

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON IX.—JUNE 1, 1913. Joseph Tests His Brethren.—Gen. 44: 1-34.

Commentary.—I. Joseph's accusation (vs. 1-13). Unusual events marked the second visit of the brothers to Egypt. The entertainment at Joseph's house was a surprise, and the knowledge that Joseph appeared to have of the eleven brothers was marvellous to them. They must have been both amazed and pleased at the way they had been treated, and they started off in the early morning on their homeward journey with great satisfaction. The ruler of Egypt was favorable to them in letting them have grain and in permitting the eleven brothers to return to their anxious father. They had no suspicion of the orders that Joseph had given his steward about returning the money to the men, or about the stratagem of concealing the silver cup in the mouth of Benjamin's sack. Joseph was about to bring a most trying test upon the brothers, a test that would bring their honesty into question. They were to have an opportunity to show their affection for Benjamin and their regard for their father. 4. Follow after the men—Joseph's scheme had been carefully worked out, both as to purpose and the time. The homeward trip was just begun, and the steward could quickly overtake the reward-seeking good—Joseph had been very kind to them, and, apparently, they had dealt ungratefully and dishonestly with him. 5. Divineth—Divination by cups, to ascertain the course of futurity, was one of the prevalent superstitions of ancient Egypt, as it is of Eastern countries still. It is not likely that Joseph, a believer in the true God, would have addicted himself to this superstitious practice; but he might have availed himself of that popular notion to carry out the successful execution of his stratagem for the last decisive trial of his brethren.—J. F. & B. This practice was to pour clean water into the goblet, and then look into it as a mirror to discern the future. Sometimes small pieces of gold and silver and precious stones were dropped into the water, and their appearance closely scrutinized, and certain incantations were pronounced in order to evoke some intelligible answer from the unknown and mysterious divinity supposed to abide in the water.—Whedon.

7. God forbid that thy servants should do—in their innocence they were amazed that such a charge as that should be made against them. 8. The money—we brought again unto thee—The brothers, through their spokesman, who was probably Judah, urged as a proof of their integrity, that they had brought back the money which was put into their sacks on the first visit to Egypt, although they were under no obligation to do it. If they were so careful not to withhold from Joseph what might possibly have been given to them by mistake, it was not probable that they would be guilty of stealing outright his treasured cup. 9. Let him die—So certain were they of their honesty, and so desirous that punishment should be meted out to the guilty brother, that they adjudged him worthy of death, who should be found to have done the wrong. We also will be my lord's bondsmen—Slavery was the punishment inflicted upon thieves, according to the law of Egypt. The brothers were willing to consider themselves all guilty, if the cup had been stolen by one of their number. 10. Shall be my servant—Joseph made a show of magnanimity in not accepting his brothers' liberal offer, and was satisfied to let the law be carried out. Ye shall be blameless—Only the guilty one was to be punished. 11. They speedily opened every man his sack—There was not a guilty man among the brothers, and there was no hesitancy in the submitting to a thorough search for the cup. 12. Began at the eldest—to carry out thoroughly the scheme and avoid any apparent knowledge of the whereabouts of the cup, the steward searched every sack. Found in Benjamin's sack—Just as the steward expected, the man who rent their clothes. The stroke was heavy, for Benjamin was the object of their special solicitude for their father's sake. Joseph well knew how to strike the brothers at the tenderest point. Returned to the city. They had started homeward with great satisfaction, but it was a heavy hearted company that returned.

14. He was set there—Joseph was expecting the return of his brothers with the steward, and probably waited for them. They fell before him. This was the first time that Joseph's brothers bowed down before him in fulfillment of his prophetic dreams. 15. Wot ye not—King ye not, R. V. Can certainly divine—Joseph was carrying out his stratagem and giving his brothers to believe that he understood the meaning of their strange omens. 16. What shall we speak—Each man was conscious of his own innocence with respect to the cup, but each was not absolutely certain that all his brethren were innocent, yet could not think that any one of them was guilty. The steward had worked perfectly, and there seemed to be no way to get around the evidence the steward had against them. Both found out the identity of the servants. In his narrative Judah admitted the charge that the cup was taken by Benjamin, and there may be an acknowledgment of past wrongs, possibly a thought of the crime against Joseph. Judah desires to find the ability to discern the hearts of men. We are my lord's servants. There is no disposition to avoid the punishment suitable to the crime charged, but rather an effort to let the punishment include the entire eleven. He shall be my servant. Joseph's purpose was to test his brothers thoroughly, and to bring them into the greatest perplexity. He had laid his plans to ensnare Benjamin and had succeeded. He was now to perceive the intense interest they had in Benjamin's welfare and in their father. Get you up in peace unto your father. This command is full of irony. How could they return to their anxious father in peace with Benjamin missing? They had had one bitter experience in returning to their

father with his favorite son missing, and there would be no peace in returning to him with his beloved Benjamin left in Egypt as a slave.

