



LESSON,—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1907.

The Two Reports of the Spies

Numbers xiii., 17-20, 23-33. Memory verses, 30, 31. Read Numbers xiii., xiv.

Golden Text.

The Lord is with us: fear them not.—Num. xiv. 9.

Home Readings

- Monday, Aug. 26.—Num. xiii., 1-3; 17-33.
- Tuesday, August 27.—Num. xiv., 1-25.
- Wednesday, August 28.—Num. xiv., 26-45.
- Thursday, August 29.—Num. xxxii., 1-19.
- Friday, August 30.—Deut. i., 22-46.
- Saturday, August 31.—Ps. xli., 1-11.
- Sunday, Sept. 1.—Heb. iii., 1-19.

FOR THE JUNIORS.

There ought to be no difficulty in making this lesson one of the most interesting of the series. Its story is a favorite with the younger children, one they are always willing to hear again. The application to their own life need be none the less interesting. The Israelites had come to a land where there were real giants, mighty and cruel men; are there any giants to-day? Speak of the hymn they all know so well, 'Daniel's Band,' and ask if they know what the 'Many giants great and tall, stalking through the land,' in that hymn, may mean. Speak of bad temper, selfishness, cruelty, intemperance, and so many others that have conquered and killed so many men in this world. Get them to say over the golden text, the words that Caleb and Joshua used to the frightened Israelites, in this connection, but remind them that like the Israelites who later tried to go and conquer Canaan without the Lord, we can not conquer these giants in our own strength.

FOR THE SENIORS.

In something less than a year and a half from the time they set out from Egypt the people have reached the neighborhood of their promised goal. It had been a long and wearisome journey during which God had taught and wonderfully guided his people, but in spite of all he had done they were not yet ready for their high destiny. From a comparison of the various accounts it would seem that on arriving at Kadesh Barnea, Moses called on the people to advance in God's name to their triumph. They, however, pleading ignorance of the country, suggested a preliminary investigation, the appointment of representative men to examine the land and find out the best method of attack, etc. God, as at other times approved the suggestion made, and gave the appointment of such men his sanction. They went as his servants, but with the exception of two, they forgot their Lord. The twelve companions travelled the land whither in one or several companies; they all saw its good points, they all saw its difficulties, but the trouble was that the ten could see no higher than the point at which they appeared as grasshoppers against the obstacles while the two looked above to God. God would not have been displeased at a genuine humility in the face of such difficulties, but his anger was kindled at their omitting him entirely from their calculations. It was much the same sin that later drew defeat upon the rash ones who attempted to proceed after God had closed the door (Num. xiv., 40-45). The manly stand of Caleb and Joshua

never loses its fascination. Think of the scene—The childish unreasonable crowd stirring to another outburst of resentment in their disappointment at the report of their chosen representatives after forty days of anxious waiting, when Caleb stood forth and 'stilled the people' for a while with his earnest protest. He tried to make the people believe in themselves because they believed in their God, but their belief having been too surely placed in the difficulties ahead, they could have no belief in themselves. The Christian should be confident because he trusts his God, although he is fain to confess his own weakness. As Paul says, 'When I am weak then am I strong,' because he remembered God's word, 'My strength is made perfect in weakness.'

(SELECTIONS FROM TARBELL'S 'GUIDE.')

This Eschol, or Grape Valley, a hill to the south of Hebron, is still clad with vines, and the grapes are the finest and largest in Palestine. Clusters weighing ten to twelve pounds have been gathered. With care and judicious thinning it is known that bunches weighing nearly twenty pounds can be produced.—H. B. Tristram, in the 'Natural History of the Bible.'

30. Let us go up at once. The one thing we are told about Caleb is that he was a man of 'another spirit' (xiv., 24); that determines the quality of the man. Character is a question of spirit. It is an affair of mind and spiritual glow. Caleb had been upon the preliminary search; Caleb had seen the walls, and the Anakim, and the fortresses, and he came back saying,—'We can do this, not because we have so many arms only or so many resources of a material kind—but because he was a man of 'another spirit.' In the long run, spirit wins; in the outcome of all history, spirit will be uppermost.—Joseph Parker.

Me thinks we do as fretful children do,
Leaning their faces on the window-pane,
To sigh the glass dim with their own breath's stain,
And shut the sky and landscape from their view;
And thus, alas!
We miss the prospect which we are called unto.

—Mrs. Browning.

