

murmur? Against whom was their murmuring really directed? v. 3. When had they murmured against the Lord before this?

3. **Rebellion.**—In what did their rebellion consist? [ANS. 1. In proposing to return to Egypt. They were journeying to Canaan under God's express direction. 2. In proposing another leader.] What is said of "turning back" in Heb. x. 33? Of what was their rebellion the fruit? [ANS. Of their unbelief, their want of trust in God.] What does the Lord say of them in v. 11?

4. **Remonstrance.**—Who remonstrated with the murmuring people? v. 6, 7. Why did they rend their clothes? [ANS. In token of grief for the wickedness of the people.] What did they say of the land? What did they give as the only thing necessary to the possession of the land? Could the "Lord delight in them" while murmuring in rebellion? Isa. lxiii. 10. What is said of God's presence with his people in Rom. viii. 31? Have we the Lord "with us," as a defence against spiritual foes? What other instances have we of wicked men seeking the death of spiritual teachers? 1 Kings xix. 2; John x. 31; Acts vii. 59; xiv. 19.

6. **Punishment.**—How was the presence of the Lord at the door of the tabernacle a punishment? [ANS. It was not the Lord in mercy to lead, but in righteousness to destroy.

v. 12.] What punishment did the Lord put upon Israel? v. 27-34. From what will want of faith in Jesus exclude us? Where, in this lesson, are we taught—1. That unbelief will shut us out of heaven? 2. That to have God's favor help we cannot do what he commands us? 4. That persistence in sin forfeits all God's promised blessings? 5. That Canaan may be very near, and yet lost through unbelief?

QUESTION AND ANSWER.

27. What other benefits do we receive at the same time with justification?

The other benefits that we receive at the same time with justification are adoption and regeneration.

Romans viii. 1. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit.
John i. 12. As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

SABBATH, May 31.—LESSON IX.—The Smitten Rock.—Num. xx. 7-13.

Leader. 7. And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,
School. 8. Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes;

L. 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.

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

L. 10. And Moses and Aaron 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?

S. 11. And Moses 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.

L. 12. And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron. Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

S. 13. This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the Lord, and he was sanctified in them.

TOPIC—With God all things are possible.

Golden Text—They drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them; and that Rock was Christ. 1 Cor.

x. 4.

Home Readings.	
M.	Num. xx. 1-13.
Tu.	James iii. 1-13.
W.	Exod. xiv. 13-25.
Th.	Ex. xiv. 26-31.
F.	Prov. iii. 1-12.
S.	Num. xi. 16-23.
S.	Exod. xvii. 1-7.

QUESTIONS, &c.—Recite TITLE, TOPIC, GOLDEN TEXT, SELECTED VERSES, and OUTLINE.

1. **A Pressing Want.**—What was the pressing want of the Israelites at Kadesh-Barnea? v. 2. When had they been at this place before? Num. xiii. 26. When had they experienced the same inconvenience before? Exod. xv. 23; xvii. 1. Had they had proof that God was able to supply their wants? Did they rest satisfied with trusting God? v. 3, 4. Why did the Israelites strive against God? [ANS. They were rebellious and sinful in heart. They had become corrupted by the idol-worship of Egypt.] What promise is given to those who "thirst for the living water"? Isa. lv. 1; John vi. 37. Are you thirsting for the "water of life"?

2. **A Divine Supply.**—How did the Lord provide for their supply? v. 5. Whose power was to bring this water? What is said of the abundance of the waters? Psa. lxxvii. 16, 17. To whom is the water of the rock likened in the GOLDEN TEXT? What did Jesus say of the freshness and fullness of the water of life? John iv. 14.

3. **A Human Weakness.**—What did Moses say to the people? v. 10. To whom did he ascribe the power of the miracle? What did he do to the rock? What was he commanded to do? v. 8. In what did Moses show his weakness? [ANS. In taking the credit to himself and Aaron, in his anger with the people, and impatience with the rock.] Was not Moses, in this act, a rebel against God?

4. **A Divine Rebuke.**—How did the Lord "rebuke" Moses and Aaron? What great privilege was taken from

Moses? Can we expect the favor of God if we fail to honour him?

Where, in this lesson, do we learn—

1. That a man's good deeds cannot save him from the consequences of sin he may afterward commit? Ezekiel xxxiii. 12.
2. That there is a possibility with the most perfect in the world of sinning against God?
3. That there is no sin which does not require atonement?
4. That the water of life is the free gift of God?

QUESTION AND ANSWER.

28. What is adoption?

Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby upon the forgiveness of sins, we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God?

1 John iii. 1. Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.

Romans viii. 17. If children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ.