

Lesson VI.

JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

May 12, 1907

Genesis 45 : 1-15; 50 : 15-21. Commit to memory vs. 4, 5. Read Genesis, chs. 44 to 50.

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 on¹ 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 Egypt'ians¹ and the house of Phar'ao^h 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 which² there shall neither be eating nor harvest.

7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save³ 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'ao^h, 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

Revised Version—¹heard ; ²And now be ; ³shall be neither plowing ; ⁴remnant ; ⁵you alive ; ⁶ruler over ; ⁷come to poverty, thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast ; ⁸And he ; ⁹It may be that Joseph will ; ¹⁰fully ; ¹¹message ; ¹²transgression ; ¹³that ; ¹⁴And ; ¹⁵meant ; ¹⁶for.

LESSON PLAN

I. Forgiveness Granted, 1-8.

II. Forgiveness Proved, 9-15.

III. Forgiveness Confirmed, Ch. 50 : 15-21.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Seeking food, Gen. 42 : 1-20. T.—The second journey, Gen. 43 : 1-14. W.—Fears dispelled, Gen. 43 : 15-34. Th.—A sorrowful return, Gen. 44 : 1-17. F.—Judah's appeal, Gen. 44 : 18-34. S.—Joseph forgives his brothers, Gen. 45 : 1-15. S.—Joseph forgives his brothers, Gen. 50 : 15-21.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 56. What is the

five years of famine ; lest thou, ⁷ 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 per-adventure hate us, and will¹⁰ certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him.

16 And they sent a¹¹ messenger unto Jo'seph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying,

17 So shall ye say unto Jo'seph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the¹² trespass of thy brethren and their sin ; for¹³ they did unto thee evil : and now, we pray thee, forgive the¹² 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, ye¹⁵ thought evil against me ; but God meant it¹⁶ unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

21 Now therefore fear ye not : I will¹⁷ nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

reason annexed to the third commandment ? A. The reason annexed to the third commandment is, That however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment.

The Question on Missions—6. What forms of mission work are carried on in Honan ? The Canadian ministers and their Chinese helpers preach the gospel. At each station is a hospital, where a doctor treats free the sick and blind who come. Missionary ladies teach and minister to Chinese women and children. Schools are conducted.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 583 (Supplemental Lesson) ; 404 ; 123 ; 32 (Ps. Sel.) ; 542 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY) ; 162.

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—About B. C. 1791 ; at the Egyptian capital (see Lesson V.).

Connecting Links—Ch. 41 : 50-52 narrates the birth and naming of Joseph's two sons. After the seven years of plenty had passed, the seven years of famine began. The famine affected, not Egypt alone, but surrounding countries as well, including Palestine, where Jacob still lived, with his sons and their families. Learning that there was grain to be had in Egypt, the ten brothers went thither to buy ; but being recognized by Joseph, were somewhat harshly treated as

spies, ch. 42 : 1-17. Simeon was retained as a hostage, and they were bidden to return, bringing Benjamin, their youngest brother, with them, ch. 42 : 18-0. The verses following (21-24) show how the consciences of the brothers smote them for their ill-treatment of Joseph twenty-two years before. Vs. 25-28 contain the episode of their finding, at the end of the first day's journey homeward, their money restored in their sacks. Jacob at first refused to send Benjamin (ch. 42 : 29-38) ; but the need increased, so that he was at last prevailed on to allow