

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

Lesson XIII., December 29, 1918.  
Joseph Cares for his kindred.—  
Genesis 47, 1-12.

Commentary.—1. A cordial welcome (Gen. 1-10). 1. Joseph came and told Pharaoh—Pharaoh extended to Joseph's people a cordial invitation to remove to Egypt, and Joseph informed the king of their arrival. Joseph was careful to pay proper respect to Pharaoh in the land of Goshen—Joseph had promised them a place in Goshen (Gen. 45, 10), and Pharaoh had promised them "the good of the land of Egypt" (Gen. 45, 18). 2. Took some of his brethren, even five—Nothing is said as to which five were chosen, but it would be natural to suppose that the selection was upon the basis of age, the eldest being chosen. They were to represent the family. 3. What is your occupation—Joseph had intimated to his brothers (Gen. 46, 33) that this question would be asked. Their occupation would determine their standing and location in Egypt. Thy servants are shepherds—The answer was frank and wise. As shepherds they could not hope to be placed in high positions, but would be given a place suitable to their occupation. The Hebrews' answer prepared the way for them to occupy the land of Goshen, which was best adapted to their business as stock-raisers, was least exposed to the influence of the Egyptians, and was at the same time near to the residence of Joseph. They could remain a separate people socially and religiously and become the great nation that the promise had indicated. 4. The famine is sore in Canaan—Two years or more of famine had reduced Canaan almost to destitution. Let thy servants dwell in Goshen—The brothers of Joseph made their request most respectfully. 5. The land of Egypt is before thee—The offer of Pharaoh was as liberal as it could well be, and shows his appreciation of the ability and services of Joseph. Joseph had virtually foretold the famine, and had most wisely made provision for the years of want; and now a reward was bestowed in the advantages afforded Joseph's kindred. In Goshen let them dwell—it was their choice and best adapted to their needs. The region includes the northeastern portion of Egypt from the delta of the Nile to the Syrian desert. Rulers over my cattle—Pharaoh was ready to advance Joseph's kindred to any positions they were qualified to fill, and he left the appointments to the judgment of Joseph. From this and other passages we note that stock-raising was carried on in Egypt. It would appear that the coming of the family of Jacob into Egypt was not without advantage to Pharaoh. He found in the Hebrews' skill and a readiness to perform a necessary work pertaining to the welfare of his kingdom. They could care well for his cattle, sheep and other animals.

6. Joseph brought in Jacob... before Pharaoh—The picture of Joseph's affection and respect for his father is charming. There was a strong contrast between the culture and courtly appearance of Joseph, and the rude shepherd's garb of Jacob, yet Joseph presented his father to the king. This is forever a rebuke to that false and silly pride that makes a young man ashamed of his father and mother because they are not stylish. Jacob blessed Pharaoh—Probably the patriarch pronounced a benediction upon the king. 8. How old art thou—How many are the days of thy life?—R. V. The question was suggested to Pharaoh as he looked at the venerable Hebrew, and was asked because of the interest he had in him. 9. Few and evil have the days, etc.—Jacob looked upon his life as but a few days. He spoke of them as evil because of the multiplied trouble and sorrows he had endured. Have not attained—While he had lived one hundred thirty years, his father lived one hundred eighty years, and Abraham one hundred seventy-five. Pilgrimage—Journeyings and sojournings. He had been in Canaan, Mesopotamia and Egypt. 10. Blessed Pharaoh—Gave him a parting blessing. He asked for Pharaoh the kind and degree of prosperity that God could consistently bestow. Jacob could do nothing more than this. He expressed his gratitude to Pharaoh for the kindness he had shown him and his family.

