

## The Sunday School.

JESU THE KING.

SUNDAY, MAY 13.—2 Kings 1: 20-31.

**JESU ANSWERS TO THE KING:** (2 Kings 1: 12.) John's successful conspiracy against king Jehoram, Ahab's son. (ix: 14-26.) The horrible death of the guilty Jezebel, who had done so much to corrupt the people, to introduce the worship of Baal and all its attendant forms of wickedness, and who had most cruelly persecuted the faithful worshippers of God. (ix: 30-37.)

Jehu was a fierce, headstrong zealot. He did some things that were right, that ought to have been done; but it is doubtful if he did anything from a purely right motive. It was an extremely sinful period in the history of Israel. The severest measures were necessary in order to reform. Because God used him for certain purposes does not imply that he approved all he did.

The servants of Baal deserved the punishment they received. Yet that does not excuse Jehu's deceit and treachery in the way he took to destroy them.

Jehu's zeal for reforms ought to have included all forms of sin; instead of that he seems to have used it as an excuse for certain other, and really no less abominable sins. His fatal failure was in this: he "took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart." At heart he feared hardly more for Jehovah than for Baal treacherous, double minded, and half hearted. He aimed as his predecessor Jehoram had aimed; and, like him, he also made Israel to sin. In rough times God sometimes works out his own righteous and gracious purposes by means of rough instruments. Such, emphatically, was Jehu. And what ever he undertook he went about it "like Jehu."

**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF BAALITES:** (20-29.) King Jehu appointed it. He did it by public proclamation. It looked as if he had gone over to their party, and was about to make, in the most formal manner, Baalism the state religion, the established church. The worshippers probably mean the officials connected with the idolatrous Baalistic rites and ceremonies, constituting a kind of priesthood.

Baal worship began as a defilement of nature. In a sense, the spring and generator of all life upon earth is the sun. With out its warmth and light, no life could exist, the world would be as good as dead. Hence the worship of Nature easily became the worship of the sun. And Baal was the sun-god. That spirit in man which, in any age, makes a scientific man deny the personality of God, and refuse to accept his personal revelation of himself to us, is of the same disposition which in the old time led to Baalism. It was a worshiping and serving the creature, rather than the Creator, who is God over all and blessed forever. That a being endowed with reason and a conscience, as man is, should have sunk into the worse than idiocy of idolatry, must always remain a mystery of iniquity. But the process is described exactly by the Apostle, in that appalling picture and epitome of so large a part of human history, given in Rom. 1: 18-22, which see. The Baal worship widely prevailed among the more advanced nations with which the Israelites came in contact. Not unlikely its mysteries were reckoned the most advanced thought of the day, and urged upon the attention of the worshippers of Jehovah accordingly. And yet the license which it gave to the depraved lusts of men, and the fact that it administered no troublesome checks to the conscience of its devotees is what, after all, most favored its acceptance.

Baal worship had been introduced by royal sanction under the reign of Ahab and Jezebel. Elijah did his utmost to check and roll back the foul tide of idolatry and sensuality. But its continued existence was the crying sin of the nation. It was the standing reproach to the pure worship of Jehovah and threatened utterly to subvert the sacred character of the chosen nation. A crisis had come, when the most decisive measures must be resorted to. (See Deut. iv: 25-27.)

This Baal worship was itself a fraud, a lie, an imposture. And whether Jehu did right or not, in his stratagem by which he inveigled all the Baal worshippers into the Baal temple, for their utter destruction, they were hardly the ones who would have a right to complain.

[25-28.] The stratagem was a complete success. Short work was made with them, and with all the visible insignia of the polluting heresy and apostasy. Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel.

[28, 29.] Alas, that after every sign of reform, undertaken by men, this world, howbeit, must come in. Man does nothing perfect. There is always some flaw in his best deeds, some discount to be put upon his purest efforts. If he start off well, he stops so soon. If he does one equally commendable deed, he is prone to make an excuse for some sin. Having cast aside out of the temple he will turn back and tolerate sin in his heart. Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel. Howbeit for the sins of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit: the golden calves that were in Bethel, and that were in Dan.

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12:22 P. M.—Express, Mail New York and St. Albans via Troy.

11:02 P. M.—Night Express, Montreal, Orleansburg and New York via Troy.

**TRAIN LEAVE FOR THE NORTH:** 11:15 A. M.—Mixed train from No. Bennington, Troy and Montreal via Orleansburg.

2:38 P. M.—Express, Mail New York and St. Albans via Troy.

5:40 A. M.—Night Express, New York and Montreal via Orleansburg.

1:18 A. M.—Sunday Morning Train. The train connecting with the Mixed leaves Troy at 7:45 A. M., connecting with the night train from Troy.

The Day Express leaves New York at 8:30 A. M., arriving at St. Albans at 9:30 A. M.

The night express leaves New York at 8:30 P. M., arriving at St. Albans at 9:30 P. M.

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Bake and Boil, splendid, quickly, evenly,

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Double Centres, Hot Blast Doors, Largest Fire,

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Oven Doors up tight, Oven Doors lined with

Bright Tin, Heavy, Best New Iron, Won't Crack.

Warranted Satisfactory.

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