

who had pity on His people. **Unto the rock.** There is at Kadesh a "large single mass, or a small hill, of solid rock." **Water out of the rock;** and therefore clearly the gift of God. **Rod from before the Lord;** out of the tabernacle, where it was laid up as a memorial.

**III. MOSES' SIN.**—10, 11. **Ye rebels.** God had not so called them, and neither ought Moses to have done so. **Must we, etc.** "Do you expect us to work miracles for you?" There was angry impatience in the question. **Smote the rock twice;** whereas he had been commanded only to "speak" to it: the smiting, and especially with two strokes, showed violent irritation. **Water... abundantly;** and so God, as always, fulfilled His promise.

**12, 13. Believed not in me (Rev. Ver.);** so as to take My word, that speaking to the rock would be sufficient. **To sanctify me;** to make My holiness appear. By unbelief and impatience Moses and Aaron had misrepresented God. **Ye shall not, etc.** As a punishment their work was to be taken from them and given to another. **Meribah;** "Strife," called, in Deut. 32:51, Meribah-Kadesh, to distinguish it from Meribah of Sinai, Ex. 17:2, 7. **He was sanctified;** proved to be holy, in spite of the conduct of Moses and Aaron. **In them;** in the hearts of the people, to whom the miracle revealed His character.

#### THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



At its northern end the Red Sea forks into the Gulf of Akabah to the east and the Gulf of Suez to the west. North of the Gulf of Akabah are the two parallel ranges of Mount Seir. Between these lies the depression named the 'Arabah,' which is a continuation of the Jordan Valley running from the southern end of the Red Sea to the head of the Gulf of Akabah. This region was called Edom, or the "Red" Land from the color of its sandstone cliffs. Kadesh-barnea lies on the western side of the 'Arabah' near the southern end of Palestine.

#### LESSON QUESTIONS

1-3 Explain the term "congregation." Where is the "wilderness of Zin?" Describe Kadesh. Who died

here? At about what age? From what cause did the people suffer? Against whom did they complain? What wish did they express? To what woman did God once show a well in the wilderness? (Gen. 21:17, 19.)

4, 5 Of whom, in their complainings, did the people lose sight? Explain the term "congregation" in this verse.

6-9 To whom did Moses and Aaron go for help? What token of their being heard did God give? What did He tell Moses and Aaron to do? What was the "rod?" Where had it been laid up? Find a reference to it in the New Testament. (Heb. 9:4.)

10, 11 What did Moses and Aaron call the people? In what further way did Moses show his irritation? What was the result of his smiting the rock?

12, 13 How had Moses and Aaron showed their unbelief? Explain "to sanctify Me." How were they punished? What was the place called? Explain, "He was sanctified in them."

#### FOR DISCUSSION

1. Was the punishment of Moses and Aaron too severe?
2. Is unbelief the worst of all sins?

#### A LESSON FOR LIFE

An ancient Jewish writing, in its account of the Lesson incident, says that, at the first stroke from the rod in the hand of Moses, the rock dropped blood. So, all down the history of the world, the angry word or blow has brought suffering and death upon its victims. Passion is a fiery steed which needs the bit and rein and the strong, steady hand of the driver. We should no more think of letting our temper have its way with us than of permitting a spirited horse to go as it might please without guidance or control.

**Prove from Scripture—***That patience is acceptable with God.*

**Shorter Catechism—**Review Questions 73-75.

**The Question on Missions—**4. Where do our missionaries live? The four missionary stations are Wonsan, with a field of 200,000 people, Ham Heung and Song Chin, each with a field of about 400,000, and Hoi Ryung (Kainei), the only station as yet in a population of 500,000.

**Lesson Hymns—**Book of Praise: 129 (Supplemental Lesson), 317, 413, 34 (Ps. Sol.), 42 (from PRIMA QUARTERLY), 320.

#### FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why did the people complain? .....
2. What directions did Moses and Aaron receive from God? .....
3. How did they sin, and what was their punishment? .....