

Easter.

MAGDALENA! Magdalena!  
Hasten, feet of Magdalena!  
Hasten for the sun is rising  
O'er the Eastern hills of bloom!  
In thine eyes the tear-drops tender,  
In thy face the morning splendour;  
Hasten, feet of Magdalena,  
Hasten, hasten to the tomb!

Magdalena! Magdalena!  
Once thy soul was demon-haunted,  
Like the hart pursued it panted  
For the rest earth could not lend;  
Then he came to thee, the Healer,  
Came the Paraclete Revealer,  
At his feet thou fellest, pleading,  
In his bosom found a friend.

Magdalena! Magdalena! —  
Angels speak to Magdalena,—  
"Lo, the sealed tomb is rolled,  
Lo, the stone away is riven!"  
Once thy soul was demon-driven;  
Now the shining ones of heaven,  
By the empty tomb of Jesus,  
Thou art worthy to behold.

Magdalena! Magdalena!  
Favoured thou above all women;  
Hasten to the sad eleven,  
To the sorrowing ones, and say,—  
"He is risen! At the portal  
Of his tomb are forms immortal;  
Lo, mine eyes have seen the vision,  
In the place where Jesus lay!"

Magdalena! Magdalena!  
Though thy feet may flee from Judah,  
Though thou diest in the caverns  
'Neath the purple skies of Galilee,  
Yet thy message from the angel  
Shall become the world's evangel,  
And all wondering nations hear it,  
And thy mission blessed call.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 1706] LESSON III. [April 17

JOSEPH MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN.

Gen. 45. 1-15. Memory verses, 13-15

GOLDEN TEXT.

Overcome evil with good. Rom. 12. 21.

OUTLINE.

1. A Brother. 2. The Son.

TIME. 1706 B.C. The year of the descent into Egypt. Two hundred and fifteen years after the call of Abram, two hundred and fifteen years before the exodus from Egypt.

PLACE. The capital of Egypt.

CONNECTING LINKS. The famine has come, but Egypt has abundance of corn. The starving nations seek food in the Egyptian cities. Among the buyers come Joseph's brethren. He recognizes them, but keeps his secret. The incidents of our lesson occur in the second visit.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Refrain himself*—Could not withhold his tears. *The house of Pharaoh*—The members of the royal household; slaves and ministers. *Troubled at his presence*—Witness the power of conscience. *Earning nor harvest*—That is, plowing nor harvesting. *To ear* is an old English word, not used now, meaning to plow, and is probably from the same original as the Latin word *arare*. *To preserve you a posterity*—That is, to secure you from utter destruction, and so fulfil the promise made to their fathers. *A father to Pharaoh*—A wise and confidential friend and counsellor.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *The Brother.*

What had led to the scene which opens our lesson?

Give a reason why Joseph should cry.

"Cause every man to go out from me."

Give a second reason for it?

What evidence that he was really their brother is furnished by the circumstances?

What elements of brotherly love did Joseph show?

To what past fact that only they and he knew did he allude?

How did he attempt to put them at ease? Does Joseph's statement of the determinate purpose of God concerning him relieve them from responsibility?

2. *The Son.*

What had been the anxious question on Joseph's lip at each interview with his brethren?

When he had made himself known, what was his first thought?

What filial purpose does he express? How many years had elapsed since he had seen his father?

What is the spirit of the command concerning treatment of parents?

Joseph's days for obedience had passed, had his days for honouring his father also passed?

What was the chief desire of our blessed Lord? John 12. 27, 28; 15. 8.

What should be the prayer of every true son of God? Matt. 6. 9, 10.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Here is the doctrine of man's responsibility and of God's sovereignty.

The sheaves bowed as in the dream so long ago. It came in good time.

David said, "My times are in thy hand," Daniel said, "He knoweth the times and the seasons." Joseph proved it.

Joseph not only obeyed his father while a boy at home, he honoured him when prince of the foremost nation of the earth.

Notice the power of conscience, v. 3. Notice what grace in a man's heart can do v. 5.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION—Human responsibility.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

19. Into what state did the fall bring mankind?

Into a state of sin and misery.

