

Lesson II.

MOSES PREPARED FOR HIS WORK

July 13, 1913

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The Lesson follows closely upon that for last Sabbath.

GOLDEN TEXT—Blessed are the meek : for they shall inherit the earth.—Matthew 5 : 5.

Memorize vs. 11, 12. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Exodus 2 : 11-25. Study Exodus 2 : 11-25 ; Acts 7 : 17-29 ; Hebrews 11 : 23-27. Read Exodus, ch. 2.

11 And it came to pass in those days, when Mo'ses was ¹grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens : and he ²spied an Egyptian smiting an He'brew, one of his brethren.

12 And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that *there was* no man, he ³slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.

13 And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the He'brews strove together : and he said to him that did the wrong, Wherefore amitest thou thy fellow ?

14 And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us ? ⁴intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian ? And Mo'ses feared, and said, Surely ⁵this thing is known.

15 Now when Phar'ah heard this thing, he sought to slay Mo'ses. But Mo'ses fled from the face of Phar'ah, and dwelt in the land of Mid'ian : and he sat down by a well.

16 Now the priest of Mid'ian had seven daughters : and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

17 And the shepherds came and drove them away :

Revised Version—¹grown up ; ²saw ; ³smote ; ⁴thinkest ; ⁵the ; ⁶moreover he drew water for ; ⁷Omit him ; ⁸sojourner ; ⁹the course of those many days ; ¹⁰saw ; ¹¹look knowledge of.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 28 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—Moses prepared for his work, Ex. 2 : 11-25. T.—Self denial, Matt. 16 : 21-25. W.—John the Baptist's mission, Luke 1 : 68-80. Th.—Faith's triumph over adversity, Acts 7 : 22-29. F.—Timothy's preparation, 2 Tim. 3 : 10-17. S.—Faith in affliction, Heb. 11 : 23-27. S.—Prepared for service, Rom. 12 : 1-8.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. SYMPATHY.—11, 12. In those days ; while the oppressed Hebrews, under the blows and curses of cruel taskmasters were toiling to build Pharaoh's treasure cities (see ch. 1 : 11, 14). Moses . . grown

recognize his authority. Killedst the Egyptian. Moses' motive in doing this had been misunderstood (see Acts 7 : 24). It was not seen that he was really intending to help his people. Known ; and there-



STEWARD OVERLOOKING THE TILLAGE OF THE LAND

up ; 40 years old, thoroughly educated after the Egyptian fashion, a strong and able man, Acts 7 : 22, 23. Went out ; with the deliberate purpose of breaking with Egypt and siding with Israel. Looked on ; with grief and sympathy. Burdens ; oppressive labors under harsh compulsion. An Egyptian ; likely a driver of one of the labor gangs. Smiting an He'brew ; probably with the bastinado, a stick or lath of bamboo which, by long continued tapping, inflicts exquisite torture. Slew the Egyptian ; a richly deserved punishment, whether or not Moses had the right to inflict it. Hid him in the sand ; perhaps of some quarry, hoping, it may be, that the death, if discovered, would be set down to accident.

13, 14. The second day. Moses seems definitely to have joined his own people. Two . . Hebrews strove together ; whereas it was only unity amongst themselves, that could give the Hebrews any hope of escape from Egypt. Wherefore . . ? Moses, who had given up everything for his people, doubtless expected them to

fore he was liable to be called to account for it.

II. DISCIPLINE.—15-17. Pharaoh . . sought to slay Moses ; fiercely angry, no doubt, at this interference with the policy of repressing the Hebrews in every possible way. Fled . . land of Mid'ian ; the home, on the farther side of the Gulf of Akaba, to the east of Arabia, of a tribe descended from Abraham (Gen. 25 : 2), and, therefore, kinsfolk of the Israelites. By a well. In Eastern countries, wells are of great importance, as possessions and landmarks. The priest. Amongst Arabian tribes, the priest, besides being supposed to speak for their god, was consulted before an undertaking, especially a war, or to settle a dispute or other difficulty. Daughters . . drew water ; the duty, to this day, amongst the Bedouin tribes, of unmarried girls. Troughs ; still usually found about Eastern wells, often made of stone. Shepherds . . drove them away ; wishing to water their own flocks first. Moses . . helped them ; with manly chivalry.