

Lesson I.

MOSES' CRY FOR HELP

October 5, 1913

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The Book of Numbers takes its name from the two numberings of the people in chs. 1 and 26. Ch. 10 : 11-13 marks the beginning of the Israelites' march from Sinai, where they had been for nearly a year, northward through the Wilderness of Paran. Soon the people began to complain on account of the hardships of the march, and, as a punishment, fire was sent from the Lord, vs. 1-3.

GOLDEN TEXT—The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working.—James 5 : 16 (Rev. Ver.).

* Memorize vs. 14, 15. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Numbers 11 : 10-18, 24, 25. Study Numbers 11 : 4-33. Read Numbers, chs. 9-11.

10 Then Mo'ses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent ; and the anger of the Lord was kindled greatly : Mo'ses also was displeased.

11 And Mo'ses said unto the Lord, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant ? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me ?

12 Have I conceived all this people ? have I begotten them, that thou shouldst say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers ?

13 Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people ? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat.

14 I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me.

15 And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight ; and let me not see my wretchedness.

16 And the Lord said unto Mo'ses, Gather unto me

Revised Version—And Moses ; weeping ; at ; and Moses was ; evil entreated ; brought them forth ; carrieth ; tent of meeting ; he gathered seventy ; Tent ; the ; put it upon ; but they did so no more.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—Despising God's provision, Num. 11 : 1-9. T.—Moses' cry for help, Num. 11 : 10-25. W.—God's displeasure, Num. 11 : 26-35. Th.—Dejection and restoration, 1 Kgs. 19 : 1-8. F.—Jonah's request refused, Jonah 4. S.—Christ's bountiful provision, John 6 : 5-13. S.—"Take heed," 1 Cor. 10 : 1-12.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Vs. 4-9 tell how the people became dissatisfied with the manna and longed for the plenty of Egypt.

I. HELPERS NEEDED.—10-12. Moses heard. The complaining Israelites thronged about their great leader. **Weeping** (Rev. Ver.). Orientals give way to their feelings much more than people of Western lands. **Families.** The ancient Hebrew family was larger than with us : it included sons-in-law and daughters-in-law. **Door of his tent ;** in public. The tent door was the place where visitors were received (see Gen. 18 : 1.)

Anger of the Lord ; His indignation against sin and determination to punish it. **Kindled greatly ;** in-to a flaming fire of wrath. **Moses.. displeased ;** vexed to the heart. **Afflicted ;** "caused trouble to." **Burden.. upon me ;** Moses' first mistake.

The burden of the people was not on him but on God, and God had never laid on him a load greater than the strength given to him. *Nursing father ;

seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them ; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.

17 And I will come down and talk with thee there : and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them ; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

18 And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to-morrow, and ye shall eat flesh : for ye have wept in the ears of the Lord, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat ? for it was well with us in Egypt : therefore the Lord will give you flesh, and ye shall eat.

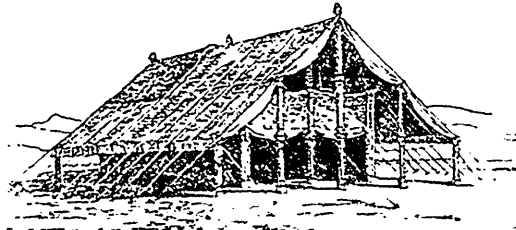
24 And Mo'ses went out, and told the people the words of the Lord, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and set them round about the tabernacle.

25 And the Lord came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders : and it came to pass, that when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.

that is, a foster father who brings up a child instead of its own parent.

13-15. Whence.. flesh ; for which the people were clamoring (see v. 4). **I am not able, etc.** Moses was here considering his own strength and forgetting God's power. **Kill me ;** Moses' second mistake. Even if he had failed as a leader, he might have served in a lower place. **Out of hand ;** at once and have done with it. **Not see my wretchedness ;** no longer have to face my trouble, which has become so great.

II. HELPERS APPOINTED.—16-18. The Lord said. No real prayer to God is unheard or unanswered. **Seventy ;** the number, in later times, of the Sanhedrin or Great Council of the Jews. **Elders ;** heads of families, the older men who would na-



THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS

turally be given a position of authority. **Officers ;** appointed for various purposes amongst the Israelites. **Come down.. talk with thee ;** as afterwards with

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.