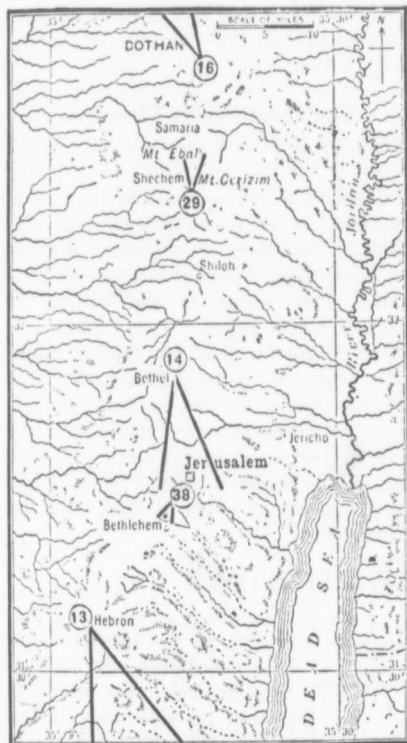


"Go up at once," said Caleb, and, when Joshua returned (ch. 14:26) he supported Caleb. These two brave men believed that Israel was "well able" to take possession of Canaan. But what said the other ten? Ah, they were cowards, and said, "We be not able," and they went on to enlarge upon the difficulties and dangers which lay before

them. Ch. 14:1-25 tells us how the people sided with the cowardly ten rather than with the brave two.

By this time the scholars will have seen the contrast between the two who trusted God and were willing to go forward and the ten who distrusted Him and held back. Which are they going to imitate?

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



To-day we will go about seventeen miles beyond Hebron, farther up among the Judean hills. Our map marks with the number 38 a spot near Bethlehem, where we will take our stand, facing towards the modern town. At our feet an artificially leveled shelf or terrace holds in place a quantity of hillside soil, and grape vines are growing there all full of ripe fruit. A young man, a woman and some children directly before us are gathering the grapes. Looking down from this terrace we see still lower levels used like this one for vine-growing. On one terrace a high stone platform has been constructed with a shelter-hut upon it—what the Bible calls a "tower" (see Matt. 21:33). At harvest time a watchman stays there on the lookout against thieves. Grapes like these cost so much labor through the year that the vineyard owner needs to guard at vintage time against wandering Bedouins, who make plans to be around here at the profitable season. Below these terraces, in the bed of a little valley, olive trees are growing, and beyond them we see another hillside laid out in terraces like this one on which we stand.

You can see it for yourself by using a stereograph entitled, *Vineyards and Watchtower, Showing Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem*.

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

Lesson Points

We need direction from heaven for our earthly journey. v. 1.

Divine providence does not supersede human prudence. v. 2.

Experience is the light which the past

throws upon the future. v. 3.

Even on earth we may have foretastes of heavenly joys. v. 26.

The best recommendation of Christianity is its fruits. v. 27.

Our foes are terrible only when we forget that God is our friend. v. 28.

The darker our surroundings the more need that our light should shine brightly. v. 29.