

Happy Days

VII.]

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THE BIBLE WELLS

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ESTINE is not a
of many flowing
and never has
The Jordan runs
from the north
south until it is
in the lifeless
of the Dead
The streams that
into it from the
are insignificant,
often during the
season are water-
sources — wadies
are called. This
of the Brook
between the
of Olives and
Jerusalem, over which
passed as he
back and forth
Bethany to the
This lack of
stant streams,
sources fur-
water enough
to outlast the
ing summer's
ad to no more
satisfy the thirst
parched land
the long rain-
season, gave wells
that we in this
do not appre-



may properly
of Palestine as
of wells and
To-day many
wells are dry
ost of the cis-
are empty.

you remember how that when
an found that he and Lot could not
dwell together because their flocks
come so large, he gave his younger
in the choice as to where he should
and Lot looked down over the
of the Jordan and at once said he
go there, because the land "was
tered everywhere." That was the
point, where there was most

water there life would be easier and riches
more readily acquired.

Many of the most interesting stories of
the Bible are connected with the Bible
wells. A jealous wife causes her husband
to dismiss from his home a bondswoman
and her son. The poor woman is given
some bread and a jar of water and is cast
out. She wanders with her son in the
wilderness until the jar is empty and she

sees no means of fill-
ing it. And when she
can no longer endure
the cries of the thirsty
child, and cannot
satisfy his thirst she
puts him under a bush
and leaves him there
that she may not see
him die. But God
does not mean that
she shall suffer thus,
and he calls to her
and tells her that the
"lad will live, and he
"opened her eyes and
she saw a well of
water." The jar was
soon refilled and the
life of her child was
spared.

A young man had
been on a long jour-
ney. One day, while
the sun was still high
in the heavens he
comes to a well in a
field where flocks of
sheep are feeding and
a stone is laid over
the mouth of the well.
Presently he sees a
woman advancing to
ward the well follow-
ed by her thirsty flock.
The man rolls away the
heavy stone from the
well's mouth and lets
down the bucket, fill-
ing the stone trough
that was beside the
well, and waters the
sheep. This was the
first meeting between
Jacob and Rachel and
this act of courtesy
beside Laban's well

was the beginning of the devoted love of
Jacob for the wife for whom he served
seven years, and then another seven years,
and whom he cherished until death parted
them and he buried her near Bethlehem.

A man is travelling with his companions
northward from Jerusalem to Galilee. At
noon one day he comes near to a village
that nestles between two high mountains.
He sends his comrades on to the town to