

Lesson IV.

THE SIN OF MOSES AND AARON

October 26, 1913

Numbers 20 : 1-13. Read Numbers, chs. 17-20. Commit to memory vs. 11, 12.

GOLDEN TEXT—Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock, and my redeemer.—Psalm 19 : 14 (Rev. Ver.).

1 Then came the children of Is'rael, *even* the whole congregation, ² into the desert of Zin in the first month : and the people abode in Ka'desh ; and Mir'iam died there, and was buried there,

2 And there was no water for the congregation : and they ³ gathered themselves together against Mo'ses and against Aa'ron.

3 And the people ⁴ chode with Mo'ses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the Lord !

4 And why have ye ⁵ brought up the congregation of the Lord into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there ?

5 And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of E'gypt, to bring us in unto this evil place ? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates ; neither is there any water to drink.

6 And Mo'ses and Aa'ron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the ⁷ tabernacle of the congregation, and ⁸ they fell upon their faces : and the glory of the Lord appeared unto them.

7 And the Lord spake unto Mo'ses, saying,

8 Take the rod, and ⁹ gather thou the assembly to-

Revised Version—¹ And the ; ² came into the wilderness ; ³ assembled ; ⁴ strove ; ⁵ brought the assembly ; ⁶ tent of meeting ; ⁷ Omit they ; ⁸ assemble the congregation ; ⁹ that it give forth its water ; ¹⁰ cattle ; ¹¹ assembly ; ¹² shall we bring you forth ; ¹³ smote the rock with his rod ; ¹⁴ Omit the ; ¹⁵ forth abundantly ; ¹⁶ Omit also ; ¹⁷ said ; ¹⁸ not in me ; ¹⁹ These are the waters.

LESSON PLAN

- I. The People's Complaint, 1-5.
- II. The Lord's Answer, 6-9.
- III. Moses' Sin, 10-13.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England)

M.—The sin of Moses and Aaron, Num. 20 : 1-13. T.—A reasoning God, Isa. 48 : 16-22. W.—Murmuring at Marah, Ex. 15 : 22-27. Th.—The never-failing well, John 4 : 5-14. F.—Unguarded speech, Ps. 106 : 24-33. S.—Aaron's punishment, Num. 20 : 22-29. S.—The divine invitation, Isa., ch. 55.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 73-75.
The Question on Missions—4. Where do our missionaries live ? The four missionary stations are Wonsan, with a field of 200,000 people, Ham Heung

gether, thou, and Aa'ron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes ; ⁹ and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock : so thou shalt give the congregation and their ¹⁰ beasts drink.

9 And Mo'ses took the rod from before the Lord, as he commanded him.

10 And Mo'ses and Aa'ron gathered the ¹¹ congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels ; ¹² must we fetch you water out of this rock ?

11 And Mo'ses lifted up his hand, and ¹³ with his rod he smote the rock twice : and ¹⁴ the water came ¹⁵ out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their ¹⁶ beasts ¹⁷ also.

12 And the Lord ¹³ spake unto Mo'ses and Aa'ron, Because ye believed ¹⁸ me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Is'rael, therefore ye shall not bring this ¹⁹ congregation into the land which I have given them.

13 ¹⁸ This is the water of Mer'ibah ; because the children of Is'rael strove with the Lord, and he was sanctified in them.

and Song Chin, each with a field of about 400,000, and Hoi Ryung (Kainei), the only station as yet in a population of 500,000.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: 129 (Supplemental Lesson), 317, 418, 34 (Ps. Sel.), 42 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 320.

Special Scripture Reading—Ps. 19. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 812, Moses and Aaron. For Question on Missions, K. 67, First Graduates, Boys' Academy ; K. 68, First Students, Girls' Academy. (Slides are obtained from Rev. F. A. Robinson, B.A., the Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, 447 Confederation Life Building, Toronto, at \$2.00 a dozen.)

Stereograph—For Lesson, Mount Seir, the Arabah and Borders of the South Country (Underwood & Underwood, see page 469).

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—About B.C. 1175 ; Kadesh-barnea.

Connecting Links—Ch. 14 : 26-39 tells how the Israelites were condemned to wander during forty years, including the two years since the departure from Egypt, and, with the exception of Caleb and Joshua, to die in the wilderness, while the ten cowardly spies died by plague. In vs. 40-45, the people, trying to regain God's favor, march up to the hills in the Negeb, but are defeated by the Amalekites. Kadesh was the centre of the thirty-eight years' wanderings. The Lesson takes up the story at the end of that period.

I. The People's Complaint, 1-5.

V. 1. *The whole congregation* ; a frequent name for Israel as an organized religious

community or "church." *Wilderness of Zin* (Rev. Ver.) ; a part of the southern boundary of Judah, at its eastern end towards the Red Sea. *First month* (Abib, our March-April) ; in the fortieth year after Israel's departure from Egypt. *Kadesh* (see last Lesson). The wilderness of Paran and Zin were adjacent, so that Kadesh might be said to be in either. *Miriam died there* ; nearly 130 years old if she was ten in Ex. 2 : 4.

Vs. 2, 3. *No water*. It was in the dry season of mid-summer, and the spring of Kadesh near the encampment was doubtless quite insufficient for the wants of so great a multitude. *Assembled* (Rev. Ver.) ; in a formal meeting. *Strove with Moses* (Rev. Ver.) ; bitterly reproached him for leading them from Egypt, with its plenty, to this