III. Judah's plea (vs. 18-34). No paraphrase can heighten the effect of Judah's address to Joseph. To add would be to diminish its excellence; to attempt to explain, would be to obscure its beauties; to clothe the ideas in other language than that of Judah, and his translators in our Bible, would ruin its energy, and destroy its influence. It is perhaps one of the most tender, affecting pieces of natural oratory ever spoken or penned, and we need not wonder to find that when Joseph heard it, he could not refrain himself, but wept aloud.—Clarke. There is no reflection cast upon Benjamin, and no denial of his guilt. It is remarkable that Judah, who was the first to propose the selling of Joseph as a slave, was desirous of bearing Benjamin's punishment.

Questions.—What directions did Joseph give to his steward regarding his brothers' money? Regarding his cup? Who overtook the brothers after they had started for home? What crime was charged to them? Who appeared to be guilty? What was the punishment for the crime charged? Why had Joseph laid this scheme? What confession did Judah make? Give the outline of Judah's plea.

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—The crucial test. I. Put Benjamin under a cloud. II. Tested Judah's promise of surety. III. Gave Joseph evidence of reform. I. Put Benjamin under a cloud. Joseph's method had the appearance of violence against the feelings of his father and brethren, but his design was to fill them at last with rejoicing. There was genuine affection back of all he did. Before he proceeded farther in helping his family in the famine, he would prove whether they had in reality improved morally. The cup being found in Benjamin's sack would give the guilty men occasion to manifest their real natures. Apparently the homeward journey was being made with no thought of sadness, very unlike their first return when Simeon was left bound in Egypt, and the demand for Benjamin was upon them. Now, both brothers were safe in their company, after an enjoyable and honored reception in Egypt. There was no brooding over their unconfessed crime of former years. How suddenly they were plunged into greater calamity than before! Nothing but abject acknowledgment would do when Benjamin had all the appearance of guilt against him. Judah could not prove his brother innocent though he believed him to be. The test was unexpected and exposed them to an agony of suspense between hope and fear. Their love and honor were at stake. They regarded their case as hopeless. The continued mystery connected with their business in Egypt was beyond their power to solve. They seemed compelled to repeat the affliction upon their father which before they had unfeelingly brooked upon him. II.—Tested Judah's promise of surety. Jacob's sons felt that their lives were in the hand of the Egyptian ruler. They did not suffer Benjamin to return alone. Judah's soul was stirred to its depths. That picture of sorrow and wail of agony from the pit has never been effaced from his memory. The cry of grief from his stricken father still haunted him. He had shown his repentance in making himself surety for sure upon the father. He spoke to Joseph of the endearing union between Jacob and Benjamin. He urged Joseph's responsibility in having Benjamin brought at such a cost to all the family. Judah's speech was very natural, simple and pathetic. It was conciliatory toward Joseph. His greatness, power and high rank were fully recognized. It was considerate in its reference to Jacob. It was courageous in its announcement of Judah's responsibility, and of his readiness to atone for the sin of his brother. All through the appeal he exhibited tenderness and sympathy in a very touching manner. It was an overwhelming argument. It showed that the whole calamity of the family arose from obedience to the judge's command, an obedience to which those brethren yielded with reluctance, because of their regard for their father. III.—Gave Joseph evidence of reform. The test was sufficient proof to Joseph. With all the pain it cost Joseph, his pleading from Judah afforded him real pay, because it told of the change in Judah. It was well that he was the speaker. Had it been Reuben, the proof of penitence would not have been so convincing. The last time Joseph had heard Judah mention his name was when he was in the pit and Judah, standing by proposing to sell him into slavery. On this occasion Judah was pleading to save Benjamin from bondage. If Joseph had been an Egyptian ruler, as they thought him to be, he must have been moved to compassion. With singular adroitness, Judah avoided making mention of the elder brother, except in his father's words. He did not declare that Joseph was in fact torn to pieces. He only used the argument best suited to gain his end. Joseph discovered in Judah's eloquent appeal a real feeling toward the aged father and his favorite sons. He saw his brethren were in a proper frame of mind and heart to be forgiven. T. R. A.

