

Lesson VII.

THE DEATH OF MOSES

November 16, 1913

LESSON SETTING—The main portion of Deuteronomy (chs. 1-30) consists of three addresses of Moses to the Israelites. This is followed by Moses' commission to Joshua (ch. 31: 1-8); the deliverance of the written law to the priests, with a charge as to its public reading (vs. 9-13); the Song of Moses (ch. 32: 1-43); Moses' farewell (ch. 32: 48 to ch. 33: 29); and the account of Moses' death, which forms the Lesson for to-day.

GOLDEN TEXT—Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.—Psalm 116: 15.

Memorize vs. 5-7. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Deuteronomy 34: 1-12. Study Deuteronomy 31: 1-8; 32: 48-52; 34: 1-12. Read Deuteronomy, chs. 31-34.

1 And Mo'ses went up from the plains of Mo'ab unto the mountain of Ne'bo, to the top of Pis'gah, that is over against Jer'icho. And the Lord shewed him all the land of Gil'e'ad, unto Dan.

2 And all Nap'h'tali, and the land of E'phraim, and Manas'seh, and all the land of Ju'dah, unto the ut-most sea.

3 And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jer'icho, the city of palm trees, unto Zo'ar.

4 And the Lord said unto him, This is the land which I swear unto A'braham, unto Isaac, and unto Ja'cob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.

5 So Mo'ses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Mo'ab, according to the word of the Lord.

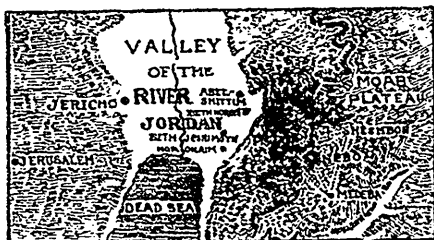
6 And he buried him in a valley in the land of Mo'ab, over against Bethpe'or: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.

Revised Version—mount; hinder sea; South (capital S); Plain (capital P); in the mourning; hath not arisen; the; wrought.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—The death of Moses, Deut. 34: 1-12. T.—Moses' encouragement, Deut. 31: 1-8. W.—The punishment of Moses, Deut. 32: 48-52. Th.—Comfort for the bereaved, 1 Thes. 4: 13-18. F.—Be ye also ready, Luke 12: 35-40. S.—Submit to God's will, Ps. 39. S.—A song of thanksgiving, Ps. 116: 5-16.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE PROMISED LAND.—1. **Plains of Moab**; the Israelitish camping place (Num. 22: 1) on the plateau rising steeply from the Jordan valley, to the east of the river near where it enters the Dead Sea. **Mount**



VALLEY OF THE JORDAN

Nebo (Rev. Ver.): a peak 840 feet above the plateau, on a ridge ½ mile wide and 2 miles long projecting towards the Jordan. A mile nearer the river was **Pisgah**, a peak 200 feet lower than Nebo, from which could be obtained the finest view of the Jordan valley and Canaan beyond. **Over against Jericho**; an important city six miles to the west of the Jordan. **The Lord shewed him**; caused him to see. **Gilead**; the mountainous country east of the Jordan, extending some 60 miles, from the Dead Sea to the Sea of Galilee. **Dan**; a city at the extreme north of Palestine.

2-4. **Naphtali**; north and northwest of the Sea of Galilee. **Ephraim**, and **Manasseh**; the central portion from the Jordan to the Mediterranean. **Judah**; to the south. **Unto the hinder sea** (Rev. Ver.); the

sepulchre unto this day.

7 And Mo'ses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

8 And the children of Is'rael wept for Mo'ses in the plains of Mo'ab thirty days: so the days of weeping and mourning for Mo'ses were ended.

9 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Mo'ses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Is'rael hearkened unto him, and did as the Lord commanded Mo'ses.

10 And there arose not a prophet since in Is'rael like unto Mo'ses, whom the Lord knew face to face.

11 In all the signs and the wonders, which the Lord sent him to do in the land of E'gypt to Phar'ah, and to all his servants, and to all his land.

12 And in all that mighty hand, and in all the great terror which Mo'ses shewed in the sight of all Is'rael.

(capital S); Plain (capital P); in the mourning;

Mediterranean, which could not be actually seen from Pisgah because of the intervening Central Range of mountains running through Palestine. But the meaning likely is, that Moses saw the land as a whole, though not in all its parts. **The south** (Rev. Ver.); the Negeb or "Dry Land," the region between Palestine and the Arabian desert. **The Plain** (Rev. Ver.); the "Round" or "Oval," that is, the fertile and beautiful plain into which the Jordan valley expands near the entrance of the river into the Dead Sea. In this valley Jericho was situated. **City of palm trees**. The site, now barren, was in ancient times a lovely spot, noted for its palm trees. **Zoar**; Lot's refuge when driven from Sodom (see Gen. 19: 23), whether it was at the north or south end of the Dead Sea is not known. This is the land, etc. See Gen. 12: 7; 13: 14, 15. Thou shalt not go over. For the reason see ch. 32: 51, and for the story, Num. 20: 1-13.

II. THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF MOSES.—5-9. **Moses the servant of the Lord**; the noblest of all the titles of Moses, yet one which all may possess. **Died... according to the word of the Lord**; literally, "by the mouth of the Lord," or, as the Jewish rabbis understand it, "by the kiss of the Lord." **Buried him**; and buried also his grave. **Beth-peor**; "House of Peor," a Moabitic idol. No man knoweth of his sepulchre. It was hidden probably lest the Israelites should worship their dead leader. **An hundred and twenty years**; and all well spent. **Is'rael wept... thirty days**; as for one of high rank: seven days was the usual period of mourning (see Gen. 50: 3, 10; Num. 20: 29). **Joshua**. See next Lesson.

III. THE GREATNESS OF MOSES.—10-12. **Not a prophet... like unto Moses**. None was so great: till