

JOURNEYING TO CANAAN.

28 July.

Les. Num. 10 : 29-36. Gol. Text, Num. 10 : 20.
Mem. vs. 33, 34. Catechism Q. 30.

HOME READINGS.

M. Lev. 16: 1-16..... *The Day of Atonement.*
T. Lev. 23: 1-32..... *The Feasts of the Lord.*
W. Lev. 23: 33-34..... *The Feast of Tabernacles*
Th. Lev. 25: 8-11..... *The Year of Jubilee.*
F. Num. 9: 1-14..... *The Second Passover Observed*
S. Num. 9: 15-23..... *The Guidance of the Cloud.*
S. Num. 10: 11-13, 29-36..... *Journeying to Canaan.*

Time.—May, B. C. 1490.

Place.—The plain Er-Ráhah, before Mount Sinai.

BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

The pillar of cloud took its place above the tabernacle on the first day of the first month of the second year after the Exodus. Fifty days later, on the twentieth day of the second month, the Israelites left Sinai, where they had been for nearly a year. Apparently, Hobab, Moses' brother-in-law, had been with Moses while the Israelites were encamped at Sinai, and now Moses invited him to go with them and share in the good which the Lord had promised his people.

LESSON PLAN.

- I. The Blessings of Companionship. vs. 29-32.
- II. Guidance by the Ark. vs. 33, 34.
- III. The Blessing of the Ark. vs. 35, 36.

HELPS IN STUDYING.

29. "The Son of Raguel"—Raguel, or Reuel (Ex. 2: 13), is the same as Jethro. Ex. 3: 1. "We are journeying unto the place"—showing a strong faith in God's promises. "Come thou with us"—showing desire to share God's blessings. So all who have heard and obeyed the gospel should say to others, "Come with us." Compare John 1: 41, 45; Rev. 22: 17. 31. "Leave us not"—another reason urged by Moses was the help Hobab could give from his familiarity with the desert through which they were to pass. 33. "Three days' journey"—probably about twenty miles, to Taberah. Num. 11: 3. "Went before them"—directing the line of March. 35, 36. The marches began and ended with prayer. So in all our journeys and business undertakings we should seek the Lord's presence and help.

LIFE TEACHINGS.

- 1. Christians have been redeemed from the bondage of sin, worse than Egyptian bondage.
- 2. They are journeying toward the heavenly Canaan which the Lord has promised to them.
- 3. It is their privilege and duty to say to all, "Come with us."
- 4. They may fearlessly promise, "We will do you good."
- 5. Godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. The Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel.

A sin may be repented of and be forgiven. But many a time its evil fruits abide and cause sorrow.

A smile of gratitude upon the face of some needy one for whom you did a kind act is a reflection of God's smile upon yourself.

There are no songs to be compared with the songs of Zion, no orations equal to those of the prophets, no politics like those which the Scriptures teach.—*John Milton.*

THE REPORT OF THE SPIES

4 August.

Les. Num. 13 : 17-20, 23-33 Gol. Text Num. 14 : 9.
Mem. vs. 20. Catechism, Q. 31.

HOME READINGS.

M. Num. 11: 1-15..... *The Manna Loathed.*
T. Num. 11: 16-33..... *Quails Given in Wrath*
W. Psalm 106: 1-16..... *"Ye Gave them their Request."*
Th. Psalm 107: 1-15..... *God's Goodness and Mercy.*
F. Num. 12: 1-16..... *Miriam's Leprosy.*
S. Num. 13: 1-33..... *The Report of the Spies.*
S. Deut. 1, 19-40..... *The Cowardly People.*

Time.—July-August, B. C. 1490, the time of the first ripe grapes (verse 30), when the spies were sent forth. They were gone forty days.

Place.—Kadesh-barnea.

BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

The Israelites started for the land of Canaan about the middle of May, and came to Kadesh-barnea, eleven days journey from Sinai (Deut. 1: 2), in July. Dr. Trumbull has identified Kadesh-barnea with the modern Ayn Qadees—"The Holy Well"—about fifty miles south of Beersheba, between the Arabah and the Mediterranean Sea, just below the ridge which is the natural southern boundary of Palestine. From Kadesh-barnea twelve men were sent to spy out the promised land. See parallel account in Deut. 1: 1-25.

LESSON PLAN.

- I. The Charge to the Spies. vs. 17-20.
- II. The Return of the Spies. vs. 23-27.
- III. The Alarm of the Spies. vs. 28-33

HELPS IN STUDYING.

17. "Moses sent them" (the spies)—by command of the Lord (verse 1) and by request of the people. Deut. 1: 22. "Southward,"—"by the south;" the southern part of Canaan was called "the Negeb," or the South. "The mountain"—the hill country. 19. "Tents"—open, unwall'd villages. "Strong holds"—fortified cities. 23. "Brook of Esheol"—"Valley of Esheol;" north of Hebron, noted for its grapes and other fruits. "Upon a staff"—to keep the grapes from being crushed. Clusters of grapes in Palestine not unfrequently weigh twelve pounds. 25. "And they returned"—after making a full search. vs. 21, 22. 28. "Nevertheless"—though the land was a good one, they discouraged the people from undertaking to possess it. 30. "Caleb"—and Joshua with him. Num. 14: 6-9. 32. "A land that eateth up"—because its situation exposed its inhabitants to constant attacks.

LIFE TEACHINGS.

- 1. Many people have gone before us and tried the Christian life.
- 2. That life is rich in fruits and blessings.
- 3. We shall have strong enemies to conquer before we can get these good things.
- 4. We ought not to fear, but God will help us to overcome, and finally to possess heaven.
- 5. God gives us foretastes of the blessedness of heaven, to encourage us on the way.

As trial succeeds trial, the Lord grants grace and strength. He knows how to temper help according to the day of need. It is affliction that tries our character and principles, and brings God and his children into the closest and most responsive relations.—*Phil. Prcs.*

Trouble and perplexity drive me to prayer, and prayer drives away perplexity and trouble.—*Melanchton.*