

Lesson IV.

JOSEPH FAITHFUL IN PRISON

April 28, 1907

Genesis 39 : 20 to 40 : 15. Commit to memory vs. 21, 22. Read Genesis, chs. 39, 40.

GOLDEN TEXT—Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.—Revelation 2 : 10.

20 And Jo'seph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound : and he was there in the prison.

21 But the Lord was with Jo'seph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Jo'seph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison ; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.

23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand ; because the Lord was with him, and that which he did, the Lord made it to prosper.

Ch. 40 : 1 And it came to pass after these things, that the butler of the king of Egypt and his baker had offended their lord the king of Egypt.

2 And Phar'aoth was wroth against two of his officers, against the chief of the butlers, and against the chief of the bakers.

3 And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Jo'seph was bound.

4 And the captain of the guard charged Jo'seph with them, and he served them : and they continued a season in ward.

5 And they dreamed a dream both of them, each man his dream in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, which were bound in the prison.

Revised Version—¹ the ; ² kindness unto him ; ³ Omit had ; ⁴ his two officers ; ⁵ ministered unto ; ⁶ saw ; ⁷ ward in his master's ; ⁸ none that can interpret it ; ⁹ it me ; ¹⁰ its ; ¹¹ Within yet ; ¹² thine office ; ¹³ give ; ¹⁴ have me in thy remembrance.

LESSON PLAN

- I. Joseph's Fidelity, 20-23.
- II. Joseph's Kindness, ch. 40 : 1-7.
- III. Joseph's Wisdom, 8-15.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Joseph faithful in prison, Gen. 39 : 20 to 40 : 15. T.—Joseph forgotten, Gen. 40 : 16-23. W.—Daniel's faithfulness, Dan. 6 : 4-11. Th.—Comfort in suffering, 1 Pet. 4 : 12-19. F.—Prayer in adversity, Ps. 31 : 13-24. S.—Endurance in persecution, Matt. 10 : 21-32. S.—Reward of faithfulness, Rev. 2 : 8-11.

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—About B.C. 1817; twelve or thirteen years after previous Lesson ; in Egypt, at the capital, either the city of On, or of Zoan.

Connecting Links—Immediately following last Lesson is the account of Reuben's grief on finding what had been done with Joseph in his absence (ch. 37 : 29, 30); of the cruel and cowardly deceit practiced on Jacob by his ten sons (vs. 31-33); and of Jacob's bitter sorrow when he was falsely told that wild beasts had devoured his most dearly loved son, ch. 37 : 34, 35. The merchants who carried Joseph down to Egypt, sold him to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officers (ch. 37 : 36), in whose house he rapidly rose, through his diligence, fidelity and capacity, to the place of chief responsibility, ch. 39 : 1-6.

6 And Jo'seph came in unto them in the morning, and looked upon them, and, behold, they were sad.

7 And he asked Phar'aoth's officers that were with him in the ward of his lord's house, saying, Wherefore look ye so sadly to day ?

8 And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Jo'seph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God ? tell me them, I pray you.

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 Phar'aoth's cup was in my hand : and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Phar'aoth's cup, and I gave the cup into Phar'aoth'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 Phar'aoth lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place : and thou shalt deliver Phar'aoth's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast 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 Phar'aoth, 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.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 51-53.

The Question on Missions—4. How was the Honan mission founded ? About twenty years ago, college students in Canada began to feel a deeper interest in missions. Rev. Dr. J. Frazer Smith from Queen's University and Rev. Jonathan Goforth from Knox College, were sent to China. Rev. Donald MacGillivray, Dr. McClure and others were soon after appointed, and these men began our mission in Honan.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 583 (Supplemental Lesson); 250 ; 255 ; 40 (Ps. Sel.); 240 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY) ; 260.

I. Joseph's Fidelity, 20-23.

Vs. 20, 21. *Joseph's master* ; Potiphar, who seems to have been at the head of the Egyptian state police, which formed one of the corps of the army. *Into the prison* ; on a false accusation made against him by his master's wife. (See, Light from the East, and compare Ps. 105 : 18.) *The king's prisoners* ; whose life and death was absolutely in the hands of the powerful tyrant on the throne. *The Lord was with Joseph*. God's presence and favor depend, not upon our outward conditions, but upon our character. *Favour in the sight of the keeper* ; the gaoler, an officer in charge of the discipline of the prison.

Vs. 22, 23. *Committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners*. Joseph's ability and trust-