

Lesson III.

JACOB'S MEETING WITH ESAU

April 20, 1913

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Chs. 29 : 1 to 32 : 2 tell of Jacob's twenty years' sojourn in Haran and of his flight from Laban. Ch. 32 : 3-32 brings Jacob to the brook Jabbok, and tells of his wrestling with the angel. **GOLDEN TEXT**—Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you.—Ephesians 4 : 32 (Rev. Ver.).

Memorize vs. 10, 11. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Genesis 33 : 1-15. Study Genesis 32 : 3 to 33 : 17. Read Genesis, chs. 32-34.

1 And Ja'cob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold, E'sau came, and with him our hundred men. And he divided the children unto Le'ah, and unto Ra'chel, and unto the two handmaids.

2 And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Le'ah and her children after, and Ra'chel and Jo'seph hindermost.

3 And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

4 And E'sau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him : and they wept.

5 And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children ; and said, Who are these with thee ? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant.

6 Then the handmaidens came near, they and their children, and they bowed themselves.

7 And Le'ah also with her children came near, and bowed themselves : and after came Jo'seph near and Ra'chel, and they bowed themselves.

8 And he said, What meanest thou by all this ? drove which I met ? And he said, These are to find grace in the sight of my lord.

Revised Version—1 himself : 2 these ; 3 handmaids ; 4 and her ; 5 company ; 6 Omit These are ; 7 let ; 8 be thine ; 9 forasmuch as I ; 10 one seeth thee ; 11 gift ; 12 that the ; 13 with me give suck : and if they overdrive ; 14 flocks ; 15 to the place of ; 16 is ; 17 according to the place of the children, until.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 26 Old Bailey, London, England)—M—A guilty conscience, Gen. 32 : 3-13 T.—Jacob prevails with God, Gen. 32 : 24-32. W—Jacob's meeting with Esau, Gen. 33 : 1-17. Th.—A lesson in forgiveness, Matt. 18 : 15-22. F.—A lesson in love, 1 Cor. 13 S—Love your enemies, Luke 6 : 27-36. S.—Deliverance from fear, Ps. 34 : 1-8.

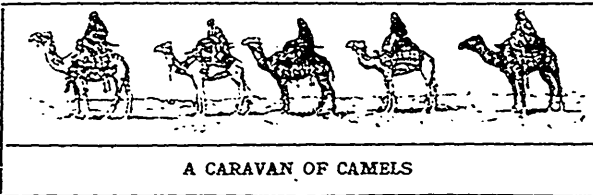
THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE MEETING.

1-3. Jacob lifted up his eyes ; eyes which had just seen God as a friend, and which should therefore have feared no human foe. Behold,

Esau ; now a powerful desert chief at the head of his fierce warriors. Four hundred men. Since Esau had brought so large an armed force, Jacob had good cause to suppose that he intended harm against him. Divided the children ; into four companies, under their respective mothers. Jacob's reason was the same as for the division of his company into two "hands" or camps (see ch. 32 : 8, 9). The groups were arranged in the order of Jacob's affection for them Rachel and Joseph hindermost ; that is, in the safest place. He himself . . . before them (Rev. Ver.) ; so as to be the first to meet Esau. Bow . . . seven times ; with all the Eastern obsequiousness in approaching a monarch. Many ancient letters from subject princes and officials to the king of Egypt begin : "At the feet of my lord, seven times and seven times I fall."

4-7. Esau ran . . . embraced him . . . fell on his neck . . . kissed him. Esau had fallen from his purpose of slaying Jacob (see ch. 27 : 41), and his brotherly



A CARAVAN OF CAMELS

Esau was rekindled at the sight of Jacob. They wept ; tears of repentance for his deceit and trickery on Jacob's part and of forgiveness on Esau's. Vs. 5-7

present "an interesting picture : the mothers with their little ones come forward in groups to pay their respects to the grim-visaged warrior, whose name had caused so much terror in the camp."

II. THE PRESENT.—8-11. All this drove ; the five droves now united, of ch. 32 : 13-20. Esau ignores what the servants had told him about this present. To find grace ; favor. In the sight of my lord ; as a subject before his sovereign. I have enough. Esau makes a show of refusing, according to the custom of Eastern courtesy in bargain making. Nay . . . receive my present. Doing so would signify complete reconciliation ; Jacob dared not let Esau go without this. Thy face, as . . . the face of God. Esau's face, Jacob says, had seemed to him as gracious and favorable as God's face (see ch. 32 : 30). Because of this it was that Jacob had offered his gift to Esau. Take . . . my blessing ; the gift intended to express good-will and affection, offered with prayers for blessing on the receiver. He took it ; as he had intended