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BULL GIVES MILK

Delaware Experiment Farm Sells Animal Freak.

Newark, Del., May 26.—King Belda, the record Jersey bull at the Delaware College experimental farm, that recently startled many farmers and attracted national attention by actually giving milk, has been sold for \$500 to Scoville brothers, thoroughbred cattle breeders, at Chapinville, Conn. Since the statement was made in newspapers about a week ago that the bull gave milk, Professor Hayward, director of the experimental farm, has received a number of communications from prominent persons asking for confirmation of the reports and several days ago he demonstrated to a minister and a business man who visited the farm that the bull gave milk. Professor Hayward said the college authorities were loath to part with the animal and were reluctant to do so by the fact that the tollage was a half dollar to King Belda, who was sired by the great imported May Rose King and is valued at \$2,000.

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SUCCESSFUL PEAR GROWING.

Last summer I visited a number of the larger pear growers in New York State in order to learn something about their orchards, methods and how they were dealing with pear blight. While there are many neglected orchards in the State which are positive eyesores and of no commercial value I also visited orchards where almost the last word had been spoken on the subject of good care. I should like to outline the way in which years are grown on a couple of these farms. Mr. L. I. Morrell, of Kinderhook, has some one hundred and seventy-five acres in fruit and has made a special study of pear growing, especially of Keiffers. The varieties he grows are Bartlett, Seckel, Clapps and Keiffer. The soil is a sandy loam, and was in very poor condition when he bought it. Since then he has built up the land, until at present it is in excellent condition. In one block he has two hundred and twenty-eight Keiffer trees nineteen years old, which are in great shape. In the early spring he sends a man through these Keiffers to prune back all the branches to old wood; that is to say, he removes all last year's growth. This causes the trees to make a very vigorous growth each year, although they are not allowed to get any larger. Fruit spurs are developed all along the main branches of the trees, and a heavy set of fruit is the result. Every year he applies a mulch of tobacco stems around his trees, at the rate of twenty-five pounds to the tree, which costs him \$12 a ton by the car. Besides this he plows in a cover crop every year which consists of a mixture of rape, clover and vetch. Added to the tobacco stems and cover crop, he applies a commercial fertilizer of 4 per cent. N, and 18-20 per cent. phosphoric acid. Mr. Morrell is absolutely convinced that necessary in order to get the best results. He cultivates about every ten days from the early spring to the middle of June. Last year he sold all his pears at an average of \$1.25 a barrel, including Keiffers. The trees are planted twenty feet apart, and he estimates that for the past five years his Keiffers have averaged between three and five barrels. Mr. Morrell has blight in his orchard, but is doing all he can to control it, and feels confident that he will succeed. The application of fertilizers and his system of pruning are the most noticeable features of Mr. Morrell's method of handling his orchard. The amounts used seem heavy, but for twenty years he has been experimenting and now feels convinced that he cannot do with less. Mr. B. J. Case grows Seckel, Bartlett, Keiffer and Duchess and has had very good success. Although he does not

believe in as severe pruning as some growers recommend, he has his orchard gone over every year and a certain amount of pruning done. He cultivates the uses cover crops of clover, and has done so for years. It may be of interest to give his returns for the past few years. Mr. Case has kept strict account of all expenses on his farm and can tell his exact profit on every crop each year. In 1906 he netted one hundred and forty dollars an acre from Bartletts. In 1907, one hundred and forty-one dollars; 1908, seventy-three dollars; 1909, one hundred and six dollars; 1910, forty-four dollars; 1911, sixty-seven dollars; making an average net profit of ninety-five dollars an acre a year from this block of Bartletts. Taking these two places as illustrations of many others, we must admit that they seem to show that good culture is necessary in order to make pears pay. If heavy crops are to be expected, the trees must have plenty of available food, and must be in a vigorous condition.—Allan G. Bland, Ontario Department of Agriculture, in Canadian Horticulturist.

ALFALEA PROVERBS.

