

Lesson X.

JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BRETHREN

June 8, 1913

Genesis 45 : 1-15. Study Genesis 45 : 1 to 46 : 7—Memory Verses, 4, 5.

Golden Text—Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!—Psalm 133 : 1.

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.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When Joseph discovered that his brothers were not the wicked cruel men they had once been, he could no longer keep from making himself known to them, and sending all his servants from the room, he was left alone with them. Then, to the brothers' amazement, the great lord of Egypt burst into tears, and said to them, "I am Joseph, your brother; is my father still alive?"

The brothers were so frightened that they could not answer him. But he put his arms around their necks and kissed them and cried with them, until they understood that he loved and forgave them. "Do not be grieved," he said, "nor angry with yourselves because you sold me into Egypt, for God arranged it so, that I might save your lives and the lives of your children, and keep the people of Egypt from starving."

Then Joseph told them that the famine had already been in Egypt two years and would

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 E'gyptians and the house of Phar'aoth 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 e'ating 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'aoth, 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.

last five years longer. In all these years there would be no harvest, as God had said ; so they must make haste and go back to his father in Canaan and say to him, "Thus saith thy son Joseph, 'God hath made me a friend of Pharaoh and ruler of all the land of Egypt. Come down to me, and thou shalt live in the best part of the land, in Goshen, where thou shalt be near me, thou and thy children, thy flocks and all that thou hast. I will take care of thee, lest thou and thy family become poor.'"

And Joseph said, "You see for yourselves, and Benjamin sees, that I am indeed your brother. Go and tell my father of all my greatness in Egypt and all that you have seen, and make haste and bring him here to me." And Joseph kissed Benjamin and his brothers again, and they all talked lovingly together.