

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

THIRD QUARTER: STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.



B. C. 1490.]

LESSON X. THE SPIES SENT INTO CANAAN.

[Sept. 2]

Num. 13. 17-33. [Commit to memory verses 30-32.]



17 And Mo'ses sent them to spy out the land of Ca'naan, and said unto them, Get you up into this *veay* southward, and go up into the mountain;

18 And see the land, what it is; and the people that dwell therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many;

19 And what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strongholds;

20 And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the first-ripe grapes.

21 So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Re'hob, as men come to Ha'math.

22 And they ascended by the south, and come unto He'bron; where A-hi'man, She-shai, and Tal'mai, the children of A'nak, were. (Now He'bron was built seven years before Zo'an in E'gypt.)

23 And they came unto the brook of Esh'col, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs.

24 The place was called the brook Esh'col, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Is'ra-el cut down from thence.

25 And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.

26 And they went and came to Mo'ses, and to Aa'ron, and to all the congregation of the children of Is'ra-el, unto the wilderness of Pa'ran, to Ka'desh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land.

27 And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whether thou sendest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.

28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great; and moreover we saw the children of A'nak there.

29 The A-ma'e-kites dwell in the land of the south; and the Hi'tites, and Jeb'u-sites, and the Am'o-rites, dwell in the mountains; and the Ca'naan-ites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jo'rdan.

30 And Ca'leb stilled the people before Mo'ses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Is'ra-el, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.

33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of A'nak, which come of the giants; and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

General Statement.

The stay of a year at Mount Sinai gave opportunity for the organization of Israel into a consolidated nation and for their instruction in religion, and in law. When these results were accomplished the cloud rose from the tabernacle, the tents were struck, the army was formed, and at the sound of the trumpet the host marched from the shadow of the sacred mountain. Their route was northward, and after three months of journeying they came to Ka'desh-barnaa, "the holy place," just on the southern border of the promised land. Across a ridge of hills lay the "south country," and beyond were the cities of Canaan. It was the desire of Moses to enter in at once and possess the land, fearing not the Amorites of the mountain region nor the Canaanites of the sea-coast plain. But the people were not like their leader in courage and in faith.

They proposed to send out scouts who should examine the land and its inhabitants and present a report to the assembly. Moses accepted the suggestion, and twelve men, one from each tribe, were appointed. They set forth upon their journey, probably in pairs, and traveled through the land as far northward as the sources of the Jordan. Its fertility, its mountainous nature, the variety of its products, and the abundance of its brooks and streams, all excited their wonder. They brought home as a token of its great resources one gigantic cluster of grapes out in a valley near He'bron. But they presented an alarming account of its inhabitants. They found walled cities, inhabited by warlike peoples; and they saw also men of gigantic size, and their hearts sank within them. The people were smitten with terror at their report and were

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