

Lesson II.

JEALOUSY AND ENVY PUNISHED

October 12, 1913

Numbers, ch. 12—Memory Verses, 10, 11.

Golden Text—Love envieth not ; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly.—1 Corinthians 13 : 4, 5 (Rev. Ver.).



1 And Mir'iam and Aa'ron spake against Mo'ses because of the Ethio'pian woman whom he had married : for he had married an Ethio'pian woman.

2 And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Mo'ses ? hath he not spoken also by us ? And the Lord heard it.

3 (Now the man Mo'ses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)

4 And the Lord spake suddenly unto Mo'ses, and unto Aa'ron, and unto Mir'iam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out.

5 And the Lord came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aa'ron and Mir'iam : and they both came forth.

6 And he said, Hear now my words : If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.

7 My servant Mo'ses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.

8 With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches ; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold : wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Mo'ses ?

9 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them ; and he departed.

10 And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle ; and, behold, Mir'iam became leprous, white as snow : and Aa'ron looked upon Mir'iam, and, behold, she was leprous.

11 And Aa'ron said unto Mo'ses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned.

12 Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is

half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb.

13 And Mo'ses cried unto the Lord, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee.

14 And the Lord said unto Mo'ses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days ? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again.

15 And Mir'iam was shut out from the camp seven days : and the people journeyed not till Mir'iam was brought in again.

16 And afterward the people removed from Haze'roth, and pitched in the wilderness of Par'an.

THE LESSON RETOLD

A good while ago we saw, in one of our Lessons, that Moses married a woman named Zipporah. Now because Zipporah was a foreigner, and not of the Israelites, Moses' brother Aaron and his sister Miriam were displeased with Moses, and spoke against him saying : "Is this the man through whom God has spoken to Israel ? Has He not spoken by us also ?" Moses, however, made no reply, for he was a very meek and gentle man.

But God was angry that His servant should thus be spoken against and He called suddenly to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, "Come out ye three outside the camp to the tabernacle." And they went near to where the Lord was.

Then the Lord came down in the pillar of cloud and stood in the door of the tabernacle and called to Aaron and his sister Miriam. He said : I have made Myself

known to prophets, such as you say you are, in visions and dreams. Now My servant Moses is not like a common prophet, and he has been faithful in all things that I have given him to do. With him I will speak mouth to mouth and not in visions, and he shall see My likeness. Why, then, were ye not afraid to speak against My servant whom I thus honor ?"

And God's anger fell upon the two and when the cloud was lifted off the tabernacle, Aaron saw, to his horror, that his sister was white as snow,—covered with the dread disease of leprosy. This disease was sometimes sent upon people for their sins, and it spread over their whole bodies till they died, for no one could cure it but God. Then Aaron, in his sorrow, spoke humbly to Moses. "Oh, my lord," he cried, "let her not be punished in this way for the sin which we committed so foolishly. This