

**ELIJAH. A COURSE OF LECTURES,  
PREACHED IN THE PARISH  
CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,  
WESTMINSTER, ON THE FRIDAYS  
IN LENT. A. D. 1862**

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Elijah. A Course of Lectures, Preached in the Parish Church of St. James, Westminster, on the Fridays in Lent. A. D. 1862 by John Edward Kempe

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**JOHN EDWARD KEMPE**

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A COURSE OF LECTURES

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ST. JAMES'S, WESTMINSTER,

ON THE

*Fridays in Lent.*

A.D. 1862.

BY

JOHN EDWARD KEMPE, M.A.,

PREBENDARY OF ST. PAUL'S, AND RECTOR OF ST. JAMES'S.

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# ELIJAH.

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## LECTURE I.

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### CHERITH.

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ST. JAMES, v., 17.

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

It was about sixty years after the secession of the ten tribes, that Ahab ascended the throne of Israel. Inaugurated as the kingdom of Israel had been by the establishment of a worship which, though not avowedly opposed to the worship of Jehovah, really stood to it in a relation at once thoroughly schismatical and grossly corrupt, it was the

natural sequel to such a beginning that religious and moral degeneracy should proceed with the utmost rapidity. In Omri, the father of Ahab, a fourth dynasty was called to rule over the distracted realm; and quick as was the succession of monarchs, it was quite kept pace with by the advancing strides of iniquity and idolatry. The king "who made Israel to sin" is the distinctive designation of him who stands at the head of the royal catalogue as the rebellious founder of the separate monarchy. Nadab, his son Baasha, *his* son Elah, and Zimri, each succeed to a like preeminence in wickedness as well as in power. The record of Omri, who followed Zimri, is, that "he wrought evil in the eyes of the Lord, and did worse than all who were before him:" and his son Ahab's improves upon his again, for of him, too, it is written that "he did evil in the sight of the Lord above all