

Lesson III.

JACOB'S MEETING WITH ESAU

April 20, 1913

Genesis 33 : 1-15. Study Genesis 32 : 3 to 33 : 17—Memory Verses, 10, 11.

Golden Text—Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you.—Ephesians 4 : 32.



1 And Ja'cob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, E'sau came, and with him four hundred men. And he divided the children unto Le'ah, and unto Ra'chel, and unto the two handmaids.

2 And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Le'ah and her children after, and Ra'chel and Jo'seph hindermost.

3 And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

4 And E'sau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him : and they wept.

5 And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children ; and said, Who are those with thee ? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant.

6 And the handmaidens came near, they and their children, and they bowed themselves.

7 And Le'ah also with her children came near, and bowed themselves : and after came Jo'seph near and Ra'chel, and they bowed themselves.

8 And he said, What meanest thou by all this drove which I met ? And he said, These are to find grace in the sight of my lord.

9 And E'sau said, I have enough, my brother ; keep that thou hast unto thyself.

10 And Ja'cob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand : for therefore I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me.

11 Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee ; because God hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. And he urged him, and he took it.

12 And he said, Let us take our journey, and let us go, and I will go before thee.

13 And he said unto him, My lord knoweth that the children are tender, and the flocks and herds with young are with me : and if men should overdrive them one day, all the flock will die.

14 Let my lord, I pray thee, pass over before his servant : and I will lead on softly, according as the cattle that goeth before me and the children be able to endure, until I come unto my lord unto Se'ir.

15 And E'sau said, Let me now leave with thee some of the folk that are with me. And he said, What needeth it ? let me find grace in the sight of my lord.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Jacob lived with his uncle Laban many years, taking care of his flocks and herds, and for his wages he received sheep and cattle of his own, till he became a very rich man. Then he began to long to go back to his old home in Canaan, and at last he set out with his two wives, Rachel and Leah, who were Laban's daughters, with their two handmaids or servant-women, Bilhah and Zilpah, Jacob's sons and daughter and possessions.

Jacob could not forget however, that his brother Esau had once threatened to kill him ; so when he drew near his home, and heard that Esau was coming to meet him with a great company of followers, he was afraid. But after he had prayed to God to take care of him, his fear left him. Afterwards he took great numbers of his sheep and cattle, and sent them on before him with his servants as gifts to his brother, hoping by this to soften his heart.

Next morning when the sun rose, Jacob looked up and saw, a short distance away, Esau with his four hundred men. Immediately Jacob hurried to meet him, bowing down before him seven times as he went. But the anger that had once been in Esau's heart, was quite forgotten, and he ran to meet his brother, throwing his arms about him, and they kissed each other and wept together. At last Esau lifted up his head, and, seeing the women and children behind Jacob, asked wonderingly, "Who are these?" "The children whom God hath given me," Jacob answered. And Rachel and Leah and the two handmaids drew near with Jacob's children and they too, bowed down before Esau. "But what means the droves of cattle that I met on the way?" Esau asked next. And Jacob explained that they were gifts to him as a token of love. "But I have enough of my own, my brother," objected