ELIJAH THE PROPHET

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649572670

Elijah the Prophet by William M. Taylor

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WILLIAM M. TAYLOR

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BY THE

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GLASGOW: JOHN S. MARR & SONS, 194 BUCHANAN STREET. 1878.

101. i. 456.

PREFACE.

To read a part of the Old Testament in the light of the New, and to discover in it, when thus treated, not only a portion of the history of the past, but also the explanation of much that is in the present, and the prophecy of more that is in the future, is the aim of this book.

The story of Elijah is one of thrilling interest. There is a shadow of mystery, and yet a mien of majesty about the hero which so affects every reader that he is almost apt to forget that the Tishbite was, after all, "a man subject to like passions as we are." I have endeavoured, by setting the prophet amidst the surroundings of his age and comparing him with the reformers of other days, to bring him so near to us that we may hear the throb of his great heart, and catch the inspiration of his life. I have not attempted to conceal his failings, but have sought everywhere to draw from his conduct the lessons most appropriate to our modern circumstances.

The kind reception given to "David, King of Israel," has encouraged me to send forth this new work; and if it shall awaken any to earnest study of the Word of God, or give direction and support to any perplexed or fainting spirit, I will be devoutly thankful.

i

W. M. T.



CONTENTS.

	۸	٠	۱
٩	i	٠	

THE STARTLING MESSAGE.
"And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead," said unto Ahab, As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word,"—I KINGS XVII. 1;
п.
BY THE BROOK.
"And the word of the LORD came unto Elijah, saying, And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook."—1 KINGS XVII. 2, 4, 6, -
III.
THE BARREL AND THE CRUSE.
"And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son; For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah; and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.—I KINGS XVII. 13-16.

TV.

DEATH AND RESURRECTION.

V

RE-APPEARANCE.

"Go, show thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.

And Elijah went to show himself unto Ahab. . . . And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel."—I KINGS XVIII. I, 2, 17, 18, - . 85

VI.

THE CONFLICT ON CARMEL

"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word."—I KINGS XVIII, 21,

VII.

PRAYER AND ITS ANSWER.

"Elijah went up to the top of Carmel, and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. And it came to pass, at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not. And it came to pass, in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain."—I KINGS XVIII. 42-45.

VIII.

UNDER THE JUNIPER-TREE.

"But Elijah himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper-tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough: now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. And as he lay and slept under a juniper-tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head: and he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him. . . And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God."—1 KINGS XIX.

IX.

ABEL-MEHOLAH.

"And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room. . . . So Elijah departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him."—I KINGS XIX. 16, 19,

X.

NABOTH'S VINEYARD.

"And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it. . . . And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee; because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD. Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity."—1 KINGS XXI. 17, 18, 20, 21, - 177

XI.

FIRE FROM HEAVEN.

"And Elijah said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him, O man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly. And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty."—2 KINGS 1, 10-12,

XII.

THE ASCENSION.

"And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. . . And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."—2 KINGS II. I, II,

XIII.

ELIJAH ON THE MOUNT.

"And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem."—LUKE IX. 30, 31, - 235.