

JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

May 12, 1907

Genesis 45 : 1-15 ; 50 : 15-21—Memory Verses, 4, 5.

Golden Text—Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.—Ephesians 4 : 32.



1 Then Jo'seph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him ; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Jo'seph made himself known unto his brethren.

2 And he wept aloud : and the Egyptians and the house of Phar'ah heard.

3 And Jo'seph said unto his brethren, I am Jo'seph ; doth my father yet live ? And his brethren could not answer him ; for they were troubled at his presence.

4 And Jo'seph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Jo'seph your brother, whom ye sold into E'gypt.

5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither : for God did send me before you to preserve life.

6 For these two years hath the famine been in the land : and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest.

7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God : and he hath made me a father to Phar'ah, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of E'gypt.

9 Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Jo'seph, God hath made me lord of all E'gypt : come down unto me, tarry not :

10 And thou shalt dwell in the land of Go'shen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast :

11 And there will I nourish thee ; for yet there are five years of famine ; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty.

12 And, behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Ben'jamin, that it is my mouth that speaketh unto you.

13 And ye shall tell my father of all my glory in E'gypt, and of all that ye have seen ; and ye shall haste and bring down my father hither.

14 And he fell upon his brother Ben'jamin's neck, and wept ; and Ben'jamin wept upon his neck.

15 Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them : and after that his brethren talked with him.

Ch. 50 : 15 And when Jo'seph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Jo'seph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him.

16 And they sent a messenger unto Jo'seph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying, So shall ye say unto Jo'seph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and thy sin ; for they did unto thee evil : and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Jo'seph wept when they spake unto him.

18 And his brethren also went and fell down before his face ; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants.

19 And Jo'seph said unto them, Fear not : for am I in the place of God ?

20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me ; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

21 Now therefore fear ye not : I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Pharaoh's dreams came true, just as Joseph had said. There were, first, seven years of plenty, and then came a famine, when no grain grew in the fields. So the people went to Joseph, and he opened his great storehouses, and sold them the grain he had stored up.

Many people came from a great way off to buy grain, and, amongst others, came Joseph's brothers. It was twenty years since they had seen him ; so, when they saw the great lord of Egypt, they never thought it was the young lad they had sold for a slave. But Joseph knew them, although he did not

tell them so, when they first came to him.

He wanted to find out whether they were really sorry for the way in which they had treated him, so many years before ; and when he discovered that they were not the wicked, cruel men they had once been, he made up his mind to tell them who he was.

At last one day, when he could keep his secret no longer, he sent all his servants out of the room, and when he and his brothers were left alone, he told them who he was, and also asked if his father were still alive.

His brothers, when they heard this, were so frightened that they could not speak.