and third Sundays.
Training Union at 7 P. M.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Do Go