

propose? Why did he do this? Why would the brothers likely agree? What other name is given to the Ishmaelites? For how much was Joseph sold? What was the usual price of a slave? Why was it made less in Joseph's case? Whither was Joseph taken? Tell what you can of the route. Who had not been present at the sale? How did he feel when he returned? What expression did he give to his grief? What had he intended to do for Joseph?

II. THE BROTHERS' DECEIT, vs. 31-33. What did the brothers do with Joseph's "coat?" To whom did they then bring it? What lie did they tell about it? What question did they ask of their father? What did Jacob say about the coat? What did he believe regarding Joseph? Of what deceit had Jacob himself been guilty?

III. THE FATHER'S GRIEF, vs. 34-36. Of what was Jacob's rending his clothes a sign? Mention another sign of his grief. For how long did he mourn? What was the usual period of mourning? Who tried to comfort Jacob? How did he treat their efforts? What did he say that he would do? What did this mean? Give the name of the Egyptian to whom Joseph was sold. What was his office?

Now get the class to tell you of all the persons who were against Joseph,—his wicked brothers, the hard-hearted merchants, who made a business of buying and selling slaves, and the heathen master in Egypt. But who was on his side? The answer will readily come,—God. Impress the lesson, that any one who has God on his side is sure to succeed and prosper.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

[SEE SKETCH MAP, LESSON I.]

A heavy V on our Judea map (page 170) marks a spot on a hill overlooking Dothan Plain. Standing there and facing northwest you see the gentle slope of the hill covered with olive trees. Down at the foot of the hill is an open field. Beyond that the ground rises again in long low hills used for pasturing sheep and goats. Higher hills stand beyond these sheep pastures—hills and more hills, one beyond another, as far as you can see. No houses are in sight, but you can trace the whitish line of a dusty road descending that lower ridge; then through the olive foliage you get glimpses of two roads crossing the plain at the foot of the hill. In Joseph's time, as now there was good pasturage in this

vicinity. The present luxuriance of these orchards shows that the soil here is well watered instead of suffering from drought like so many other parts of Palestine. There are many wells and pits in various parts of that lower plain. That road which you see coming towards you down the distant hill is probably the old highway over which the Ishmaelites were coming from Gilead (off at your right) on the way to Egypt. It connects, off at your left, with one of the main caravan routes to Egypt.

Use a stereograph entitled, Plains of Dothan, Where Joseph Was Sold to the Ishmaelites.

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

Lesson Points

One may be robbed of his clothes by others; only his own evil-doing can take away his character. v. 23.

The surest way to prevent people from falling into pits is to fill up the pits. v. 24.

An opportunity for wrong-doing will offer no temptation unless there is some wicked desire in the heart. v. 25.

Every crime in the calendar may justly be laid at the door of covetousness. v. 26.

Of all sins hypocrisy is the most deserving of contempt. v. 27.

Cruel gain is cursed gain. v. 28.

Sorrow for sin cannot undo the consequences of sin. v. 29.

Lies may deceive others; they can never deceive God. v. 32.

There is greater reason to mourn for those who commit sin than for those who suffer from it. v. 34.