

## Lesson XI.

## JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS December 15, 1918

**BETWEEN THE LESSONS**—Joseph was thirty years old when he was made ruler of Egypt. He is now thirty-nine years old. The seven years of plenty have passed. The second year of famine is now reached. The famine has extended even to Palestine and Joseph's brethren.

**GOLDEN TEXT**—If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.—Matthew 6 : 14.

\*Memorize Matt. 25 : 44, 45.

**THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Genesis 45 : 1-15.

1 Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him ; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren.

2 And he wopt aloud : and the Egyptians<sup>1</sup> and the house of Phar'aoth heard.

3 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph : doth my father yet live ? And his brethren could not answer him ; and they were troubled at his presence.

4 And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into E'gypt.

5<sup>2</sup> Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither : for God did send me before you to preserve life.

6 For these two years *hath* the famine been in the land : and *yet there* are five years, in the which *there shall*<sup>3</sup> neither be eating nor harvest.

7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a<sup>4</sup> posterity in the earth, and to save<sup>5</sup> your lives by a great deliverance.

8 So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God :

**Revised Version**—heard, and ; <sup>1</sup> And now he ; <sup>2</sup> there are yet ; <sup>3</sup> be neither plowing nor harvest ; <sup>4</sup> remnant ; <sup>5</sup> you alive ; <sup>6</sup> ruler over all ; <sup>7</sup> thou come to poverty, thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast ; <sup>8</sup> And he.

and he hath made me a father to Phar'aoth, and lord of all his house, and <sup>9</sup> a ruler throughout all the land of E'gypt.

9 Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all E'gypt : come down unto me, tarry not :

10 And thou shalt dwell in the land of Go'shen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast :

11 And there will I nourish thee ; for <sup>12</sup> yet *there* are five years of famine ; lest<sup>13</sup> thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty.

12 And, behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Ben'jamin, that it is my mouth that speaketh unto you.

13 And ye shall tell my father of all my glory in E'gypt, and of all that ye have seen ; and ye shall haste and bring down my father hither.

14 And he fell upon his brother Ben'jamin's neck, and wept ; and Ben'jamin wept upon his neck.

15<sup>14</sup> Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them : and after that his brethren talked with him.

## HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Joseph forgives his brothers, Gen. 45 : 1-15.

T.—Joseph entertains his brothers, Gen. 43 : 15-25.

W.—Joseph feasts his brothers, Gen. 43 : 26-34.

S.—Forgiving one another, Luke 17 : 1-10.

Th.—Joseph tests his brothers, Gen. 44 : 1-13.

F.—Forgiving our brethren, Matt. 6 : 5-15.

S.—A forgiving spirit, Col. 3 : 5-17.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

## I. JOSEPH'S DISCLOSURE.—1, 2. Joseph.

Last lesson shows Joseph's qualities of mind, this lesson his qualities of heart. The famine brought

Joseph and his family together. Jacob sent his sons, except Benjamin, to buy corn in Egypt. Joseph recognized them, but hiding his knowledge, accuses them of being spies and imprisons them. Then keeping Simeon as hostage, he sends them to bring down Benjamin. He gives them corn and secretly put their purchase money in their sacks. Only when famine presses does Jacob consent to part with Benjamin,

Judah becoming surety for his safety. Joseph still hides his identity, sends them back with corn and their money in the sacks, but arrests Benjamin because he had in his sack a silver cup, placed there by Joseph's orders. Judah makes a pathetic speech on behalf of Benjamin for their father's sake and offers himself instead. At this point Joseph utterly breaks down. Could not refrain ; could not restrain. Cause

every man to go out ; no curious spectators desired. Deep joy and deep sorrow desire privacy. Egyptians . . . house of Pharaoh heard. The scene is overheard

if not witnessed, and the news spreads through all the court.

3, 4. I am Joseph ; the climax of the story. Doth my father yet live ; does not wait to see the effect of his revelation. Love prompts this swift question. Brethren could not answer . . . troubled. The guilt of twenty years ago makes them look only for punishment. Come near ; for you have no reason to fear.



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN CART

II. JOSEPH'S FORGIVENESS.—5-8. Be not grieved ; literally, "let there be no burning in your eyes." <sup>12</sup> God did send me. God overruled their deed. To preserve life ; not to be an avenger, but a savior. <sup>13</sup> Joseph's experience has not embittered but ennobled. Bitter discipline and great promotion are for service, not for personal ends. Preserve you a posterity ; save them from extinction. Save

\* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in either Part of List IV., a Red Seal is added to the Diploma in Colors given for List III., and a Gold Seal for the verses of the other Part. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, D.D., our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Bldg., Toronto.