

Business Directory

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for Sunday, August 6
Golden Text.—How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him.—1 Kings 18:21
THE LESSON AS A WHOLE
Approach to the Lesson
Salutary indeed are the lessons which the Holy Spirit has presented for us in the record of Elijah's life. In some respects, the greatest of all the prophets since Moses until the advent of John the Baptist (Matt. 11:11), he appears suddenly upon the page of Scripture with his amazing declaration to King Ahab. "As the Lord liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word" (1 Kings 17:1). We know from the Spirit's comment in James 5:17 that this was the result of, and confidence from, a life of prayer.

It took real courage—the courage born of the conviction that he was God's own messenger—for this sturdy Tishbite to rebuke so powerful and wicked a ruler as Ahab, and even more to declare beforehand what nature saw no evidence of, but which faith counted on God to perform (1 Kings 18:41). Yet we see this bold man quail before the wrath of a proud haughty vixen like Jezebel (1 Kings 19:2, 3), whose threatening words so disturbed him that he preferred death to further conflict (1 Kings 19:4). In this we may see how truly he was a man of like passions with ourselves: not some wonderful, mysterious, superhuman being, but a very human person indeed, whom God had taken up in grace and commissioned for a great work. His greatest weakness was in connection with his outstanding testimony: he was inclined to think of himself as Jehovah's sole representative on earth. When he said, "I, only, am left" (1 Kings 19:14), God rebuked him by telling of seven thousand hidden ones in Israel who had not bowed the knee to Baal (chap. 19:18). We need to learn the same lesson. However faithful or devoted we may imagine ourselves to be, God has many more than ourselves who are true to His Word and faithful in their stand against apostasy.

The Historical Setting
For about thirty years, during the reign of Ahab, king of Israel, Elijah was the outstanding witness for God in the northern kingdom. He came from Gilead, but we know nothing of his birthplace or his antecedents, nor the date of his nativity. It was late in the tenth century before Christ, about 925 B.C., that he made his first dramatic appearance before Ahab, and his translation occurred probably about 896 B.C. The present scene occurred on Mt. Carmel, where he withstood the priests of Baal.
Verse by Verse
1 Kings 18:30.—"He repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down." This was evidently one of those ancient high places where the people worshipped Jehovah. The rebuilding of this altar was a witness to Elijah's faith and a challenge to the representatives of the idolatrous systems that had the backing of the court of Israel.
Verse 31.—"Twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes." This was a remarkable testimony to the unity of the nation as viewed by God, through His servant, even though strife and division had outwardly destroyed it. So with the church to-

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This year is the 100th anniversary of the first ice machine, and before you say so what, this is what.
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Ice is used for many reasons besides in drinks. It is used in refrigerated railroad cars, trucks and ships hauling fruits, vegetables, dairy products, meats and other perishables to countless markets.

It is used in printing plants, bakeries, gold mines and textile mills.

Multiple Uses
It is used in making chocolate, chewing gum, cigars, ice cream, liquors, drugs, varnish, hats, explosives, sausage, film and glue. Felt for hats has to be cooled to stretch.

It helps retard the fermentation of mash in making liquors and it maintains the proper temperature in chemicals used for explosives.

This great ice business would have been impossible without John

day. Faith says, "There is one body," though man's will has wrought in making manifold schisms.

Verse 32.—"He made a trench about the altar." The pagan priests were notorious for their trickery, by which they sought to deceive the people with false signs and lying wonders. Elijah was preparing to offset all this by that which in his case would make deceit impossible.

Verse 33.—"Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt-sacrifice." Placing the parts of the Lord's offering upon the wood, he had the altar and the sacrifice so drenched with water that no human power could kindle the wood and produce fire.

Verse 34.—"They did it the third time." Three times this process of saturation was repeated in the sight of all beholders. There was too much at stake to admit any possibility of a reasonable charge of hidden fire in the altar to be fanned into flame when the prophet had prayed.

Verse 35.—"He filled the trench also with water." Altar, offering, and wood were drenched, and the trench or groove surrounding was now full of water. Only divine power could produce fire under such circumstances, and this was to be the test as to who was the true God that day (v. 24).

Verse 36.—"At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice." Down at Jerusalem, far to the south, at this hour, the lamb was laid upon the altar. This lonely witness among the apostates of the north remembered what was taking place at the Temple of Jehovah and called upon the Lord of the fathers of Israel to reveal Himself and make His power known.

Verse 37.—"Hear me; that this people may know." It was with no thought of personal vindication or self-exaltation that Elijah thus called upon God. He yearned over the people, so wickedly deceived by their leaders, and longed to see God manifest His power in such a way that they would be restored to the old-time path.

Verse 38.—"Then the fire of the Lord fell." As of old, when the Tabernacle was first erected (Lev. 9:24), and the glory of the Lord filled the house when the Temple was dedicated (2 Chron. 5:13, 14), a sudden flash of fire from the heavens ignited the wood and consumed the sacrifice. Even the water in the trench was "licked up" by the intense heat.

Verse 39.—"The Lord, he is the God." All day the prophets of Baal had called in vain upon their idols. Now the eternal One had made His power known, and for the time, at least, the people were persuaded that He was indeed the one living and true God. It was a great prayer of faith and consistent testimony to the truth.