(By Charles M. Carroll.) Alfalfa enriches the ground. Alfalfa is a drought resister. Alfalfa is the best soil doctor. Alfalfa adds humus to the soil. Alfalfa increases the milk flow. Alfalfa is high in feeding value. Alfalfa balances the corn ration. Grow your protein—don't buy it. Alfalfa sod grows larger corn crops. Alfalfa is the greatest of all subsoilers. Alfalfa has no equal as a hog pasture. Alfalfa keeps stock in good condition. Alfalfa should be grown on every farm. An alfalfa field is a hog's idea of heaven. Fox tail is the greatest enemy of alfalfa. Growing alfalfa is good business farming. Alfalfa means more money and better homes. Raise what you feed and feed what you raise. Alfalfa does things and never leaves you. Alfalfa with a fair chance always makes good. Alfalfa fills the hay mow and pays for the privilege. Alfalfa insures larger yields from beef cattle. Alfalfa contains more protein per ton than clover or corn. Alfalfa is the agricultural wonder of the twentieth century. Alfalfa yields from two to three times as much as clover or timothy, and is more valuable than hay. NOTES. It is claimed that 100 pounds of fresh hay measure contains about 50 pounds water. 16 pounds organic matter, 50

pounds ash. Analysis shows that poultry manure contains 2.43 per cent. phosphoric acid, 2.23 per cent. potash and 3.25 per cent. nitrogen, as ammonia and organic matter. Cough among the hogs may be due to very dusty quarters. With young hogs it is frequently due to minute, thread-like worms in the bronchial tubes. A soft, hacking cough is a very common symptom of hog cholera. Hogs also have the common forms of bronchitis and pneumonia, just like other animals and people. With hogs, cough and lung troubles, aside from cholera, are frequently due to sleeping in warm quarters, possibly piled up, and then going out into cold places to feed. Hundreds of dairy farmers are feeding and milking 20 cows twice each day in the year, when the chances are that 12 to 15 would pay a larger profit. The important thing is to find out which are the really good cows, give the proper attention and dispose of the rest. Experiments have shown that manure benefited the land as long as 20 years after it was applied. Take the hint and remember that all the manure you get on the land this year will go on paying dividends for the next 10 or 20 years. There are many farmers who know enough about farming, apparently, to destroy fertility. Destroying fertility is not only a mistake, but it is sinful. Every farmer should aim to leave the farm he cultivates as good as, or better, than he found it. The gluten products are residues of corn left in the manufacture of glucose. Gluten meals consists mainly of hard or flinty portions after the bran, the germ or cut of the kernel and part of the starch have been removed. All vegetables, except potatoes, should be cooked in uncovered dishes. If cabbage is rather strong and loses color, it is because it has been put on in cold water, or the kettle has been covered. More cakes fail from "guessing" at proportions than is generally supposed. Use a divided and marked cup, and weigh accurately. Mayonnaise dressing will separate when too much salt has been added to the egg yolks, or when the oil has been dropped too fast, or if the ingredients are not thoroughly cleaned when used. If whites of eggs are not perfectly cold, or if they are too fresh, they will not beat very stiff. Cream will whip well unless at least 35 hours old and very cold. Celery and lettuce may be kept fresh by standing the roots in cold water and throwing over them a damp cloth or dry manila paper. They should, before using, be washed thoroughly, soaked in ice water and dried on a towel. Onions that are over-strong in flavor may be rendered less so by slicing, then putting in a collander and pouring boiling water over them. After this plunge into ice water and let them remain for half an hour. This will leave them sweet and crisp. Rag rugs made of cotton wash well. These are inexpensive and are often just the thing for the kitchen, as well as other parts of the house.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS

Table of market prices for various commodities including Dressed heavy, Butter, Eggs, Chickens, Fowl, Ducks, Turkeys, Apples, Potatoes, Cabbage, Beef, Pork, Mutton, Veal, and Spring lambs.

SUGAR MARKET.

Sugars are quoted in Toronto, in bags, per cwt., as follows: Extra granulated, St. Lawrence \$4.40, Do. Redpath's \$4.35, Do. Acadia \$4.35, Imperial granulated \$4.25, No. 2 yellow \$4.00, In barrels, 5c per cwt. more; car lots, 5c less.

LIVE STOCK

Table of live stock prices including Export cattle, Butcher cattle, Do. do. medium, Do. do. common, Butcher-cows, Do. do. medium, Do. do. common, Do. bulls, Feeding steers, Stockers, Do. light, Milkers, Springers, Sheep, ewes, Bucks and culls, Lambs, Hogs, fed and watered, Hogs, f.o.b., Calves.

