

Lesson V.

JOSEPH INTERPRETS DREAMS

May 4, 1913

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The story of Joseph's faithfulness and promotion, first in Potiphar's house and then in the prison into which the false accusation of Potiphar's wife had brought him, is told in ch. 39.

GOLDEN TEXT—The breath of the Almighty giveth them understanding.—Job 32 : 8 (Rev. Ver.).

Memorize vs. 14, 15. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Genesis 40 : 9-23. Study Genesis, ch. 40. Read Genesis, chs. 39, 40.

9 And the chief butler told his dream to Jo'seph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, a vine was before me ; 10 And in the vine were three branches : and it was as though it budded, and her blossoms shot forth ; and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes : 11 And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand ; and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand.

12 And Jo'seph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it : The three branches are three days :

13 * Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place : and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler.

14 But * think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house :

15 For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews : and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.

Revised Version—its ; * within yet ; † thine office ; ‡ give ; § have me in remembrance ; ¶ three baskets of white bread were on ; † the head of.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 26 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—Joseph in prison, Gen. 40 : 1-8. T.—Joseph interprets dreams, Gen. 40 : 9-15. W.—Joseph interprets dreams, Gen. 40 : 16-23. Th.—The source of true wisdom, Prov. 2 : 1-9. F.—Suffering wrongfully, 1 Pet. 2 : 18-25. S.—Solomon's dream and request, 1 Kgs. 3 : 3-12. S.—Wisdom cometh from God, Job 28 : 20-28.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Two of Pharaoh's officers, prisoners along with Joseph, asked him to interpret their dreams. Vs. 1-8.

I. THE BUTLER'S DREAM.—9-11. Chief butler ; the king's cupbearer, an officer of great

royal mind. Have me in thy remembrance (Rev. Ver.). How unnatural for the butler not to remember the one who had been to him God's messenger of good tidings. Out of this house. The prison in which



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN BAKING

importance at Eastern courts, whose duty 't was to serve the wine at the royal table. Part of his business was to guard the king against poison, by tasting food and drink beforehand. His dream. Amongst all ancient nations much importance was given to dreams, and the Babylonians, Assyrians, Arabs and Egyptians had professional interpreters. Behold, a vine. Inscriptions on monuments show that the Egyptians had cultivated the vine from the earliest times. Budded . . blossoms . . clusters . . ripe grapes. The butler had seen all the processes of growth in rapid succession. Took the grapes . . pressed them. Either, the king, in the dream, drank fresh grape juice, or the juice became fermented wine with dream-like swiftness.

12-15. Three days . . Pharaoh lift up thine head ; set thee free. Restore . . unto thine office (Rev. Ver.) ; to enjoy once more the king's confidence and to have fresh opportunities of influencing the

Joseph was confined was the one where those persons were kept who had offended the king himself (see ch. 39 : 20). Land of the Hebrews ; Canaan, the home of the descendants of Abraham, the Hebrew, ch. 14.

13. Done nothing, etc. Joseph had the unspeakable satisfaction of a clear conscience. The dungeon. The same Hebrew word is used as that for the "pit" into which Joseph had been cast (see ch. 37 : 24),—a dark, unwholesome, sunless hole.

II. THE BAKER'S DREAM.—16-19. The chief baker. How important his position was may be seen from an ancient document which speaks of no fewer than 114,064 loaves being delivered to the royal store rooms by a chief baker. Three baskets (Rev. Ver.) ; like the butler's "three branches," v. 10. Bakedmeats ; pastry. Bread was made in all sorts of shapes, often spiral or snail-shaped. Birds did eat them ; so that, in the baker's dream, he did not