

Lesson IV.

CALEB'S FAITHFULNESS REWARDED October 27, 1907

Joshua 14 : 6-15—Memory Verses, 7, 8.

Golden Text—Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things.—Matthew 25 : 23.



6 Then the children of Ju'dah came unto Josh'ua in Gil'gal : and Ca'leb the son of Jephun'neh the Ke'nezite said unto him, Thou knowest the thing that the LORD said unto Mo'ses the man of God concerning me and thee in Ka'desh-bar'nea.

7 Forty years old was I when Mo'ses the servant of the LORD sent me from Ka'desh-bar'nea to espy out the land ; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart.

8 Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt : but I wholly followed the LORD my God.

9 And Mo'ses swore on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.

10 And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Mo'ses, while the children of Is'rael wandered in the wilderness : and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old.

11 As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Mo'ses sent me : as my strength was then, even so is my strength now,

for war, both to go out, and to come in. 12 Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day ; for thou heardest in that day how the An'akims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced : if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said.

13 And Josh'ua blessed him, and gave unto Ca'leb the son of Jephun'neh Heb'ron for an inheritance.

14 He'bron therefore became the inheritance of Ca'leb the son of Jephun'neh the Ke'nezite unto this day, because that he wholly followed the LORD God of Is'rael.

15 And the name of He'bron before was Kir'jath-ar'ba ; which Ar'ba was a great man among the An'akims. And the land had rest from war.

THE LESSON RETOLD

There were a great many other cities in Canaan besides Jericho, and, although many of them were large and strong, the Israelites conquered them, one after the other, because God was helping His people, as He had promised. At last they had conquered most of Canaan ; and Joshua said to the twelve tribes : " God has now commanded me to divide up the land of Canaan amongst you, a certain portion to each tribe."

But, before Joshua commenced to divide the land, Caleb, who belonged to the tribe of Judah, came, with some of his brethren, to him, to ask for the city of Hebron and the land round about it. Caleb said to Joshua : " Do you remember what God promised to me, through Moses, forty-five years ago, when

you and I went up with the other spies to search out the land of Canaan ? We spoke well of the country, and urged the people to go up and fight against it, but the other spies frightened them, so that they would not trust in God and go in and take the land.

" So Moses made a promise to me that day, saying, ' Because you have wholly followed and trusted in God, some day all the land which you have walked over as a spy in Canaan shall belong to you, and to your children forever.' " Now the part of the country which Moses had then promised to Caleb was this very city of Hebron and its neighborhood, which he was asking Joshua to give to him. A race of fierce giants called Anakims lived there.