Our fears are always greater than our foes.
—'Rams' Horn.

What are Christians put into the world for except to do the impossible by the grace of God?—Armstrong.

The greater difficulty, the more glory in surmounting it; skilful pilots gain their reputation from storms and tempests.—Epicurus.

Faith reasons from God to the difficulties—it begins with Him; unbelief reasons from the difficulties to God, it begins with them.—C. H. Mackintosh.

What can be more unkind than to communicate our low spirits to each other, to go about the world like demons, poisoning the fountains of joy?—Faber.

Who thinks he will fail, will probably fail; who doubts himself will achieve only such results as will confirm it.—Muriel Strode.

Even through the very midst of the Slough of Despond, there are certain good, substantial steps.—Bunyan.

If you stand on the mountain of faith and look down, things will seem easy to you; but if you are in the valley of doubt, they will look like giants.—Moody.

BIBLE REFERENCES.

Deut. i., 19-46; Josh. xiv., 6-15; Heb. iii., 7-iv., 3; I. Cor. II., 9; Rom. viii., 31; Num. xxxii., 7; Ps. xviii., 2

C. E. Topic.

Sunday, Sept. 1.—Topic—'I can' and 'I can't.' Isa. xxxv., 3, 4; xxx., 15-18; Heb. iii., (Consecration meeting.)

Junior C. E. Topic.

PURPOSE MEETING.

Monday, Aug. 26.—The four princes. Dan. i., 1-7.

Tuesday, Aug. 27.—Daniel's request. Dan. i., 8-16.

Wednesday, Aug. 28.—The wise princes. Dan. i., 17-21.

Thursday, Aug. 29.—David's purpose. Ps. xvii., 3.

Friday, Aug. 30.—With a purpose of heart. Acts xi., 23.

Saturday, August 31.—Giving with a purpose. II. Cor. ix., 7.

Sunday, Sept. 1.—Topic—A boy with a purpose. Dan. i., 8. (Consecration meeting.)

Is This Your Experience as a Sunday School Pastor?

As a pastor, I found myself pitifully inadequate to meet the requirements of Sunday school work. It had been my privilege but a few years ago to study in a representative theological seminary, where I covered the full course of 'catechetics,' 'pastoral theology,' etc., yet the training of this representative institution did not 'train' relative to the principles, problems, needs and growing demands of this foundation work of the church, the Bible school. In parish work, therefore, I found myself in the growing years unequipped, and face to face with the awful alternative that the Sunday school must be improved or suffer the loss—as the church at large, for the most part, has suffered for years—of scores of youth.—The Rev. George Whitefield Mead, in 'Modern Methods in Sunday School.'

The Sunday school as an institution is, to my mind, the most important part of the church. It is at the present moment doing more, I believe, than any one agency, apart from the home, to preserve this republic in all forms of integrity looking toward the future righteousness of this nation. I say this without qualification.—Charles M. Sheldon.

USE A TYPEWRITER.

The typewriter is becoming more and more popular all the time. It used to be used only by the largest business firms, but now the smallest business demands a typewriter. It is not only the added style it gives to correspondence, but its great advantages are legibility of writing, greater accuracy, saving of time, multiplication of copies for filing and circular uses, etc., etc. Ministers are finding it indispensable, and the vast majority of successful ministers to-day find the typewriter of great service in so many branches of church work. Indeed, congregations realizing this have presented their minister with a typewriter. Then, too, many a young man or woman is to-day fitting themselves at home for remunerative positions by securing a typewriter and becoming proficient on it. To learn to write correctly on such a machine as the 'Oliver' is only a matter of a few minutes, because one sees exactly what one is doing all the time. Speed of course comes with practice, and at the end of a day's practice one can write letters with comparative ease.

The choice of a typewriter is a matter of great importance. So many are flimsy—little better than toys, and among the standard machines some are 'blind,' that is, the actual writing is not done in sight of the operator. Some machines for this reason are hard to learn—others are apt to get out of order owing to bad mechanical construction. Among the best machines made to-day none has so great a sale as the 'Oliver'—none is so durable—none so easily learned. Moreover, it is the only standard machine manufactured in Canada, and being manufactured here it is the only standard machine that does not have to pay a heavy duty. The Canadian Oliver Typewriter Company will doubtless be glad to give all information with catalogue and prices to any one addressing them at their Head Office, 140 St. Peter street, next to the 'Witness' Building.