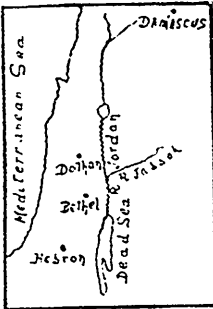


from the first. Esau's display of unwillingness to accept the gift is strikingly Eastern.

III. THE PARTING.—12-15. Let us go . . . I . . . before thee ; an offer of protection from Esau He said unto him. Jacob refused Esau's offer, either because he feared that Esau would change his mind and capture the entire caravan, or because, relying on God's protection, he wished to be independent of his brother. My lord knoweth. A ready and quite reasonable answer. I come unto . . . Seir ; the home of Esau, a mountainous district east of the Arabah, the name now given to the depression which continues the Jordan Valley south of the Dead Sea. Likely Jacob hoped to visit Esau at Seir sometime, though he did not mean to do so at once. In vs. 14, 15, Esau presses Jacob to accept at least an escort from him ; but this also Jacob declines.

Esau, with his followers, set out on their return to Seir, while Jacob with his cavalcade, journeys to Succoth, a place east of the Jordan and south of the Jabbok.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



The river JABBOK is one of the principal rivers of eastern Palestine. It flows into the Jordan about two-thirds the distance downward between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. It is a fine, clear, abundant stream, famed for the blueness of its waters, making its way through a deep ravine, with many a cascade to the Jordan. The only way of crossing the river now, as in Jacob's time, is

by fording. It was near the Jabbok that Jacob wrestled with the angel all night ; and afterwards met his brother Esau.

LESSON QUESTIONS

1-3 Whom did Jacob see ? Why should he not have feared any human foe ? By whom was Esau accompanied ? What did the presence of so many warriors give Jacob cause to fear ? Why did he divide his wives and children into groups ? In what order did he arrange them ? Give the reason for this order. In what manner did Jacob approach Esau ?

4-7 How did Esau greet Jacob ? Which son of Jacob wept on meeting with his brother who had injured him ? (Ch. 45 : 1, 2.) Describe the approach of Jacob's wives and children to Esau.

8-11 What present had Jacob sent to Esau ? Did Esau, at first, accept it ? Why was Jacob so urgent that it should be accepted ? What was the outcome of the discussion ?

12-15 What proposal did Esau make to Jacob ? How was it received ? What second proposal was made ? and how was this received ?

Whither did Esau and Jacob respectively go ?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Providence and prudence,—are both necessary in our lives ?
2. Is success won most surely by selfishness or by kindness ?

A LESSON FOR LIFE

Earl Morton, the famous regent of Scotland, speaking at the funeral of John Knox in St. Giles' Churchyard in Edinburgh, referred to the dead reformer as one who had neither flattered nor feared any flesh," and who, in spite of the stormy times in which he had lived, had "ended his days in peace and honor." It is a great thing to go through life independent of the favor or opposition of any man, however powerful, and such a noble independence is possible for those who fully trust in God and wholly serve Him.

Prove from Scripture—That peace with God brings peace with men.

Shorter Catechism.—Ques. 53. Which is the third commandment ? A. The third commandment is, Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain : for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

The Question on Missions.—3. What Protestant missions are now carrying on work in the island ? The Canadian Presbyterian Church carries on work among the Chinese in the north. The English Presbyterian Church has a mission among the Chinese in the south. The Church of Christ in Japan has a mission to the Japanese.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise : 474 (Supplemental Lesson), 297, 312, 19 (Ps. Sel.), 527 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 262.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. In what groups did Jacob array his wives and children and why ?
2. What discussion took place regarding Jacob's present ?
3. What proposals did Esau make and what came of them ?