11. The settlement in Goshen (vs. 11, 12). 11. Joseph placed his father and his brethren—As signed to them a place in accordance with his promise, the direction of Pharaoh and the wish of his kindred, Gave them a possession—Allowed them to acquire property.—Pulpit Com. In the land of Rameses—This is the same region that is elsewhere called Goshen. In Exod. 12:37 we read that Israel set out from Rameses for Canaan. This was a favorable region for a pastoral people. The land nearer the Nile was more fertile, but this was irrigated from the Nile and well suited to grazing. Jacob was now really settled in Egypt close to his long-lost Joseph. He had had Joseph with him during the first seventeen years of his son's life, Jacob, however, considered Canaan his home and Egypt only a place of sojournings. That this is true is evident from the fact that when he saw his end approaching, he caused Joseph to make a solemn pledge that he would bury him in the land of Canaan. He believed God's promise that Israel should be led out of Egypt and placed in the land that had been promised to Abraham, Isaac and himself, and he wished to be buried in the burial-place of his fathers.

12. Joseph nourished—He tenderly cared for his father's family, providing food and every other needful thing. His position in the kingdom afforded him large personal revenue, and he was able to give liberally to his people. According to their families—Distribution was made according to the size of the various households. Pharaoh was so liberal with respect to the kindred of Joseph that he gave him the privilege of providing fully for them. This meant very much to them during the long and severe famine.

QUESTIONS—How many of Jacob's family went into Egypt? Who was sent ahead to Joseph? How did Joseph go to meet Israel? Describe the meeting between Joseph and his father. Who went with Joseph to Pharaoh? What question did Pharaoh ask Joseph's brothers? Why were not the Egyptians well disposed toward shepherds? What privileges did Pharaoh give the Hebrews? Describe the meeting between Pharaoh and Jacob. Where were the Hebrews located? By what other name was the region called?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.  
Topic.—The Privilege of Caring for One's Kindred.  
I. The removal of Egypt.  
II. Joseph's care.  
1. The removal to Egypt. "All these things are against me," was the natural, but unbelieving and mistaken declaration, of Jacob, even as God's beneficent purposes were nearing fulfillment. It is always the complaint of unbelief, which demands visible evidence, judges by what appears and misses the broader outlook and cheering assurance of faith. "When he saw the wages... his spirit revived." God's perfected plans reveal always a beneficent purpose, often accomplished by overruling purposes of evil. "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed," was the declaration of Jesus to the doubter of the apostolic company. The migration to Egypt introduces the second stage of covenant history. The first commenced with the call of Abraham, and thus far the training has been of individuals. From this point it broadens into a household to be raised to a great nation. The "sojourn" in Egypt was an important factor in shaping the history of the chosen people. It secured their preservation through the prolonged famine which visited all lands. Also it tended to preserve the national separateness, so essential to the great purpose for which they were called. On the eve of departure, at the "well of the oath," sacred with hallowed memories, Jacob offered sacrifices to the "God of his Father Isaac," and received renewed assurance of the permanency of covenant relations. "I am the God, the God of thy father"; of preservation and posterity. "Fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation"; of the comfort of Joseph's presence and care to the end of life's journey. "Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes"; of the return of his posterity to their covenanted possession. "I will surely bring thee up again." Past experiences might well have tended to distrust. When he stood before Pharaoh he declared, "Few and evil have the days of the years of my life been." The long years which had passed had been fraught with difficulties and bereavements, but recently they seemed to culminate in redoubled sorrows, which even the assurance that Joseph yet lived could not wholly dispel.

II. Joseph's care. The unimpeachable character and well-deserved standing of Joseph prepared the way for the welcome of his household. Provision for the journey had been made by royal bounty and command. Respect was accorded to royalty by halting the oncoming procession until five of Joseph's brethren had been presented to Pharaoh, to whom their purposes and desires were made known, and they were received with favor. Divine preparation as well as royal bounty was disclosed in appointing the place of their "sojourn" in Goshen, which of all the land of Egypt was best adapted to their pursuits as herdsmen, and the royal offer of a place among his officers. In thus caring for his kinsmen, Joseph was only fulfilling a filial and fraternal obligation. Jesus unsparingly condemned neglect of such responsibilities under the guise of pietistic benevolence. Respect for parents is the first "command with promise," and neglect or disregard is both unworthy and impious.

