

Lesson VII.

ISRAEL ENSLAVED IN EGYPT

May 19, 1907

Exodus 1 : 1-14—Memory Verses, 13, 14.

Golden Text—Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses.—Psalm 107 : 13.



1 Now these *are* the names of the children of Is'rael, which came into E'gypt ; every man and his household came with Ja'cob.

2 Reu'ben, Sim'eon, Le'vi, and Ju'dah,

3 Is'sachar, Zebu'lun, and Ben'jamin,

4 Dan, and Naph'tali, Gad, and Ash'er.

5 And all the souls that came out of the loins of Ja'cob were seventy souls : for Jo'seph was in E'gypt *already*.

6 And Jo'seph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation.

7 And the children of Is'rael were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty ; and the land was filled with them.

8 Now there arose up a new king over E'gypt, which knew not Jo'seph.

9 And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Is'rael *are* more and mightier than we :

10 Come on, let us deal wisely with them ; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.

11 Therefore they did set over them task-masters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Phar'ao treasure cities, Pi'thom and Raam'ses.

12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Is'rael.

13 And the Egypt'ians made the children of Is'rael to serve with rigour :

14 And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field : all their service, wherein they made them serve, *was* with rigour.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When Jacob came down to Egypt to live with his son Joseph, he brought with him seventy children and grandchildren. The names of his sons were, Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah ; Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin ; Dan and Naphtali ; Gad and Asher. At last these all grew old and died ; but they left a great many children ; and then their children had a great many more children, until at last there were hundreds of thousands of them filling the land. These all really belonged to Jacob, so they were called the children of Israel, from the new name which God had given to Jacob.

They took care of their sheep in Egypt, and were very happy, until the good king died, and another King Pharaoh reigned instead, who did not know anything about all the good which Joseph had done in the

land. He only saw that the children of Israel were gaining in numbers and strength all the time, and he began to be afraid. He said, "There are so many of them, that perhaps they may some day fight against me, and kill me and my servants. I must make their work so hard, that they will all die."

So he ordered them to dig clay, and make bricks to build great walls and buildings and cities, and he also set cruel masters over them, who beat them, and made their work very hard in the hot sun, until they were so unhappy that they wished they were dead.

Yet all this cruel treatment did not kill them, and the numbers of the children of Israel grew and grew every day, until the king of Egypt began to be still more alarmed, lest they should one day join his enemies, and fight against him, and take away his throne.