

Lesson VIII.

REPORT OF THE SPIES

August 24, 1902

Numbers 13: 26 to 14: 4. Study Num. 13: 1-3; 13: 25 to 14: 4. Commit to memory vs. 30-33. Read Num. chs. 13, 14.

26 And they went and came to Mo'ses, and to A'aron, 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 this is the fruit of it.

28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great; and moreover we saw the children of A'nak there.

29 The Am'alekites dwell in the land of the south; and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Am'orites, dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

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

Revised Version—Howbeit: ¹ Fenced; ² Amalek dwelleth; ³ South (capital S); Hittite, Jebusite, etc. (singular); ⁴ Along by the side; ⁵ Spied out; ⁶ Spy it out; ⁷ Nephilim; ⁸ Doth the Lord bring? ⁹ Omit that; ¹⁰ Shall.

GOLDEN TEXT

Ps. 40: 4. Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust.

DAILY READINGS

M. —Num. 13: 1-3 and 17-25.
T. —Num. 13: 26-33. } Report of the spies.
W. —Num. 14: 1-12.
Th. —Num. 14: 13-25. } Intercession by Moses.
F. —Num. 14: 26-39. } Judgment.
S. —Num. 32: 6-15. } An evil example.
S. —Psalm 46. } Wise confidence.

CATECHISM

Q. 36. What are the benefits which, in this life, do accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification?

A. The benefits which, in this life, do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience,

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

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

Ch. 14: 1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

2 And all the children of Is'rael murmured against Mo'ses and against A'aron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

3 And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword? that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

TIME AND PLACE

It was "the time of the first ripe grapes," Num. 13: 20. In Palestine this may be as early as July. The year was B.C. 1490. The place was Kadesh-Barnea, which Dr. Trumbull identifies with a beautiful oasis eleven days' journey from Sinai in the wilderness of Zin.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Facts Reported, 26-29.

By the twelve spies sent into Canaan.

II. The Advice Given, 30-33.

(1) By Caleb and Joshua, (2) By the other ten spies.

III. The People Dismayed, 14: 1-4.

By the number and strength of their enemies.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 97 (Ps. Sel.); 250; 530; 251; 533; 276.

EXPOSITION

Connecting Links—We saw in last lesson how the march to Canaan was begun. Moses' father-in-law acted as guide in the wilderness; and the host was led by the ark which symbolized the presence of Jehovah. But the journey was far from being one of unmixed gladness. The inhospitable wilderness tried the temper of the people sorely; and the burden of leadership which Moses bore, always heavy, was growing daily heavier, chs. 11, 12. At last they reached a spot in the wilderness, south of Canaan and not very far from it, Deut 1: 19. From that point men were sent to investigate and report upon the land.

The men chosen, (vs. 1-3) were all prominent and representative men. As the land was to be ultimately possessed by all the

tribes, it was fitting that representatives from each should be sent to report upon it. Notice, too, that though the land is regarded as a gift of God (v. 2), men have also their part to play.

From vs. 17-25 it would seem that the men sent to examine the land paid special attention to the district in the South, with which Israel was likely first to come into contact, and on the principle that seeing is believing, they brought with them from a district near Hebron—in the region which was afterwards Judah—an enormous cluster of grapes as well as other fruit, as a specimen of the exceptional fertility and attractiveness of the land.

I. The Facts Reported, 26-29.

Vs. 26, 27. *They went and came to Moses.*