The Heart of the Lesson

He who has the testimony of his own conscience that he is walking in accordance with the revealed will of God will be courageous in the hour of danger, when the enemies of the truth oppose with violence or deceitful pretense. There is a mere fleshly bravado which may exist where one is playing fast and loose with that which is of God. But holy boldness is another thing altogether and is the accompaniment of genuine piety and true loyalty to the Word of the Lord. It is this that we see exemplified in the life of Elijah, and in this we may well seek grace to emulate the devoted man of God who came to call the people back to the Law they had forgotten.

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Make tea double strength and while still hot pour into glasses filled with cracked ice... Add sugar and lemon to taste.
"SALADA" ICED TEA



Dr. Gorrie, a country doctor, and that led to the discovery that the greater the force, the cooler the water and that, eventually, led to the birth of modern refrigeration.

Dr. Gorrie, a Spanish immigrant, practised medicine in Abbeville, S.C., and later in Apalachicola, Fla., where he became interested in malaria and yellow fever research.

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He was convinced that control of the fevers was essential to their effective treatment; that summer heat and high humidity slowed the patient's recovery.

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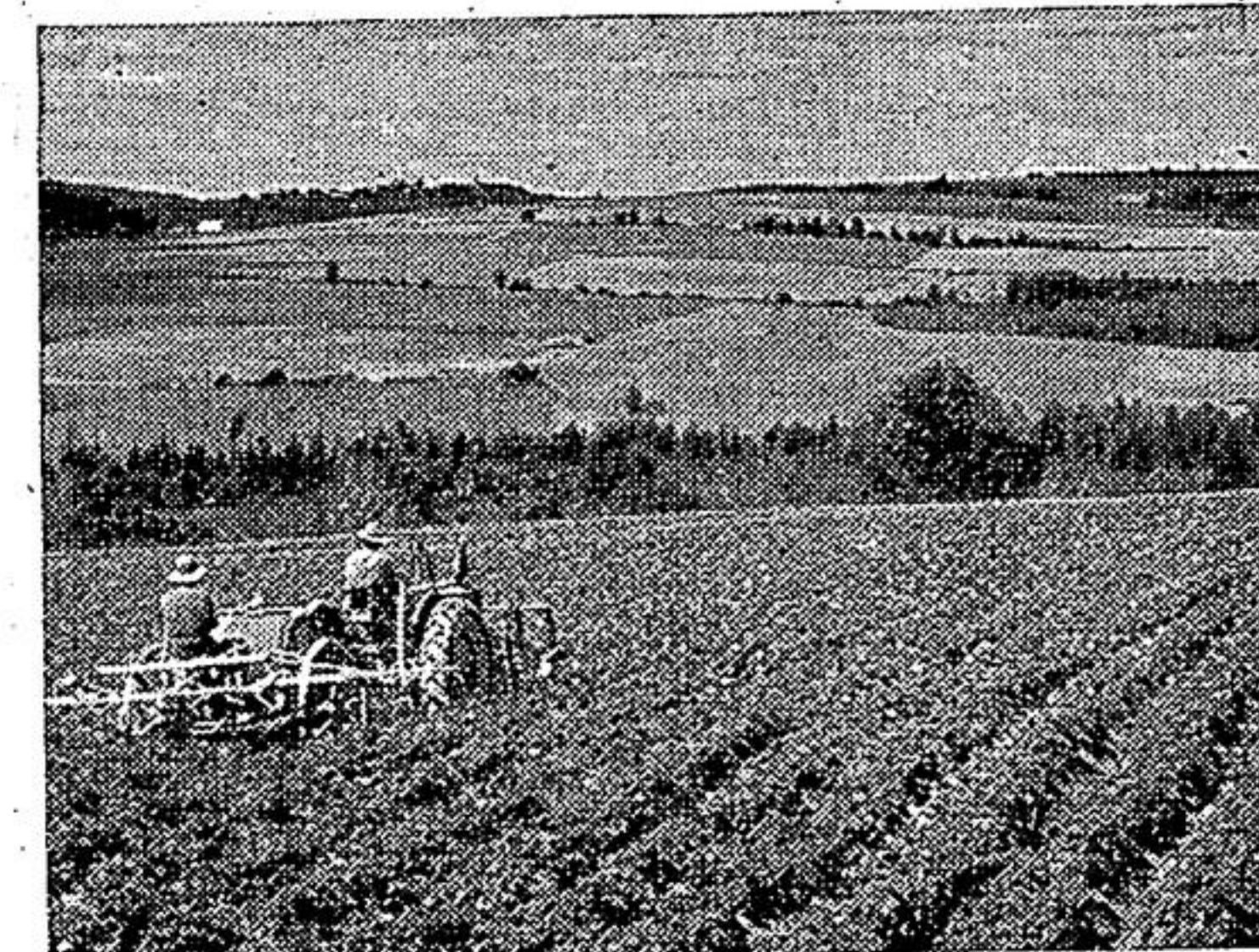
Needed Ice Regularly
Good as it was, such a system still depended on natural ice and getting enough natural ice in Apalachicola was difficult.

So Dr. Gorrie went to work, extending his earlier findings to a later experiment of forcing air, through small tubes over water.



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