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Sunday School Lesson

(By [illegible]
Teacher of English, [illegible]
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LESSON FOR [illegible]

ELIJAH'S CHALLENGE TO [illegible] WORSHIP

LESSON TEXT—I Kings 18:1-46.

GOLDEN TEXT—This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.—I John 5:4.

REFERENCE MATERIAL—Josh. 24: 14-28; Eph. 6:10-20.

PRIMARY TOPIC—God Answers Elijah's prayer.

JUNIOR TOPIC—One Man Against Four Hundred and Fifty.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Jehovah's Victorious Champion.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Modern Evils; How to Fight Them.

I. Elijah Meets Ahab (vv. 17-19).

At the Lord's command, Elijah shows himself to Ahab. When Elijah was last seen by Ahab, he announced that rain would only be given by his word (17:1). In connection with the Prophet's appearing 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 idolatry of Ahab and his family.

II. Elijah's Challenge (vv. 19-24).

1. The people assembled (vv. 19, 20). The king convened the people at the urgent request of Elijah.

2. Elijah's ringing 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 God—sin and holiness—mammon and God. But the question must be settled sooner or later. In fact, the decision is being made every day. (2) The silence of the people (v. 21). This may have been because of fear of the king or ignorance, for many were of the opinion that to be religious was the only thing necessary, irrespective of the being worshiped. (3) The method of decision (vv. 22-24). 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. The people consented that this was a fair test.

III. The Test Applied (vv. 25-39).

1. The offering by the prophets of Baal (vv. 25-29). Elijah gave a fair test, even placed the advantage on the other side. He gave the prophets of Baal the first opportunity to prove to the people as to whether Baal was a real god. Elijah taunted them, and they more earnestly cried to Baal, but no answer came.

2. The offering by Elijah (vv. 30-39). (1) The people invited near (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 repaired (vv. 30-32). Before there can be the power of God manifested, the altar must be repaired. Elijah took twelve stones, representing the united nation. God is one, and His people is one. (3) The offering on the altar (vv. 33-35). After the bullock was in place, he had four barrels of water three times emptied upon the sacrifices 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. 36). Elijah was jealous for God's glory—his supreme desire was to honor and magnify the Lord. The only thing that he asked for himself was to be known as God's servant (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 know God. (5) 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.

V. God's Prophets Vindicated (vv. 41-46).

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 to them His graciousness.

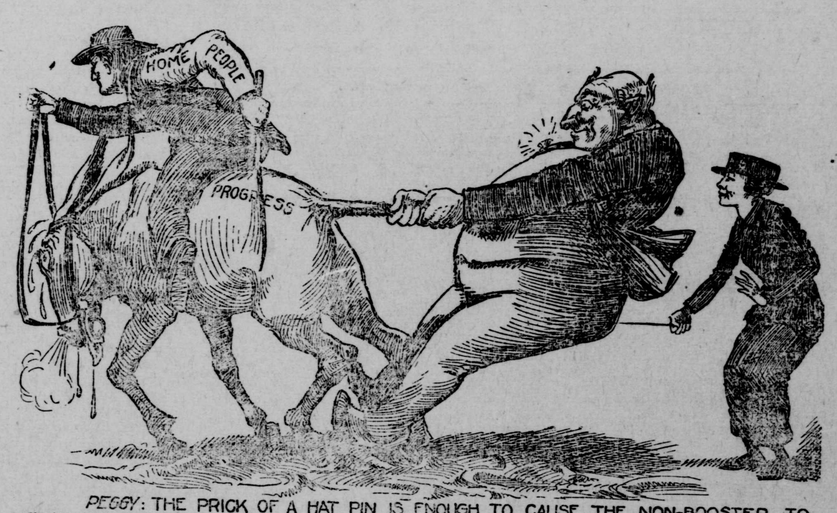
The Bounds of the Sea.

Fear ye not me? said the Lord; will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it; and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?—Jeremiah, 5:22.

The End of Enmity.

When a man's ways please the Lord he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.—Proverbs 16:7.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF PEGGY



PEGGY: THE PRICK OF A HAT PIN IS ENOUGH TO CAUSE THE NON-BOOSTER TO RELAX HIS GRIP FOR A TIME.

PEGGY: A SURPRISED ENEMY IS HALF BEATEN AND A SCALY TREE INFECTS THE ENTIRE ORCHARD.

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