

One of the most instructive sections of the Bible, ~~is~~ as far as a successful prosecution of missionary work is concerned, is the account in the 1st and 2nd Kings of the activities of Elijah and Elisha. Taken together, these two men accomplished a far greater work than most Bible students realize<sup>ed</sup>. It was very important in God's plan for two particular reasons.

The first reason is that the northern kingdom of Israel which is the larger of the two kingdoms was being so infiltrated by the Baal worship from the north, that it would soon have succumbed altogether but for the work ~~of~~ of Elijah and Elisha. Elijah at one time, we recall, thought that he was the only person left there who is still ~~few~~ following the Lord. God assured him, however, that he would preserve a great many<sup>that</sup> did not go after Baal. As a result of the work of Elijah and Elisha the Baal worship was completely ruled out of the kingdom and the great masses of the people were loyal to God and followed His teaching for a period of about a century.

Rarely in history has any great<sup>revival</sup> people remained strong and effective for longer than a century. The turning back of the Baal worship and the holding the great masses of the northern kingdom true and loyal to the true God for a period of a century ~~is~~ was a great achievement~~//but~~ by these two men.

A second aspect of the work is less obvious but it is equally ~~of~~ important in God's providence. The smaller of the two kingdoms which lay to the south of Israel, the kingdom of Judah continued for a century and half after the northern kingdom carried off into exile. The southern kingdom was ruled by men of the house of David. These men were often very inferior and very disloyal to the great duty that God had ~~laid-on-them-~~ given them. Individuals among them stand as truly out~~and-were~~ loyal to the Lord. God had promised that through the line of David would come the Messiah who would bring redemption to individuals from every nation upon earth. During the time of Elijah the Baal worship began to come into the southern kingdom from the north. In fact there was a period of two