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THIRD QUARTER.

Lesson X. Sept. 2. Num. 13: 17-33.

THE SPIES SENT INTO CANAAN.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." Num. 13: 3.

I. THE JOURNEY FROM SINAI TO KADESH BARNEA. The Start.-On the 20th day of the second month, almost a year after their arrival at Sinai, the pillar of cloud rose from the tabernacle and led the people from the valley of E. Rahab north-westerly down into the wilderness of Paran.

The Numbers.-A census (Num. 1 and 2) was taken of the men from twenty years of age and upwards, showing as the result a grand total of 603,550, exclusive of the tribe of Levi (22,000), and thus indicating an aggregate, in the whole host, of from two to three million souls.

The Wilderness.-The march was a three days' journey into the wilderness of Paran, the modern desert of Teb (or Tib), to Kitroth Hattavaah, "the graves of glutony." Here Professor Palmer found the remains of an ancient camp, surrounded by an immense number of graves.

Mourning and the Punishment.-Here the people fell to murmuring, and a fire consumed many. Then the mixed multitude who came from Egypt led off in further complaints about their food. God sent quails in great numbers, but in their glutony many died by a great plague.

Political Organization.-The people left Egypt the year before, a mere crowd of fugitive slaves, with only the rudiments of national organization, and the faintest religious ideas.

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron.-The second station of the march was Hazroth, "the place of enclosures." Here Miriam, the sister of Moses, to whom, under God, he had owed his preservation in infancy, apparently bore a grudge at Zipporah, his wife, as a "Gushite," and therefore of impure blood, induced Aaron to join her in claiming that they also should be honored by sharing divine revelations.

Arrival at Kadesh Barnea.-The third encampment was at Kadesh Barnea, in the wilderness of Paran (Num. 12: 16; 13: 26). Kadesh Barnea, "the holy place in the desert of wandering," lies about 50 miles south of Beerseba, between the Arabah and the Mediterranean Sea, just below the ridge which is the natural southern boundary of Palestine.

The Expedition of the Twelve Spies. This expedition was undertaken at the request of the people in general (Deut. 1: 22) as a matter of worldly precaution, but not of faith in God.

17. And Moses sent them: for he says that he was pleased with the proposal (Deut. 1: 23), this, in the present state of the people's feelings and faith, being the best thing possible. It was the custom in ancient times to send chief men on such expeditions, as being wiser and stronger than others, and adding weight to the report.

21. From the wilderness of Zin. The name of the wilderness of Zin, in which Kadesh was situated, appears to have been given to the northern or north-western part of the wilderness of Paran. Unto Rehob: the Beth Rehob of Judges (18: 28), near Dan Lash and the sources of the Jordan at the foot of Mt. Hermon.

22. By the south: the Negeb, the south country on their way home. And came unto Hebron. The verb in the singular number in the Hebrew: he came, is quite possible that the twelve spies may not always have been together, and that only one may have gone to Hebron.

23. They came unto the brook Eshcol. This is generally identified with the rich valley immediately to the north of Hebron; described by Robinson as producing the largest and best grapes in all Palestine, besides pomegranate, figs, apricots, quinces, and other fruits, in abundance.

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And there in ver. 33 they are called giants, in whose presence the spies seemed like grasshoppers. "It is probab' the Anakim were a distinguished family, or perhaps a select body of warriors, chosen for their extraordinary size."

The Evil Report from the Majority of Ten.-There seems to have been no difference of opinion as to the facts of the case. The two faithful ones did not contradict the facts. Whence, then, was the report of the "evil report" (ver. 32)? Why did Caleb need to quiet the people before Moses (ver. 30)? (1) Because they laid emphasis on the dangers and obstacles and minimized the good. (2) Because it was the fruit of unbelief. It left God and his promises out of the account, and yet

The Punishment.-The ten spies were smitten by a plague and died. And of the people who were led astray by their discouraging report, no one was permitted to enter the promised land.

Modern Applications.-The land is leading us toward an evil report (ver. 32)? Why did Caleb need to quiet the people before Moses (ver. 30)? (1) Because they laid emphasis on the dangers and obstacles and minimized the good. (2) Because it was the fruit of unbelief. It left God and his promises out of the account, and yet

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duty of the present moment she attends to promptly and never worries about the duty of the next. She has time for everything, since she has all the time God wants her to employ, and He does not require more duty put in than that will hold.

If mothers only knew how they are misused and spoiled. Did you ever think, dear mother, of your little ones as mirrors in which you could see yourselves? Forget to find fault sometimes; yes, stop your work and watch your children, just to see how they reproduce you, your language, your tone, your manner.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.-Are you disturbed at night and broken up by your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of cutting teeth? If so send at once and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children Teething.

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