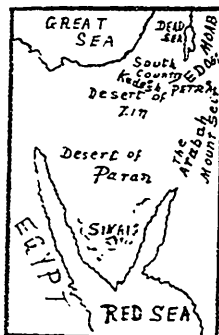


and their frowning strongholds. Caleb and Joshua had seen these; but above them they had seen God, and so were not afraid.

31-33. We be not able. The ten spies had seen the terrible warriors and their strongly built fortresses; but they had not lifted their eyes to see God, and hence they were dismayed. A land that eateth up, etc.; "a barren and inhospitable land, utterly unable to support its inhabitants." Thus some of the spies went so far as to contradict the report of v. 27. Nephilim (Rev. Ver.); a word probably meaning "giants" (Rev. Ver. Margin), a description pointing to the great size and ferocity of the sons of Anak; literally, "sons of neck," long-necked people. The inhabitants of the Negeb were long and lanky. As grasshoppers; an Eastern expression meaning "very small and helpless," like "flocks of kids" (1 Kgs. 20: 27), "a dead dog" and "a flea" (1 Sam. 24: 14) and "a partridge," 1 Sam. 26: 20.

The Israelites' acceptance of the advice of the ten spies and its sad results are told in ch. 14: 1-25.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



In the neighborhood of Hebron, grape-vines are still on the terraced hillsides. The terraces rise one above the other, and there may be seen on one of them a high stone platform with a shelter hut upon it, of the sort called a "tower" in Matt. 21: 33. At the time of fruit gathering a watchman stays in that tower to be on the look-out against thieves. Grapes cost so much

labor throughout the year, that the vineyard owner needs to guard at vintage time against wandering Bedouins, who make plans to be about at so profitable a season. In the valleys between the hill-sides are orchards of olive trees. Such slopes and valleys must have looked like a very paradise to the Israelites who had come plodding all the way through the Sinai peninsula and the desolate lands about the Dead Sea.

LESSON QUESTIONS

1, 2 What command did Moses receive from the Lord? Who had first suggested the sending of spies? What were these men to discover? Show that this

was a wise course. How were the spies selected?

3, 25 Whence were the spies sent? Into how many bands do they seem to have been divided? How far did the first band go? How far the second? Name the most famous member of the first band. Of the second. Which band likely returned first? How long had they been absent?

26-29 What proof of Canaan's fruitfulness did the spies bring back? What did they say about the inhabitants of the land?

30 How were the Israelites affected? By whom were they quieted? What did Caleb and Joshua counsel?

31-33 On what ground was their counsel set aside? To what decision did the Israelites come? Who can enable us to overcome all obstacles, (Romans 8: 31.)

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Have fighters for God ever been defeated?
2. Give examples from the Bible of majorities which have been wrong.

A LESSON FOR LIFE

"As grasshoppers,"—pretty small and insignificant creatures these are for men to liken themselves to. And sometimes it is right to use such comparisons. Set over against God's power, ours is like that of the tiniest insect held between the fingers of a giant. But when we go out, at God's bidding, to fight against His enemies, we have no right to belittle ourselves. For then it is not our might that is going to count, but His. And even if, like David, we have only a sling and five stones from the brook bed, it is no boasting to reckon ourselves a match for Goliath, because we fight in the name of the Lord God of Israel.

Prove from Scripture—That we should cultivate courage.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 75. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment? A. The eighth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever doth or may unjustly hinder our own or our neighbour's wealth or outward estate.

The Question on Missions—3. How many people are there in this territory? About 1,500,000. They are a strong, intelligent, friendly people, mostly farmers, raising rice, millet and soy-beans and, in the mountains, oats and potatoes. There are also fishermen, shopkeepers and mechanics. All live in towns or villages.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: 129 (Supplemental Lesson), 304, 320, 100 (Ps. Sel.), 246 (from PRIMA-ART QUARTERLY), 272.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. For what purpose were the twelve spies sent forth?
2. What evidences of Canaan's fertility did they bring back?
3. What did (a) the ten and (b) the two advise and wherefore?