

Lesson XI.

JACOB BEFORE PHARAOH

June 15, 1913

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Ch. 46 : 8-34 gives an account of the arrival of Jacob and his family in Egypt.**GOLDEN TEXT**—All things work together for good to them that love God.—Romans 8 : 28.**Memorize vs. 8-10. THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Genesis 47 : 1-12. Study Genesis 46 : 28 to 47 : 12, 28-31. Read Genesis, chs. 47-50.

1 Then Jo'seph came and told Pharaoh, and said, My father and my brethren, and their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have, are come out of the land of Canaan; and, behold, they are in the land of Goshen.

2 And he took some of his brethren, even five men, and presented them unto Pharaoh.

3 And Pharaoh said unto his brethren, What is your occupation? And they said unto Pharaoh, Thy servants are shepherds, both we, and also our fathers.

4 They said moreover unto Pharaoh, For to sojourn in the land are we come; for thy servants have no pasture for their flocks; for the famine is sore in the land of Canaan: now therefore, we pray thee, let thy servants dwell in the land of Goshen.

5 And Pharaoh spake unto Jo'seph, saying, Thy father and thy brethren are come unto thee:

6 The land of Egypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and thy brethren to dwell; in the land of Goshen let them dwell: and if thou knowest.

Revised Version—went in; from among his brethren he took five; Omit also; And they said unto Pharaoh: Omit For; there is no pasture for thy servants' flocks; thy; able men among; many are the days of the years of thy life; they; the presence of.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 28 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—Joseph meets his father, Gen. 46 : 29-34. T.—Jacob before Pharaoh, Gen. 47 : 1-12. W.—"Comforted of God," 2 Cor. 1 : 3-7. Th.—The death of Jacob, Gen. 49 : 28-33. F.—A peaceful end, Ps. 37 : 27-40. S.—Numbering our days, Ps. 90 : 1-12. S.—Children's duty to parents, Eph. 6 : 1-10.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



EGYPTIAN THRONE

I. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS BEFORE PHARAOH—1, 2. Joseph . . . told Pharaoh. Joseph was too politic to tell Pharaoh that he had actually promised his family a home in Goshen; but merely announced their arrival there, as if awaiting the king's further pleasure. Took . . . brethren . . . five men. "Five," some have thought because the whole number would have looked too formidable; others that the best looking were selected; still others, that the number "five"

was specially important amongst the Egyptians, like "seven" amongst the Jews. Presented them unto Pharaoh. It showed no little affection, as well as courage, for Joseph thus to proclaim his own lowly origin before the gossiping courtiers of Egypt.

3-6. What is your occupation? A question (see ch. 46 : 33) like "How old art thou?" (see v. 8), strictly according to Eastern custom. Shepherds; a class specially disliked and despised by the Egyptians (see ch. 46 : 34). On ancient Egyptian monuments, shepherds are pictured lame or deformed, dirty and unshaven, and sometimes most ridiculous in appearance. Joseph's plan, in bidding his brothers tell Pharaoh their actual occupation, seems to have been,

any men of activity among them, then make them rulers over my cattle.

7 And Jo'seph brought in Ja'cob his father, and set him before Pharaoh: and Ja'cob blessed Pharaoh.

8 And Pharaoh said unto Ja'cob, How old art thou?

9 And Ja'cob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and I have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.

10 And Ja'cob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh.

11 And Jo'seph placed his father and his brethren, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Ram'ses, as Pharaoh had commanded.

12 And Jo'seph nourished his father, and his brethren, and all his father's household, with bread, according to their families.

that the Hebrews might be kept from mingling with the Egyptians, and so be the better prepared for leaving Egypt when the time came. The best of the land; for purposes of pasture. Inscriptions of the period twice represent the admission of pastoral (sheep-breeding) tribes into Egypt. Rulers over my cattle. Much attention was paid to cattle-breeding in Egypt, and Pharaoh had large herds, which were pastured in Goshen. The Egyptian contempt for shepherds does not seem to have extended to cattle breeders. The office of the king's cattle superintendents was one of high dignity.

II. JOSEPH'S FATHER BEFORE PHARAOH—7-10. Joseph brought in Jacob; and so there stood together, the greatest monarch, the ablest, statesman and the oldest saint of the time. Set him before Pharaoh; the plain shepherd, with simple manners, "withered, limping, famine-driven," before the ruler of the first nation of the world in civilization, refinement and culture. But Joseph was not ashamed,—he was proud of his father. Jacob blessed Pharaoh; instead of bowing down before him. Age and nearness to the end of life raised him above even the king. How old art thou? See on v. 3. An hundred and thirty. Abraham had lived to be 175 and Isaac 180 (see chs. 25 : 7; 35 : 28). Few; as compared with his father and grandfather. Evil; because of his many trials. Pilgrimage. Jacob so describes his life, not only because of his many wanderings, but chiefly because he looked upon heaven, not earth, as his home (see Heb. 11 : 9, 13). Earth was but the journey homewards.

III. JOSEPH'S FATHER AND BROTHERS IN GOSHEN—11, 12. Best of the land; "in a part of the Delta which is still considered to have the best