

## First Quarter : The Patriarchs and Early Leaders of Israel

**LESSON FOREWORD**—A brother sold by brothers into slavery, becomes God's agent in making Egypt a shelter for his people. But Egypt is only a halting place in God's plans. So our lesson tells his next step—the going forth of Israel from Egypt's bondage.

## Lesson I.

## PHARAOH OPPRESSES ISRAEL

January 5, 1919

## THE LESSON PASSAGE—Exodus 1 : 8-14 ; 2 : 1-8.

8 Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.

9 And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel 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 taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh 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 Israel.

13 And the Egyptians made the children of Israel 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.

Ch. 2 : 1 And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi.

**GOLDEN TEXT**—He shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.—Psalm 72 : 4.

2 And the woman conceived, and bare a son : and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.

3 And when she could no longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein ; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink.

4 And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.

5 And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river ; and her maidens walked along by the river's side ; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it.

6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child : and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.

7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee ?

8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.

**SENIOR AND HOME DEPARTMENT TOPIC**—Modern Oppressions from which Deliverance is Needed.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

## I. ISRAEL'S OPPRESSION.—8-14.

A new king ; beginning also a new stage in Israel's history. *Knew not Joseph* ; did not appreciate Joseph's character and service, and felt no obligation to Joseph's people. All oppressions,—social, economic, governmental—arise from forgetting some great fact of life,—brotherhood, stewardship, divine fatherhood. *More and mightier*. Had he known Joseph, he would have known Israel's prosperity to be a mark of divine favor,—a national asset, not a menace. *Deal wisely*. Ingratitude, fear, jealousy, are not wise counselors. *Lest they join our enemies . . . get them out*. Situated on the border, Israel might join the enemy and leave the land. *Set taskmasters*. Pharaoh plans to break Israel's spirit, control their num-



MOSES SAVED BY  
PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER

bers, possess their wealth. So they are compelled to work on public works under cruel overseers, like the Belgians under the Germans. *Built treasure cities* ; depots for war equipment and grain. *The more they grew*. To crush a nation's spirit is hard. It is impossible when God is with them. Tyranny is a reed, not a rod. *Made their lives bitter*. Do not forget that this bitter cup is in God's hand. It will make Israel ready to leave Egypt when God's hour arrives.

## II. ISRAEL'S DELIVERER.—Ch.

2 : 1-8. A man ; Amram by name. His wife was Jochebed. Levi was the third son of Jacob by Leah. *Goodly* ; beautiful. *hid him*. Pharaoh had now commanded the male children of the Israelites to be cast into the Nile as soon as they were