

Lesson IV.

THE SIN OF MOSES AND AARON

October 26, 1913

Numbers 20 : 1-13—Memory Verses, 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, 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 gathered themselves together against Mo'ses and against Aa'ron.

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

4 And why have ye 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 tabernacle of the congregation, and 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 gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aa'ron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes ; 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 beasts drink.

9 And Moses took the rod from before the Lord, as he commanded him.

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

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

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

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

THE LESSON RETOLD

Now as the children of Israel wandered about they came to a part of the wilderness named Zin, and there Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron, died and was buried. And there was no water in the wilderness for the people. And they spoke wickedly again to Moses and Aaron saying : "Would that we had died rather than endure all these sufferings ! Why did you bring us away from Egypt into this wilderness only that we and our cattle might die of hunger and thirst. No figs grow here nor vines nor pomegranates, and there is no water to drink."

Moses and Aaron, in great trouble, went from the complaining people into the tabernacle, where they fell on their knees before the Lord. And His glory appeared to them there and God spoke to Moses and said, "Take thy rod, and do you and thy brother Aaron gather the congregation together before a rock that I shall show thee. Thou

shalt speak to the rock and it shall give forth water, and thou shalt give it to the people and their beasts to drink."

So Moses took his rod in his hand and went out with Aaron and gathered the people before the rock as the Lord commanded. They were both very angry because the people had spoken against them, and when they reached the rock Moses said : "Here now, ye rebels ; must we fetch you water out of this rock ?" And then, instead of obeying God's command and speaking to the rock, Moses lifted up his rod and struck it angrily twice. And a stream of water gushed out at once, more than enough for all the children of Israel and their cattle to drink.

But Moses had sinned when he spoke impatiently to the people and had disobeyed God in striking the rock instead of just speaking to it, so that God was displeased with him for what he had done and for not