

Lesson IV.

MOSES' REQUEST REFUSED

July 27, 1913

Exodus 5 : 1-14. Study Exodus 4 : 29 to 6 : 1—Memory Verses, 1, 2.

Golden Text—Blessed are they that mourn : for they shall be comforted.—Matthew 5 : 4.



all the land of E'gypt to gather stubble instead of straw.

13 And the taskmasters hastened them, saying, Fulfil your works, your daily tasks, as when there was straw.

14 And the officers of the children of Is'rael, which Phar'aoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten, and demanded, Wherefore have ye not fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday and to day, as heretofore ?

1 And afterward Mo'ses and Aa'ron went in, and told Phar'aoh, Thus saith the Lord God of Is'rael, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

2 And Phar'aoh said, Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Is'rael go ? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Is'rael go.

3 And they said, The God of the He'brews hath met with us : let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the Lord our God ; lest he fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.

4 And the king of E'gypt said unto them, Wherefore do ye, Mo'ses and Aa'ron, let the people from their works ? get you unto your burdens.

5 And Phar'aoh said, Behold, the people of the land now are many, and ye make them rest from their burdens.

6 And Phar'aoh commanded the same day the taskmasters of the people, and their officers, saying,

7 Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore : let them go and gather straw for themselves.

8 And the tale of the bricks, which they did make heretofore, ye shall lay upon them ; ye shall not diminish *ought* thereof : for they be idle ; therefore they cry, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God.

9 Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labour therein ; and let them not regard vain words.

10 And the taskmasters of the people went out, and their officers, and they spake to the people, saying, Thus saith Phar'aoh, I will not give you straw.

11 Go ye, get you straw where ye can find it : yet not ought of your work shall be diminished.

12 So the people were scattered abroad throughout

THE LESSON RETOLD

When Moses obeyed God's command and returned to the land of Egypt, on the way he met his brother Aaron whom God had sent to be with him, and they went back to Egypt together. The Israelites' hearts were glad when they heard that God was going to deliver them from their enemies, but when Pharaoh heard about it, he was very angry.

Moses and Aaron went in boldly to speak to him. They had a message from the Lord God of Israel, they said. "Let My people go," was the Lord's message, "that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness." But the wicked king answered, "Who is the Lord that I should obey Him ? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go."

Then Moses and Aaron reminded Pharaoh that it was God who had spoken to them, and they begged him again to let them go lest if they should not, God might punish them for their disobedience. But Pharaoh

was still more angry when they said this. He asked them why they kept the people from their work to listen to their idle tales, and he ordered them also to go and work.

Now the children of Israel were making bricks out of clay, and to make them stronger, mixed the clay with pie ces of straw. This straw had always been carried to them by men from the fields, but now Pharaoh was so bitter against them that he gave a cruel order. He said that his men were to carry no more straw for the Israelites, they must go and gather it for themselves, and yet they must make as many bricks as they had made when it was gathered for them. For they must be idle, Pharaoh said, or they would not want to go to the wilderness to sacrifice to God. So the poor Israelites had to work harder than ever, and because they could not make as many bricks as they had done before, they were beaten by their cruel taskmasters.