

Lesson X.

JOSEPH MADE RULER OF EGYPT December 8, 1918

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Potiphar, to whom Joseph was sold, soon saw the spirit and ability of Joseph. The Lord was with Joseph and he became the head of Potiphar's establishment. A great temptation came to him which he overcame. But he was cast into prison on the false accusation of Potiphar's wife.

GOLDEN TEXT—He that is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much.—Luke 16 : 10 (Rev. Ver.).

*Memorize Matt. 25 : 44.

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Genesis 41 : 33-44.

33 Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man-discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.

34 Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years.

35 And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.

36 And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.

37 And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants.

38 And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?

39 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as

Revised Version—overseers; ³ these; ³ Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it; ⁴ the; ⁵ a store; ⁶ Omit is; ⁷ spirit (small "s"); ⁸ Omit art; ⁹ signet ring; ¹⁰ set him over; ¹¹ his.

God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art.

40 Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

41 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

42 And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

43 And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.

44 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Joseph made ruler of Egypt, Gen. 41 : 33-44.

T.—Joseph's wisdom revealed, Gen. 41 : 1-13.

W.—Joseph called to the court, Gen. 41 : 14-24.

Th.—Joseph interprets dreams, Gen. 41 : 25-32.

F.—The parable of the talents, Matt. 25 : 14-30.

S.—The parable of the pounds, Luke 19 : 11-27.

S.—A righteous ruler, Neh. 5 : 1-13.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. A RULER CHOSEN.—33. Now therefore.

Joseph languished in prison for two years. While in prison, he had interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh's chief butler and baker. He predicted doom for the baker and restoration to royal favor for the butler. Joseph's interpretations were confirmed by actual facts. The butler who had been restored forgot about Joseph until Pharaoh needed an interpreter. He had dreamed two dreams, one of seven fat kine and seven lean kine, and another of seven good ears of grain and seven withered ears. The wise men and magicians of Egypt could not interpret these dreams. Then the butler remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh. Joseph was called and interpreted the dreams to point to seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. In our lesson we see that Joseph not only interprets the dreams but immediately goes on to show how the years of famine may be provided for. We see that Joseph is far more than a dreamer or interpreter of dreams. He is a practical man. Let Pharaoh look out. Joseph's wisdom is first seen in that he recommends immediate action. Thus he would avoid frantic and panicky measures on the very edge of famine. A man discreet and wise; a food controller. Joseph wisely insists that such a man be chosen for his ability and prudence, not because he happens to be a favorite at court. A great crisis demands a great man. Set him over the land. Again Joseph recommends that the controller be not only given adequate time but powers adequate to the task.

34-36. Let him appoint officers; an organization needed to carry out the plans of the supreme head. The fifth part of the land; literally, "fifth of the land,"—take a fifth part of the produce of the land. Gather all the food; all the food obtained by taking a fifth. Lay up; put it in a storage. Under the



hand of Pharaoh; in charge of the state officers. In this way, Joseph wisely prevents the speculators from operating. For a store (Rev. Ver.); for a reserve of food. Joseph was the first "Food Controller." "The grain tax was already an important part of Egyptian revenue, and its increase in years of such abundant plenty would be no hardship."

37-41. The thing was good. Pharaoh accepts the interpretation of the dream as true and approves of Joseph's plan. Can we find such a one as this. Pharaoh has been measuring Joseph as well as judging his plan. He saw ability in him. In whom the Spirit of God. Joseph had plainly said, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."

* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in either Part of List IV., a Red Seal is added to the Diploma in Colors given for List III., and a Gold Seal for the verses of the other Part. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, D.D., our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Bldg., Toronto.