

Lesson VI.

ISRAEL OPPRESSED IN EGYPT

November 10, 1901

Exodus 1: 1-14. Commit to memory vs. 8, 9, 13, 14. Read Ps. 90.

1 Now these are the names of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt; every man and his household came with Jacob.

2 Reu'ben, Sim'eon, Le'vi, and Ju'dah,

3 Is'sachar, Zeb'ulun, and Ben'jamin,

4 Dan, and Naph'tali, Gad, and Ash'er.

5 And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls: 2 for Jo'seph was in Egypt already.

6 And Jo'seph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation.

7 And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.

8 Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Jo'seph.

9 And he said unto his people, Behold, the people

Revised Version—1 And: 2 And; 3 Omit up; 4 Come, let us deal; 5 Also join themselves; 6 Omit so; 7 Store cities; 8 The more they spread abroad; 9 Service in mortar.

GOLDEN TEXT

Exod. 2: 24. God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant.

DAILY READINGS

M. —Exodus 1: 1-14. Israel oppressed in Egypt.

T. —Gen. 46: 1-7. A great nation.

W. —Exodus 5: 5-19. Cruel taskmasters.

Th. —Deut. 26: 1-11. Remembrance.

F. —Isaiah 52: 1-6. Oppressed without cause.

S. —Psalm 142. Prayer in affliction.

S. —Psalm 94: 1-14. Cry of the oppressed.

CATECHISM

Q. 101. What do we pray for in the first petition?

A. In the first petition (which is, *Hallowed be Thy name*) we pray, that God would enable us and others

of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we:

10 Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when they falleth out any war, they 5 join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and 6 so get them up out of the land.

11 Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh 7 treasure cities, Pi'thom and Raam'ses.

12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and 8 grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.

13 And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:

14 And they made their lives bitter with hard 9 bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour.

to glorify him in all that whereby he maketh himself known; and that he would dispose all things to his own glory.

TIME AND PLACE

The Israelites were in Egypt from B.C. 1706 till the exodus under Moses B.C. 1491, a period of 215 years. In the later portion of their stay they were oppressed. They still dwelt in the land of Goshen.

LESSON PLAN

I. A New Generation and Prosperity, 1-7.

Jacob, Joseph, and all that generation gone.

II. A New King and Oppression, 8-14.

The old dynasty gone, a new one on the throne.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 283; 161; 277; 269; 585; 11 (Ps. Sel.).

EXPOSITION

Connecting Links—The word "Exodus" means "departure, the way out." It is the natural sequel of Genesis. Israel is being transformed from a group of families into a nation. The history of the patriarchal or family period closes with Genesis, that of the nation opens with Exodus. "The book of Exodus," says Professor James MacGregor, "is the history of Israel's departure from bondage in Egypt, into privilege of liberty sealed and secured in Sinai, on the way to an inheritance of plenteous peaceful rest in Canaan. It is the record of redemption in Egypt passing into consecration in Sinai," chapters 1 to 14 telling of the deliverance, and chapters 15 to 40 of the consecration. A gap of two hundred years, in regard to which the history is silent, separates this lesson from the previous one, describing Joseph's death. Only the results of this protracted stay in Egypt are stated in a general way. The family has become a nation occupying the land of Goshen. The Egyptians have become alarmed lest the children of Israel should become too numerous and join in

alliance with their foes. The first chapter of Exodus gives an account of the increase of the people, and the measures taken by the Egyptians to prevent it.

I. A New Generation and Prosperity, 1-7.

V. 1. *These are the names of the children of Israel which came into Egypt.* According to Hebrew usage, in telling his story the writer goes back to the migration of Jacob's family to Egypt, as the starting point of the new train of events with which this book is to be occupied. "The recapitulation of the heads of Jacob's house prepares the way for the vast augmentation about to be recorded." The name Israel is henceforth used of the nation. *Every man and his household.* At the emigration into Egypt they constituted eleven household groups.

Vs. 2, 3. *Reuben, etc.* The sons, six in all, of Leah, the elder of the two sisters whom Jacob married, are placed first. Then comes *Benjamin*, the second son of Rachael, the younger sister, Joseph, his brother, being already in Egypt.