OTHER MARKETS

Table of Winnipeg Grain Exchange prices for Wheat, May, July, Oct., and Oats, May, July, Oct.

MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET. Minneapolis.—Close: Wheat—May, 89c; July, 90 1/4c; Sept., 90 7/8c; No. 1 hard, 92 3/4c; No. 1 northern, 91 1/4c; No. 2 do., 89 1/4c to 90 1/4c. Corn—No. 3 yellow, 61c. Oats—No. 3 white, 35 1/2c. Rye—No. 2, 55 to 57 1/2c. Flour—Unchanged.

DULUTH GRAIN MARKET. Duluth.—Wheat—No. 1 hard, 92 1/4c; No. 1 northern, 91 1/4c; No. 2 do., 88 3/4c to 89 1/4c; May, 91 1/4c; July, 91 1/4c; Sept., 91 3/8c.

GLASGOW CATTLE MARKET. Glasgow.—Watson & Co. cable average supplies; a brisk demand was experienced at firm quotations. Steers, 14 3/4 to 16c; hogs, 12 to 13c.

CHEESE MARKETS. Madoc.—Five hundred and twenty-five cheese boards; 200 sold at 11 1/2c and 60 at 11 7/16c; balance refused at latter price. Woodstock.—Offerings, 500 colored, all sold at 11 3/8c. Pictou.—Nine hundred and thirty cheese offered here today; 300 sold at 11 3/16c; balance sold at 11 1/8c.

MONTREAL LIVE STOCK. Montreal Despatch—East end market.—Cattle—Receipts, 400; calves, 1,700; cows, 75; sheep and lambs, 200; hogs, 850. Trade was rather slow, as higher prices were being demanded for cattle. Prime beefs, 7 1/4 to 7 1/2c; medium, 5 1/4 to 7c; common, 4 to 5c. Milkmeats, 4 3/4 to 5c. Calves, 2 1/2 to 7c. Sheep, 5 to 6 1/4c. Spring lambs, \$4 to \$6 each. Hogs, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4c.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK. Chicago receipts 15,000. Market steady. Beef, 7 1/4 to 8 1/2c. Pork, 8 1/2 to 9c. Steers and feeders, 5 1/2 to 7c. Cows and heifers, 4 1/2 to 7c. Calves, 6 1/2 to 9 1/2c. Hogs, receipts 2,500. Market steady. Light, 8 1/2 to 8 3/4c. Mixed, 8 1/4 to 8 1/2c. Heavy, 8 1/2 to 8 3/4c. Rough, 8 1/2 to 8 3/4c. Pigs, 6 1/2 to 8 1/2c. Bulk of sales, 8 1/2 to 8 3/4c. Sheep, receipts 18,000. Market slow, steady. Native, 4 1/2 to 6 1/2c. Yearlings, 6 1/2 to 8 1/2c. Lambs, native, 6 1/2 to 7 1/2c.

BUFFALO LIVE STOCK. East Buffalo despatch—Cattle Receipts 75 head, slow and steady. Veals—Receipts, 175 head; active and 25c higher, \$6.00 to \$10.25. Hogs—Receipts, 1,600 head; active and steady to 10c higher; heavy \$9.00 to \$10.10; mixed, \$9.10 to \$9.15; Yorkers, \$9.10 to \$9.25; pigs, \$9.20 to \$9.30; roughs, \$8.85 to \$9.00; \$1.25, \$6.50 to \$7.25; dairies, \$9.00 to \$9.15. Sheep and lambs—Receipts 6,000 head; sheep active and steady; lambs, slow, 25c lower; yearlings, 25c lower; lambs, 4.50 to \$7.75; yearlings, \$6.00 to \$6.75; wethers, \$5.75 to \$6.15; ewes, \$3.00 to \$5.50; sheep, mixed, \$5.50 to \$5.75.

MANY ICEBERGS IN ATLANTIC. New York, May 26. The steamship Campanella, of the Trunium Line, which arrived off the Bar on Monday from Rotterdam, and came on to her pier this morning, brought a story of passing 49 icebergs between latitude 47.16, longitude 44.40, and latitude 46.07, longitude 48.22, on her way to Halifax, where she called. May 14 was the day on which most of the icebergs were seen. The number reported by Captain Nelson is the largest seen from any ship this year. He estimated that the height of some of them above the water was 200 feet.