

Lesson I.

MOSES' CRY FOR HELP

October 5, 1913

Numbers 11 : 10-18, 24, 25. Study Numbers 11 : 4-33.—*Memory Verses, 14, 15.

Golden Text—The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working.—James 5 : 16 (Rev. Ver.).

10 Then Mo'ses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent : and the anger of the Lord was kindled greatly ; Mo'ses also was displeased.

11 And Mo'ses said unto the Lord, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant ? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me ?

12 Have I conceived all this people ? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers ?

13 Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people ? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat.

14 I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me.

15 And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight ; and let me not see my wretchedness.

16 And the Lord said unto Mo'ses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them ; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.

17 And I will come down and talk with thee there : and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them ; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

18 And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to-morrow, and ye shall eat flesh : for ye have wept in the ears of the Lord, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat ? for it was well with us in

Egypt : therefore the Lord will give you flesh, and ye shall eat.

24 And Mo'ses went out, and told the people the words of the Lord, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and set them round about the tabernacle.

25 And the Lord came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders : and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.

THE LESSON RETOLD

At last the time came for the children of Israel to leave Mount Sinai where they had received from the Lord His holy Commandments, and they journeyed on nearer to the land of Canaan. But the Israelites were not grateful to God for leading them thus far in safety and providing them with food every day to eat. They complained because they could get no meat in the wilderness. In Egypt, they said, they had had fish and melons and cucumbers in plenty and here they had nothing but manna. The people wept when they thought of their hardships. Moses heard them weeping and his heart was discouraged. He asked the Lord why He had given him the care of these people at all. The burden was too great for him, he said, and if the Lord was going to send him such great trouble, he begged that he might die, so that he would have it no more.

The Lord, who was angry with His ungrateful people, said also to Moses, "Gather together seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be good and wise, and bring them to Me here in the tabernacle, and I will give to them some of the wisdom and power which I have given you, so that they may help you to bear some of the burden of caring for the people which you have thus far borne alone. And tell them, also, that I have heard their cry for meat. Behold ! by to-morrow they shall have so much meat, not only for one day or five or twenty, but for a whole month, until at last they will not be able to bear the taste or sight of it."

But Moses could hardly believe this. He said to the Lord, "Here are six hundred thousand men, besides women and children, and Thou sayest, 'I will give them flesh,

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.