

Lesson V.

JOSEPH THE WISE RULER IN EGYPT

May 5, 1907

Genesis 41 : 38-49. Commit to memory vs. 38-40.* Read Genesis, chs. 41 to 43.

GOLDEN TEXT—If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God.—James 1 : 5.

38 And Phar'ah said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this ¹ is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?

39 And Phar'ah said unto Jo'seph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou ² art :

40 Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled : only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

41 And Phar'ah said unto Jo'seph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

42 And Phar'ah took off his ³ ring from his hand, and put it upon Jo'seph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck ;

43 And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had ; and they cried before him, Bow the knee : and he ⁴ made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.

44 And Phar'ah said unto Jo'seph, I am Phar'ah,

Revised Version—¹Omit is ; ²Omit art ; ³signet ring ; ⁴set him over ; ⁵his ; ⁶Omit all ; ⁷laid up.

LESSON PLAN

- I. A Ruler Chosen, 38-41.
- II. A Ruler Proclaimed, 42-45.
- III. A Ruler at Work, 46-49.

DAILY READINGS

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

M.—Joseph remembered, Gen. 41 : 1-13. T.—Pharaoh's dream, Gen. 41 : 14-24. W.—Joseph's interpretation, Gen. 41 : 25-37. Th.—Joseph the wise ruler in Egypt, Gen. 41 : 38-49. F.—Sent before, Ps. 105 : 5-22. S.—The Lord exalteth, 1 Sam. 2 : 1-10. S.—A mighty Helper, Ps. 37 : 25-40.

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 54. What is required in the third commandment?* A. The third command-

ment requireth the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, word, and works. *Ques. 55. What is forbidden in the third commandment?* A. The third commandment forbiddeth all profaning or abusing of any thing whereby God makes himself known.

45 And Phar'ah called Jo'seph's name Zaph'nath-paane'ah ; and he gave him to wife As'enath the daughter of Poti'pherah priest of On. And Jo'seph went out over ⁶ all the land of Egypt.

46 And Jo'seph was thirty years old when he stood before Phar'ah king of Egypt. And Jo'seph went out from the presence of Phar'ah, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

47 And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls.

48 And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities : the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same.

49 And Jo'seph ⁷ gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering ; for it was without number.

The Question on Missions—5. How is North Honan divided for mission purposes? In North Honan, there are three chief cities, Chang Te Fu, Wei Hui Fu, and Hwai Ch'ing Fu, each being the capital of a group of about eight counties. We have a mission in each of these cities. Wei Hui is the most central. Chang Te is 60 miles north, and Hwai Ch'ing 80 miles southwest of it.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 583 (Supplemental Lesson) ; 250 ; 263 ; 96 (Ps. Sel.) ; 127 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY) ; 275.

EXPOSITION

By Rev. Principal John Scrimger, D.D., Montreal

Time and Place—About B. C. 1800 ; the capital of Egypt, either On or Zoan.

Connecting Links—Ch. 40 : 16-19 gives Joseph's interpretation of the chief baker's dream. The chief butler is restored to office as Joseph had predicted, and the chief baker is hanged, ch. 40 : 20-22. The chief butler, however, makes no effort to secure Joseph's release, and for two years nothing occurred to change his fortunes. Then Pharaoh had two dreams (vs. 1-7), which none of his wise men could interpret, v. 8. This recalled Joseph to the butler's mind and he was sent for, vs. 9-15. Disclaiming all wisdom of his own and giving all glory to God (v. 16), Joseph explained the meaning of Pharaoh's dreams (vs. 17-32), and advised measures that should be taken to provide against the approaching famine, vs. 33-37.

I. A Ruler Chosen, 38-41.

V. 38. *Pharaoh said ;* impressed, as all

his court must have been, with Joseph's wisdom and practical ability to devise and carry out plans for saving the country from many of the evils of the threatening famine. We can picture the jealous rage of the "magicians" and "wise men" of Egypt who had failed to interpret the king's dreams, v. 8. *Can we find a man?* For the important and difficult duty of providing for the approaching years of famine. Joseph can hardly have had any thought that he, an alien and a slave, would be chosen to carry out the plan he had proposed. But ancient Egypt seems to have been singularly ready to appreciate ability in its public service, irrespective of race or rank. Many other examples of it occur on the monuments. (Compare the sudden advancement of Daniel, Dan. 5 : 29, and Mordecai, Esther 8 : 15 ; see, also, Light from the East.) *The Spirit of God.* Joseph had attributed all his wisdom

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Lessons are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. They will be found in the Supplemental Lesson Leaflets.