

Lesson IX.

JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS December 1, 1918

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—We pass now from Jacob to Jacob's family, particularly Joseph. He is now a lad of seventeen. Jacob, like his fathers, is dwelling in the South land, near Hebron, which is 20 miles south of Jerusalem. Jacob's shepherd sons have gone to Dothan (see Geography Lesson).

GOLDEN TEXT—Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all transgressions.—Proverbs 10: 12 (Rev. Ver.).

*Memorize Matt. 25: 37-43.

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Genesis 37: 18-28.

18 And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

19 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.

20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

21 And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.

22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto

Revised Version—1 Omit when; 2 and before; 3 one of the pits; 4 An evil; 5 Omit he; 6 hand; 7 take his life; 8 Omit but; 9 but lay; 10 deliver; 11 restore; 12 Omit again; 13 Omit out; 14 the; 15 travelling company; 16 Ishmaelites; 17 Omit and; 18 hearkened unto him; 19 And there.

his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and behold, a company of Ishmaelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?

27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for our brother is and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

28 Then there passed by Midianite merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Joseph sold by his brothers, Gen. 37: 18-28.

T.—Joseph hated by his brothers, Gen. 37: 1-8.

W.—Joseph visits his brothers in the field, Gen. 37: 9-17.

Th.—Avoiding strife, Col. 3: 18 to 4: 1.

F.—God's providence with Joseph, Ps. 105: 1-22.

S.—Duties of children to parents, Eph. 6: 1-9.

S.—Unfailing love, 1 Cor. 13: 1-13.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE PLOT.—18-20. Saw him afar off. Hate is far sighted as well as love. Joseph had been sent to his brothers at Shechem. They had passed to Dothan, fifteen miles on. Joseph follows. They conspired. Their hate is swift to see its opportunity. Joseph is far from home. There were three causes of

through his brothers is preparing it. Let us . . . cast . . . into some pit; a cistern for watering the flocks. Some evil beast; wild beast. This is the explanation to be taken to the father.

21, 22. Reuben; Jacob's firstborn. Delivered him; by proposing a new plan. Let us not kill him; thus avoid the guilt or bloodshed. Cast him into this pit; starvation instead of violence, so the brothers thought, but Reuben intended to come afterward and deliver him from the pit. Reuben has kindness, but lacks courage to oppose the whole thing.

II. THE PIT.—23, 24. They stripped Joseph. The brothers think to end him, but God is making a beginning. He will use the hate of the brothers for his purpose. Out of his coat. They would have a peculiar pleasure in laying hands on this coat. In God's plan, Joseph must be stripped of his decorations to work out his destiny. Jacob, in his blind love, gives a gaudy coat. God in his wise love has it torn off. Into a pit. It was empty, so he was not drowned.

III. THE EXILE.—25. Looked, and, behold; a dramatic turn in the story. Company of Ishmaelites; a caravan, descendants of Ishmael, son of Hagar and Abraham. From Gilead; a district lying east of the Jordan between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. Caravans from Egypt and Gilead passed by Dothan. Spicery; gums. Balm; the gum of the mastic tree for which Gilead was famous. Myrrh; a resinous substance obtained from a low shrub. These things were used by Egyptian physicians, priests and embalmers.



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this hatred. First, he had carried an evil report of his brethren to Jacob. This did not necessarily make him a talebearer, but it made him such to his brothers. Secondly, Jacob loved Joseph beyond all his other brothers, and showed it in a partial and foolish way, for he gave him a splendid coat which not only decorated him but differentiated him from his brothers. Thirdly, he had dreams of supremacy. He dreamed of sheaves. His brothers' sheaves did obeisance to his. He dreamed that the sun, moon and eleven stars, representing father, mother and brothers, did honor to him. These dreams were given of God, but given to realize not to publish. Joseph wore his dreams like his coat. They were decorations, not challenges. He flaunted them before his brothers. Dreams should sober, not puff up. Joseph needs discipline. God

* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in either Part of List IV., a Red Seal is added to the Diploma in Colors given for List III., and a Gold Seal for the verses of the other Part. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, D.D., our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Bldg., Toronto.