

LESSON V—August 4th, 1895.

The Report of the Spies. NUM. 13: 17-20, 23-33.

(Commit to memory verse 20).

GOLDEN TEXT: "The Lord is with us, fear them not." Num. 14: 9.

PROVE THAT—We must not hope without reason. 1 Pet. 3: 15.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 31. *What is effectual calling?* A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 124, 119, 120, 130.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Report of the spies. Num. 13: 17-25, 26-33. *Tuesday.* Mistrust. Num. 14: 1-12. *Wednesday.* The punishment. Num. 14: 13-25. *Thursday.* Judgment on the rebellious. Num. 14: 26-39. *Friday.* Remembrance of the fact. Num. 32: 6-15. *Saturday.* Without fear. Ps. 46. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The journey of the Israelites was direct from Sinai to the southern border of Canaan. They were now an organized nation and prepared, if they had faith enough, to take possession of the land. Twelve spies were chosen, one from each tribe, who were to bring back word concerning the country and its inhabitants (verses 1-16). Read also Deut. 1: 1, 2, 19-36 and Heb. 3: 7-19; 4: 1-3.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Spies Sent Out. vs. 17-20. II. Encouragements to Faith. vs. 23-27. III. Excuses for Unbelief. vs. 28-33.

17. Southward—R. V. "by the south" i. e. the south country, a dry barren tract between their camp and Hebron. The mountain—The hilly country afterwards known as the mountains of Judah (Judg. 1: 9, 19). 19. Strongholds—fortified places. 20. Fat or lean—Fertile or barren (Deut. 8: 7, 8; Neh. 5: 25, 35; Ezek. 20: 6). The time of the first ripe grapes—about the beginning of August. Three months after leaving Sinai. The spies did their work thoroughly going as far north as Hamath, afterwards Baalbee, and Mount Lebanon. 23. Eschol—R. V. "Valley of Eschol," immediately north of Hebron, still noted for its fruit and fertility. One cluster of grapes—It was carried on a pole between two to prevent its being crushed. Clusters of the Syrian grape have been known to weigh 19 pounds. 24. The word *Eschol* means "cluster." 25. Forty days—There were frequent companies of Egyptians travelling through the land and the spies could easily pass themselves off as of that nationality. 26. The wilderness of Paran—The desert to the south of Palestine. Kadesh—"Sacred." Also called *Kadesh Barnea*. It is now called *Ain Quadis*, or the "sacred fountain," from the spring which is claimed to be the one miraculously produced by Moses (Num. 20: 11). 27. Milk and honey—a poetic expression for great fertility (Ex. 3: 8; 33: 3). 28. Children of Anak—In verse 33 they are called giants. Moses refers to the might of these nations only to arouse the confidence of the people in God's promise to overthrow them (Deut. 7: 1; 9: 1, 2. Compare 1 Cor. 12: 10). The christian need fear no enemies. 29. The Amaleites—They had already encountered them (Ex. 17: 8-13). Their success on that occasion should have encouraged them now. The Hittites—This was a very powerful nation, warlike and highly civilized. The Jebusites—These held the citadel of Jerusalem up to the time of David. The Amorites—These were warlike mountaineers (Amos. 2: 9). Canaanites—These were lowlanders and descendants of the son of Ham. 30. Caleb—Joshua also tried to encourage the people, who seem to have become tumultuous (ch. 14: 6, 7). Read Josh. 14: 6-15. For the source of their courage see ch. 14: 8, 9; Ps. 27: 1; 60: 12; 118: 10. 31. They seemed to have forgotten what God did for them in Egypt. 32. A land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof—Either is, unable to support its inhabitants, or is an unhealthy country. They depreciate it (ch. 14: 36). It is not worth conquering. Some suppose that a plague sent by God was raging at the time (Josh. 24: 12). All the people—A gross exaggeration. Men like Goliath were doubtless rare. 33. Compare 1 Sam. 17: 42 and Isa. 40: 22.

LESSONS. 1. While trusting God fully we should at the same time act prudently. 2. Only those who diligently search for them will find good things of any kind. 3. The fact that God has carried us safely through dangers in the past should give us courage to face those ahead. 4. A true statement with a false coloring is the worst kind of lie. 5. Our fears are apt to exaggerate difficulties.