

Lesson III.

THE REPORT OF THE SPIES

October 19, 1913

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The Lesson follows close upon that for last Sabbath.**GOLDEN TEXT**—If God is for us, who is against us?—Romans 8 : 31 (Rev. Ver.).**Memorize vs. 31, 32. THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Numbers 13 : 1-3, 25-33. **Study Numbers 13 : 1-3, 17 to 14 : 25. Read Numbers, chs. 13-16.**

1 And the Lord spake unto Mo'ses, saying,
2 Send thou men, that they may ¹ search the land of Ca'naan, which I give unto the children of Is'rael : of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ² ruler among them.

3 And Mo'ses by the commandment of the Lord sent them from the wilderness of Pa'ran : ³ all those men were heads of the children of Is'rael.

25 And they returned from ⁴ searching of the land after forty days.

26 And they went and came to Mo'ses, and to Aa'-ron, and to all the congregation of the children of Is'rael, unto the wilderness of Pa'ran, to Ka'desh : and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land.

27 And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey : and thus ⁵ is the fruit of it.

28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are ⁶ walled, and very great : and

Revised Version—¹spy out ; ²prince ; ³all of the men who ; ⁴spying out the land at the end of ; ⁵Howbeit ; ⁶fenced ; ⁷Amalek dwelleth in ; ⁸South (capital S) ; ⁹Hittite (singular), and so on ; ¹⁰dwelleth ; ¹¹along by the side of ; ¹²spied out ; ¹³spy it out ; ¹⁴Omit a ; ¹⁵Nephilim.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 58 Old Bailey, London England.)—M.—The report of the spies, Num. 13 : 1-3, 25-33. T.—The murmuring people, Num. 14 : 1-9. W.—The murmurers' punishment, Num. 14 : 26-32. Th.—A prophet's story, Ezek. 20 : 10-20. F.—Confession and prayer, Dan. 9 : 13-19. S.—Caleb's reward, Josh. 14 : 6-15. S.—The aged leader's review, Deut. 1 : 22-36

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



POMEGRANATE

I. THE TWELVE.—1, 2. The Lord spake unto Moses ; soon after the events of last Lesson. Send thou men. According to Deut. 1 : 22, the suggestion was first made by the people. The proposal was approved by Moses and submitted to the Lord, and here we have His sanction. Spy out...Canaan (Rev. Ver.) ;

to discover (1) what the country was like ; (2) what difficulties there might be in taking it ; (3) the best route for entering it ; (4) the preparations required. God was guiding the people, yet there was need for their own foresight and prudence. Of every tribe ; twelve in number, named after Jacob's twelve sons. A prince (Rev. Ver.) ; the head of one of the subdivisions of the tribe.

3, 25. From the wilderness of Pa'ran ; the desolate region north of the Sinai peninsula through which the Israelites were marching. Heads of...Israel ; another title for the "princes" (see v. 2). Vs.

moreover we saw the children of A'nak there.

29 ⁷ The Amalekites dwell in the land of the ⁸ south ; and the ⁹ Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains : and the Canaanites ¹⁰ dwell by the sea, and ¹¹ by the coast of Jor'dan.

30 And Ca'leb stilled the people before Mo'ses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it ; for we are well able to overcome it.

31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people ; for they are stronger than we.

32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had ¹² searched unto the children of Is'rael, saying, The land, through which we have gone to ¹³ search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof ; and all the people that we saw in it are men of ¹⁴ a great stature.

33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of A'nak, which come of the ¹⁵ giants : and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Revised Version—¹⁵giants ; and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

4-16 give the names of the twelve spies, and vs. 17-24 give an account of their journeys. Apparently they went in two bands, one, to which Joshua belonged, going 300 miles through the whole length of Canaan (v. 21), while the other, with which Caleb went, went only 100 miles, or as far as Hebron, v. 22. Returned...after forty days. Likely Caleb's band returned first.

II. THE TEN.—26-29. To Kadesh ; a place with a series of springs and pools on the southern boundary of the Negev or South Country about 50 miles south of Beersheba. Floweth with milk and honey ; an expression denoting great fertility. Fruit, including (v. 23) a cluster of grapes from the rich valley Esheol, perhaps about 4 miles northwest of Hebron, besides pomegranates and figs. People...strong ; warlike and terrible. Cities...walled, and very great ; while the Israelites, a nation of shepherds and farmers, knew nothing of siege operations. Children of Anak ; a giant race of unknown origin living about Hebron (see Josh. 14 : 12, 13). Amalekites ; a wandering tribe of the Negev (see Ex. 17 : 8-16). Hittites ; a powerful tribe in northern Palestine. Jebusites ; who occupied the territory about Jerusalem. Amorites ; a race of hardy highlanders. Canaanites ; here the lowlanders dwelling by the Mediterranean coast and the Jordan valley.

III. THE TWO.—30. Caleb stilled the people ; quieted their clamor of dismay and discontent, caused by the report as to the peoples of Canaan. Go up at once. Caleb, supported by Joshua, who, apparently, had returned later, was confident that God would give Canaan to His people if only they trusted Him and went right forward. We are well able ; in spite of the fierce and powerful dwellers in Canaan.