

Lesson IV.

JOSHUA AND CALEB

October 26, 1902

Joshua 14: 5-15. Commit to memory vs. 12-14. Read Joshua 14; Numbers 14: 1-24.

5 As the Lord commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did, and they divided the land.

6 Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenzite said unto him, Thou knowest the thing that the Lord said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadesh-barnea.

7 Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart.

8 Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the Lord my God.

9 And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the Lord my God.

10 And now, behold, the Lord hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the Lord spake this word unto Moses, while the children of

Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old.

11 As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out and to come in.

12 Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said.

13 And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance.

14 Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenzite unto this day; because that he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel.

15 And the name of Hebron before was Kirjath-arba; which Arba was a great man among the Anakims. And the land had rest from war.

Revised Version.—1 Concerning; 2 Spake; 3 Walked; 4 And; 5 It may be; 6 And.

EXPLANATION

Connection—Joshua next marched against the city of Ai, but was defeated, 7: 1-5. Achan's sin, the cause of defeat, was severely punished (vs. 19-26), and then Ai was taken, 8: 3-29. The covenant was again renewed (8: 30-35) to show their dependence upon God, and the conquest of the land then began in earnest, chs. 9 to 12. About six years after crossing the Jordan the land was divided among the tribes, ch. 13. This lesson is an incident in that division.

5. As the Lord commanded Moses; in Num. 34: 13-29. **They divided the land**; by lot, vs. 1, 2. Reuben and Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh had their land on the east of the Jordan (v. 3), and the Levites had no possession (v. 3), being set apart to sacred duties.

6. The children of Judah; that is, members of the tribe of Judah. In Gilgal. See "Time and Place." **Caleb**; one of the twelve spies, Num. 13: 6. **The Kenzite**; a descendant of Kennaz (See ch. 15: 17), possibly of the Edomite tribe mentioned in Gen. 15: 19, and therefore a proselyte incorporated into the tribe of Judah. **Thou knowest, etc.**; referring to the promise made him in Num. 14: 24. The promise is quoted in v. 9. **In Kadesh-barnea**; the border place from which the spies had been sent out, Num. 13: 26.

7, 8. To spy out the land. There were twelve spies sent, one for each tribe, Num. 13: 2. **As it was in my heart.** He gave an honest report, Num. 13: 30. **My brethren**; save Joshua—the ten false and cowardly spies, v. 31. **Made the heart of the people melt.** They discouraged them by their gloomy report, Num. 14: 1-4. **But I wholly followed the Lord**; testified as in the sight of God, and was ready to go wherever God should lead.

9. Moses, speaking for God, sware, etc. Num. 13: 21; Deut. 1: 36. **Where thy feet have trodden**; when spying out the land. The promise does not embrace the whole of the land through which he had passed, but some particular part of it, to be his special possession.

10-12. The Lord hath kept me alive (See Num. 14: 30); a pledge that He would also give him his possession. **I am as strong, etc.** Though 85 years old, he was physically able to take possession of his land. **This mountain.** Hebron is 2,718 feet above the sea level. **The Anakims**; a race of giants, Num. 13: 33. **Cities great and fenced**; strongly fortified by high walls. **If so be, etc.**; not implying



Hebron—Mosque and Part of Town

doubt. He knew God would be with him, and he cared not for giants or walls. **I shall . . . drive them out.** There were still many strongholds of the enemy in the land, as in ch. 15: 63.

13-15. Joshua blessed; granted him his request and wished him well. **Gave . . . Hebron**; a place of sacred associations, Gen. 23: 2; 35: 27. It had been captured by Joshua (10: 36, 37), but was again in the hands of the enemy. **Because he wholly followed the Lord**; repeated to show the great importance of obedience. (vs. 8, 9.) **Kirjath-arba**; that is, the city of Arba. It was originally called Hebron (Gen. 23: 2), but the giant Arba (15: 13) had conquered it and given it his name. **The land had rest from war**; but only for a time, for the inhabitants were not wholly subdued, and Israel grew weak through falling into their sinful ways.