

Blackboard Exercises.

The black-board lesson of to-day brings in contrast *faith* and *unbelief*. The Israelites were almost within the borders of the promised land, but while they lingered in the land of pilgrimage, they forgot God, as they had often done before, and were filled with doubts, and murmurs, and unbelief. Then the God of patience and love, who had guided them for so long a time, visited his wrath upon them, and between the land of pilgrimage and the land of promise the great gulf of God's displeasure was fixed, so that they could not pass over.

The application of the lesson is plain. We must have *faith* to enable us to pass from the present world to the heavenly land of promise. *Unbelief* will not bear us over, and from it we will fall to the everlasting depths of God's displeasure.

Blackboard Song.

O for faith that will not shrink,
Though press'd by every foe,
That will not tremble on the brink
Of any earthly woe;—
That will not murmur or complain
Beneath the chast'ning rod,
Ere, in the hour of grief and pain,
Will lean upon its God.

The Primary Class.

Show on the map the location of Kadesh and also of Canaan. Give a brief narration of the appointment of the twelve spies, their search of the land, and the report which they made on their return. Make special mention of the two faithful men, Caleb and Joshua, who were ready to go up to Canaan, and notice the ten men whose report made the people murmur. This will be an introduction to the present lesson. Have the incidents of the lesson brought out before the class. These people were, 1. *Forgetful*. God had helped them in every case, and thus far had brought them safely, but they forgot it all. 2. *Unbelieving*. They could not believe that God would still go with them. 3. *Rebellious*. [Explain the word.] They refused to obey the commands of God as given through Moses. 4. *Kept out of Canaan*. This was a punishment for their wickedness. The application of the whole lesson must turn on one point: *the sin of unbelief*. Let its character and danger be impressed on the heart as early as possible.

Whisper Song.

Give me faith, Loving Lord,
Give me faith, In thy Word.

Miscellaneous.

THEMES FOR BIBLE READINGS.

1. THE SIN OF UNBELIEF. John xvi. 9; Psa. cvi. 24, 25; Rom. i. 28.
2. EXAMPLES OF UNBELIEF. John i. 11; iii. 9-11; Num. xi. 21-23; Rom. x. 16.
3. CAUSES OF UNBELIEF. Psa. llii. 7; 2 Cor. iv. 4; John v. 38, 44; John xii. 39, 40; 1 Tim. i. 13.
4. WHAT WE LOSE BY UNBELIEF. Matt. xiii. 58; Heb. iv. 2; Num. xx. 12; John viii. 24; Heb. iii. 18, 19.
5. UNBELIEF CONTRASTED WITH FAITH. John iii. 18; 1 John v. 10; John iii. 36.
6. WARNINGS AGAINST UNBELIEF. Heb. xii. 25; Luke xii. 29; James i. 6; Mark xvi. 16.
7. PRAYER FOR FAITH. Mark ix. 22-24; Heb. xii. 2; Eph. ii. 8.

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 1874.

LESSON IX.—*The Smitten Rock*.
Num. xx. 7-13.

GOLDEN TEXT: 1 Cor. x. 14.

Berean Notes.

I. GENERAL STATEMENT.

Fearing the "giants" of Canaan, and rebelling against God, (Num. xiv. 1-10, 40-45,) the Israelites are compelled to wander in the "great and terrible wilderness" of Paran for thirty-eight years. Of these years the Scriptures make only the briefest mention. The wanderers return to Kadesh the second time in the month Nisan, B.C. 1453. See Num. xiv. 25; Deut. i. 40; Num. xv. 32-36; xvi.; xvii.; xx. 1.

II. NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

1. A PRESSING WANT, ver. 2. (1) *Grievous thirst*. NO WATER. If any, not enough for THE CONGREGATION of over two millions. The fountain ("En Mishpat," Gen. xiv. 7) at Kadesh seems to have been sufficient for their wants when Israel was here encamped thirty-eight years before. Num. xiii. 26. (2) *The faithless multitude*. GATHERED. Angrily. Forgetting Marah, Exod. xv. 23; and Rephidim,