W. H. C.  
Comfort for the Dyspeptic.—There is no ailment so harassing and exhausting as dyspepsia, which arises from defective action of the stomach and liver, and the victim of it is to be pitied. Yet he can find ready relief in Parmelee's Vegetable Pills, a preparation that has established itself by years of effective use. There are pills that are widely advertised as the greatest ever compounded, but not one of them can rank in value with Parmelee's.  
Wall Hangings of Patchwork.—The art of making patchwork is very old. It was practiced in the days of ancient Egypt. It was not used there for quilts, however, as the Nile valley has a warm climate, but was used extensively as wall hangings and screen coverings.  
Worth While Quotation.—Learn to be pleased with everything; with wealth so far as it makes us of benefit to others; with poverty for not having much to care for, and with obscurity for being unnoticed.—Pitman.

# FARM GARDEN

PROVIDE WATER AND SHADE.  
A good pasture should have water, preferably from a running stream. While sheep may live on dew, they cannot thrive on it. If the water is in a standing pool, it is essential that the ground above it should be dry, for wet foot is productive of foot rot.

Shade is another essential. If there are no trees, a cheap, open shed should be provided—one that can be easily moved before the ground becomes dirty. The droppings can then be left on the parts of the field feeding them most.

The eggs of the stomach worm from the foldings of the old sheep readily adhere to the rank grasses in shady places. Lambs eating these grasses become affected. It will be of material help if the grass in such places be cut off with a scythe. It will also pay to have in the pasture a box, covered on one side, into which the sheep can thrust their heads and chew salt at will. With the salt should be mixed one-fourth of the amount of tobacco stems. Each sheep then obtains the necessary amount of salt, and they will be kept free from stomach worms. If a smooth pole be placed just above the opening of the salt box and, during August is smeared with tar once a week, the sheep's noses will be also smeared. This will prevent the fly that lays the egg causing grub in the head.

FARM NEWS AND VIEWS.  
Experiments have been undertaken at the Purdue University, by the entomology department, to show the effect on bees of tree sprays applied at blossom time to control the codling moth and other insects. The first step of the experimental work, which is to extend over a two-third period, has been completed, and indicates that the spray on the blossom kills the bees. Through the feeding of bees and analyzing of their bodies it has been found that it requires only few millionths of a gram of arsenic to put them out of business. In other words, the small amount of arsenic which is used in the spray, if applied while the blossoms are open, means that the bees will gather no more nectar after visiting a few blossoms. Sprays should not be applied while the blossoms are open, but wait until after they have fallen. This work undertaken at Purdue is the first of the kind ever started any place in the country, and the final results of the experiments here will be watched with interest by the bee keepers and orchard men throughout the country.

A good deal of controversy has been going on about whether the blasting of tree beds shortens or lengthens the total time required to plant a tree has been without point, owing to the ignoring of the nature of the soil. Experiments and observations of numerous planting operations that have brought out the facts are interesting. Whenever the ground is hard enough to require the use of a hoe to make a hole of the right size for the tree, time will be saved as well as much labor by blasting. In other words, the preparation of the charge of powder, the making of a hole in the ground with a bit, and the loading and firing with subsequent shovelling out of loose soil, takes less time than the digging above of the undisturbed ground and shovelling out the hole. When, however, the soil naturally is so light and loose that no digging is required, but the hole may be made by digging exclusively, the blasting will take more time. In such soils blasting is not advisable, anyhow, owing to the fact that it will not aid root penetration nor promote either drainage or moisture storage.

Summer is fly time. Even when nets are used as protection for horses their legs are left open to the annoyance of flies. A repellent mixture, consisting of two quarts of crude fish oil, one pint of crude carbolic acid, one ounce of pennyroyal, eight ounces of oil of tar and one and a half quarts of kerosene, is recommended as a protection for the horse. Put on the mixture with a spray. One gallon should last two teams the entire season.

