

God. Then he touched the whole question firmly. There was no question that they have done evil to him, but God had overruled it to save much people alive. Therefore, as far as Joseph was concerned, he was willing to look only at the overruling hand of God, and not at their action, and therefore they could trust him.

We wonder at the slowness of heart of Joseph's brethren. Why could they not, why did they not trust him? And yet, how many of us will here see the reflection of the slowness of our own hearts in believing and trusting in the goodness and the love of God and of Christ. Over and over again we distrust God's forgiveness; we read and we measure His mercy according to the poorness of our own character. We know our own instability, we cannot rest upon nor realize the rock of our salvation, and we know not how we grieve the Holy Spirit of God by this coldness of our unbelief.

The Last Days of Joseph.

Joseph kept his word and protected them. He dwelt in Egypt, and so did his descendants and those of his brethren. He lived for 110 years, and the last glimpse that we get of him is given in his home life, and not in his life as a statesman, for the one fact that is recorded of him is that he saw his grandchildren, and that they were personally cherished by him. We thus get a beautiful picture of the last days of Joseph. He was probably one of the greatest, if not the greatest statesman that has ever lived; he was also one of the greatest benefactors of his age, and yet his greatness and benevolence of mind finds its chief light and joy in his old age in the cherishing and nourishing of the little children around him.

Then when his turn has come to die he gathers his children around him for the last time. Statesman and benefactor as he was, many sad thoughts must have filled his mind, for he must have seen the future lowering darkly upon his race, and known that they were in the power of the Pharaohs. Who would protect them when he was gone? That was their first danger. Their second and