Romans v. 12. Through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin; and so death passed unto all men, for that all have sinned.

B.C. 1706] LESSON IV. [April 24

JOSEPH AND HIS FATHER.

Gen. 47. 1-12. Memory verses, 10-12.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Honour thy father and mother: which is the first commandment with promise Eph 6. 2.

OUTLINE.

1. The King. 2. The Father.

TIME.—1706 B.C. Same as last lesson, but later in the year.

PLACE.—The land of Goshen.

CONNECTING LINK.—The brothers have fulfilled their mission. Israel and all his dependents have come to Egypt and are settled in Goshen. The parted father and son have met. And now it remains only to present them to the monarch.

EXPLANATIONS. *Some of his brethren*—Not all, but five, as representatives of the whole, and because their occupation placed them far below the Egyptians in caste. *Thy servants are shepherds*—A confession of social inequality. The sheep feeding and herding was given over to women. *To sojourn in the land*—Not as permanent inhabitants; for they knew that God had promised to them the land of Canaan. *Men of activity*—Men fitted for the duty of guarding and herding the royal droves of cattle. *Free and evil*—As compared with the lives of Abraham and Isaac, which had been long and prosperous. *The land of Rameses*—Probably not so called till long after, but when this account was written commonly so called. If Moses wrote this, he would naturally call it by the name of the Pharaoh whom he had known best.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *The King.*

In what position had the king told Joseph that he must be the greater? Gen. 41. 40.

How is this right of superiority recognized in this lesson?

What had been Joseph's special commission from the king?

In whom did the absolute ownership of the soil vest under an Oriental absolute monarch?

Had Joseph exceeded his authority, and encroached upon the rights of the throne?

What must have been the financial effect of Joseph's wisdom upon the revenues of the crown?

What does Pharaoh's question to Jacob suggest as to the possible duration of life in Egypt?

How did the king receive the request? Did he grant more than was desired?

2. *The Father.*

What must have been Jacob's appearance as he came in before Pharaoh?

Which one felt himself consciously the superior? v. 7.

Give a reason why he should feel so?

In what respect had Jacob's days been evil?

In what respect had they been days of blessing?

What is the purpose of discipline?

What kind of character had been wrought in Jacob by his life of suffering?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

The pilgrimage of Jacob is only a picture of human life.

Life is short at the best, and the evil equals the good.

Jacob looked for a better country. Heb. 11. 9-13.

The sons of Jacob came only to sojourn in the land, not to dwell.

We are but sojourners here. Are we looking for the better country?

Is any thing more beautiful than filial love?

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION—The better land.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

20. What is the sinfulness of that state? The want of original righteousness, and the depravity of our nature, through which it has become inclined only to evil.

[Romans v. 19; iii. 10; Matthew vii. 11. Luke xi. 13.]

To Schools Opening in the Spring.

It is important that schools opening in the spring, and desiring to take advantage of the Summer Series of our Sunday-school periodicals, should be organized for work before May 1st, and should send in their orders for papers or requests for grants as early in April as possible. With the first May numbers of both HOME AND SCHOOL and Pleasant Hours will be begun interesting serial stories which will be continued for about six months. It is important to begin subscriptions with these numbers so as to get these stories without break. Special Jubilee numbers of all our Sunday-school papers will be issued in June, full of pictures and stories illustrative of the life and reign of the Queen.

SUPERINTENDENTS and pastors would do well, when a young man leaves the Sunday school and his home to go to school, or into business in some other place, to write to the pastor or superintendent, or both, in the place to which the young man is going, asking them to look after him. Many a young man is lost to the Church and the Sunday-school for want of a little attention. The Young Men's Christian Association does a good work in this way. Think of this, and look after the strangers who come into your community, especially the young men.

As long as money can be made by the traffic, there are men who would build their guggeries in the crater of a volcano; they would sell rum, did the law permit them, amid the upheaving of an earthquake; and as the drunkard steps down the bank and hangs suspended by a single twig over the bottomless pit, they would put between his chattering teeth the draught that would unnerve his arm and plunge him into an eternal abyss. Shall we talk of moral suasion to such men? Only the pains and penalties of the law will reach them.—*Rev. James B. Dunn.*

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