Alfalfa is particularly rich in protein, the element which goes to make the nitrogenous substances of the animal body, which are found particularly in the lean or red portion of the flesh. As alfalfa is particularly rich in those elements in which ruminants, such as corn and wheat and the fanners who grow alfalfa a combination for rations that is best for the quickest and best development of his live stock.

Moisture is often the determining factor in crop production. While plant food and soil in the proper mechanical and chemical condition are also necessary for large crops, often moisture alone is the determining factor. Plants have adaptations to reduce transpiration; that is, the amount of moisture that passes from the soil into the plant tissues, and is evaporated from the leaves. An example of this is the fancy-leaf cactus bean, which uses an enormous amount of moisture, as the leaves have a large leaf area and hence the transpiration is heavy. As soon as the moisture in the soil begins to fall the cactus bean plant sheds some of the lower leaves and thus reduces the amount of moisture the plant must have. By doing this the plant has a better chance to mature seed and thus fulfill its requirement in nature. The same tendency may be seen in certain field crops. Sorghum will "twist" in the

# MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.  
FARMERS' MARKET.

While the pruning season proper is confined within the months from Nov. 1 to March 1, the time is rather limited for most market growers, particularly now that there are so few skilled hands to do the work. During the mentioned period there will be many days when pruning cannot be performed, owing to rain storms and intensely cold weather.

Some authorities say that pruning should not be done during frost, as it is apt to cause dying back of the cut shoots. Other authorities claim that they have never been able to find any proof of this statement, and always keep on with the work so long as it is just possible to stand the exposure. One thing is certain, pruning during frost will not hurt apple trees, but there may be some doubt about plums. Plums have more pithy wood, and are rather liable to die back a few inches in any case.

HOW SEASON WAY BE EXTENDED.  
When there are more trees than it is possible to get through in season, there should be no hesitation in extending the season. In such case good orchards start pruning in October, and keep it up until packing and marketing claim constant attention. It is better to do the work late than to leave the trees unpruned for a season, providing that the shortening of leaders can be finished before they have made several inches of growth.

April is an excellent month for the work. The cuts heal over readily, and the trees make a thoroughly good response to the knife. But May is more doubtful. Growth then begins from the ends of the shoots, but the lower buds are still almost dormant. If cut back to one of these latter a certain amount of young growth which has pushed from the end of the shoots will be removed, and the tree is compelled to make a second start. Thus the new growth has a shorter season in which to develop and cannot be expected to make quite such vigorous wood by fall. The difference, however, is less than might be expected. With weak growers it should certainly be avoided, but with varieties which make strong growth at the expense of fruit there may be some advantage in delaying pruning. Late pruning has something the same effect as root pruning, tending to throw too vigorous a tree into fruit.

APRIL PRUNING.  
It is the practice of some orchardists to continue pruning throughout April without hesitation. They stop when the leading buds have made an inch or two of growth, except in the case of too rank growers. For the others, when it becomes too late to shorten leaders cutting out surplus growth can still go on. Shoots or branches which are overcrowded, or crossing into the centre of the tree, may be cut clean out at any time of the year. Of course, it is much more welcome to prune when the tree is full of bloom or young fruit, and some of this has to be sacrificed, but it is better than leaving the work undone.

Naturally the spurring of side shoots must stop as soon as the shortening of leaders; but many prolific varieties of apples form quite enough natural spurs without making any artificial ones, and with those it is better to cut side shoots out altogether, where not wanted for the extension of the tree. This nearly always applies to plums, except when quite young.

Summer pruning is a regulation operation that deals only with the young growths of the present season, and is another story altogether. There is seldom time for it on a commercial fruit farm.

Worms, however generated, are found in the digestive tracts, where they set up disturbances detrimental to the health of the child. There can be no comfort for the little ones until the hurtful intruders have been expelled. No better preparations for this purpose can be had than Miller's Worm Powders. They will immediately destroy the worms and correct the conditions that were favorable to their existence.

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