

V. 7. *Moses the servant of the Lord.* This and the title of "Moses the man of God" in the previous verse show the high honor in which Moses was held. *I brought him word again as it was in my heart.* He stated the case just as it appeared to him, giving an honest and accurate description of the country, speaking the truth from his heart according to the best of his convictions.

V. 8. *My brethren;* the other spies associated with him. Joshua is expressly excepted by the closing words of v. 6. *Went up.* Canaan was higher than the desert. *Made the heart of the people melt;* disheartened them by an exaggerated report of difficulties,



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Num. 13 : 31, 32. *But I wholly followed the Lord.* Hence his courage and fortitude then and in old age.

V. 9. *Moses swore on that day.* "The oath of the great lawgiver is not mentioned either in Num. 14 : 23, or Deut. 1 : 36. Caleb pro-

bably quotes an express declaration of Moses, not recorded in the Pentateuch, but familiar to Joshua." (Maclear.) *The land whereon thy feet have trodden;* Hebron, where the Anakim filled the ten spies with terror. It was the richest region, but most strongly held by the native tribes.

II. A Task Undertaken, 10-12.

V. 10. *The Lord hath kept me alive, as he said.* The promise of God (Num. 14 : 30) had been fulfilled to him, as had His threatening against the unfaithful spies, Num. 14 : 23. He attributes his preservation to God. *These forty and five years.* God had delayed the fulfilment of the promise till he could enjoy it. These words would seem to have been uttered about seven years after the children of Israel entered the land.

V. 11. *I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me.* Though he was eighty-five years old (v. 10) the Lord had maintained his vigor unabated, so that he was as fit for strenuous exertion or warlike enterprise as ever. *To go out and to come in.* "A proverbial expression for full activity."

V. 12. *Now therefore give me this mountain.* Not a single summit, but Hebron and the surrounding elevation. Hebron "is now called *El Khalil* or 'the friend.' It is situated in the hill country of Judah, about twenty miles south of Jerusalem, and is 2,600 feet above the Mediterranean. It is commonly reckoned one of the oldest of cities, having been "built seven years before Zoan in Egypt", Num. 13 : 22. The modern town occupies nearly the same site as the ancient one. *Whereof the Lord spake.* This promise was not general, but specific, referring to the district that he spied out long ago. *The Anakims—fearsome warriors,* Deut. 2 : 10—*were there and that the cities were great and fenced; walled about.* Though eighty-five years old Caleb is ready to enter into the conflict that filled Israel with fear at Kadesh-Barnea, Num. 14 : 1. *It may be, the Lord will be with us* (Rev. Ver.); a modest expression of willingness to leave the issue in the hands of God. A man of faith thus accepts a difficult task, sure, that by the help of the Almighty, his strong adversaries will flee before him.