

What fruit did they take thence?
 Why did they call the place Esheol?
 How long were they engaged in the search?

3. Returning, v. 26-33.

Where were the Israelites encamped?
 To whom did the spies make their report?
 What did they say about the land?
 What about the people and cities?
 What tribes did they name and locate?
 What was Caleb's advice?
 What said the other spies?
 What was their report as to the land?
 What then did they say about the people?
 What were they themselves in comparison?
 To what good counsel did Caleb and Joshua address? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

Teachings of the Lesson.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. That prudence is wisdom?
2. That faith gives courage?
3. That unbelief magnifies difficulties?

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

Where were the children of Israel now?
 What had God promised them?
 What did he tell Moses to do?
 What for?
 How many men did Moses send?
 What did he tell them to do?
 What were these men called?
 How long did they search the land?
 What fruits did they bring back?
 What report did they give?
 Did they want to go and take the land? **No; they were afraid.**
 What did Caleb and Joshua say?
 Why were they not afraid? **They believed God.**
 What causes fear? **Unbelief.**

What Faith Says.

God, who leads me, knows the way.
 I will trust him every day.

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

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General Statement.

In our last lesson we watched the Israelites as, following the pillar of cloud and of fire, they marched from the sacred mountain. Their route was northward, and after three months of journeying they came to Kadesh-barnea, "the holy place," on the southern border of the promised land. Across a ridge of hills lay the Negeb, or South Country, and farther on were the walled and towered cities of Canaan. It was the desire of Moses to enter the land at once, fearing neither the Amorites of the mountain region nor the Canaanites of the seacoast plain. But the people were not as courageous and faithful as their leader. They clamored for scouts or spies who should be sent to examine the land and its inhabitants, and bring a report of its attractions and dangers. Moses accepted the suggestion, and twelve men, one from each tribe, were appointed. They set forth, probably in pairs, and traveled as far north as the sources of the Jordan. The fertility of Canaan, its mountains everywhere, the variety of its products, and the abundance of its brooks and streams, excited their wonder. They brought home as a token of its great resources one gigantic cluster of grapes cut in Esheol. But they presented the most alarming picture of the inhabitants. They found fortified cities, inhabited by clans of warriors, some of whom were of gigantic size, and their cowardly hearts shrank and sank. The people were smitten with terror as they listened to the frightened scouts, and were ready to return to Egypt rather than to face such difficulties. Two of the spies, Caleb of Judah and Joshua of Ephraim, vainly endeavored to stem the tide of popular feeling by calling to the people's mind their God, his presence, and his promise. But the masses had lost heart, and their craven spirit showed that they were not fit to inherit the land by conquering it. A generation must die in the desert before Israel shall be ready for its high destiny. The worst of it all was that the terrors which the spies saw and the people heard were almost entirely imaginary. Canaan was at this time a decayed nation. Its people were more afraid of the Hebrews than the Hebrews were of them.

Verse 17. And Moses sent them. From this account in Numbers we might suppose that the scheme of sending out the spies came from Moses. But from Deut. 1. 19-23 we learn that the suggestion was made by the people, and that Moses wished to go up at once and possess the land. (1) *How much Israel lost and how much we lose by lack of faith! To spy out the land.* The

names of the twelve spies, one from each tribe, are given in this chapter; but we know nothing about any except Caleb from Judah and Joshua from Ephraim. (2) *Brave men who are ready to do and to dare are the men who are remembered.* It is noticeable that the two tribes which became the rival centers of the future kingdoms thus early showed their dominance. **The land of Canaan.** The word