

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 1874.

LESSON XII.—*The Death of Moses.*  
Deut. xxxiv. 1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT: Psa. cxvi. 15.

Berean Notes.

## I. GENERAL STATEMENT.

It is early spring, B. C. 1451. Canaan is at its brightest. Verdure, blossom, sunshine, blue sky, deliciously soft and clear atmosphere. render it "the glory of all lands." 120 years ago Moses lay in the Nile in his little ark. He now climbs to the heights of Nebo by the Jordan. (1) He was FORTY years a friend of Pharaoh; (2) He was FORTY years a shepherd in the service of Jethro; (3) He was FORTY years the leader of God's people. (1) Forty years of *luxury*; (2) Forty years of *labor*; (3) Forty years of *leadership*. Moses the Levite was Liberator, Leader, Lawgiver, Patriot, Prophet, Philosopher, Poet, Worker, Reformer, Writer. He wrote the oldest and sublimest book in the world. His life was full of sharp contrasts. "There was none before him whom he could imitate. None since could imitate him." In the present lesson the pure and peerless Moses comes to his death, and goes to his reward. To him "death was daybreak."

## II. HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON.

1. It is in itself a picture: the old, clear-visioned, vigorous man, climbing the rugged and lofty mountains east of Canaan. His life, a series of historical pictures the most impressive and instructive. The lesson is a picture of Canaan, the most beautiful. 2. Climbing mountains! What boy or girl will not be interested in that? 3. The thoughts that may have entered Moses' mind as he looked out on hills and plains and valleys and rivers below, and the sea beyond! He had himself written the book of Genesis which told so much about Canaan. 4. The "Outline" in the leaf is a good one: (1) The Charming Prospect; (2) The Sleeping Saint, etc. 5. Here is another "Outline": (1) REST ON THE MOUNTAIN, ver. 1-4; (2) REST IN THE VALLEY, v. 5, 6; (3) REST OF FAITH, Heb. xi. 27; iv. 9; (4) REST "IN GLORY," Luke ix. 30, 31; (6) Or this: THE DEATH OF MOSES: (1) A DEATH IN SIGHT OF THE PROMISED REST, v. 1-4; (2) A DEATH "PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD." See *Golden Text*: (3) A DEATH THAT WAS AN "ENTERING INTO REST." See *Topic*.

## III. NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

1. A CHARMING PROSPECT, v. 1-4. (1) The eye that saw it. "Not dim," v. 7. An artist's eye; a poet's eye. Moses had taste and culture to appreciate it. (2) The *summit* from which it was seen. Abarim, a range of mountains in MOAB, a region 50 by 40 miles in extent, east of the Dead Sea and lower Jordan. Rugged, filled with rivers, now occupied by lawless tribes only nominally subject to Turkey. PISGAH, a ridge, NEBO, the highest point. NEBO means "Interpreter." Death is a great interpreter. Well for him who can die on a high spiritual point! Moses WENT UP. Holy men rise higher and higher. From Pisgah to Paradise. (3) The *summits* in sight. Moriah, Quarantania, Ebal, Gerizim, Carmel, Hermon, etc. (4) The *memories* that *sweetened* this "charming prospect." Moses had written of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, but had never seen the places he had described. (5) The *hopes* that *were satisfied* by it. This land secure to his people. His own rest in heaven sure. (6) The *faith* that *sanctified* it. "Recompense of reward" in heaven. The "invisible." (7) The *Guide* who *explained* it. "The Lord showed him," etc. Good company. So afterward on Tabor or Hermon with Elijah or Jesus. Matt. xvii. 3, 4. (8) Moses' prospect included heaven. . . . God gave Moses that day, (1) a lesson in *eye-teaching*; (2) a lesson in *geography*; (3) a lesson in *prophecy*—tribes not yet located. God showed him where he would locate them; (4) a lesson in *history*. "I swear unto Abraham," etc., v. 4. . . . Prof. Perrine's "Landscape View of Palestine" will be useful here. It is a view of Canaan from the west. A chromo. Very accurate and artistic. . . . "Death is to the good an ascension." . . . Moses a man of the mountains: (1) Mountain of conflict. Exod. xvii. 10; (2) Of the law. Exod. xix. 20; (3) Mountain of communion with God. Exod. xxiv. 15-18; (4) Mountain of bereavement. Num. xx. 23-29; (5) Mountain of vision and of death. Deut. xxxiv.; (6) Mount of Transfiguration. Matt. xvii.; (7) Mount Zion. Heb. xii. 22-24. . . . "You see me a ruin," said Humboldt to Bayard Taylor. "A pyramid, rather," was the graceful reply. 2. A SLEEPING SAINT, vers. 5-7. WORD OF THE LORD, ver. 5. Hebrew, "Upon the mouth of the Lord." The Jewish doctors say that Moses died kissing the Lord, "as though God did indeed take away his soul with a kiss." —Trapp. MOSES DIED and was BURIED.