

## Lesson IX.

## JOSEPH TESTS HIS BRETHREN

June 1, 1913

Genesis 44 : 4-17. Study Genesis, ch. 44—Memory Verses, 16, 17.

**Golden Text**—Confess therefore your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.—James 5 : 16.

4 And when they were gone out of the city, and not yet far off, Jo'seph said unto his steward, Up, follow after the men ; and when thou dost overtake them, say unto them, Wherefore have ye rewarded evil for good ?

5 Is not this *it* in which my lord drinketh, and whereby indeed he divineth ? ye have done evil in so doing.

6 And he overtook them, and he spake unto them these same words.

7 And they said unto him, Wherefore saith my lord these words ? God forbid that thy servants should do according to this thing :

8 Behold, the money, which we found in our sacks' mouths, we brought again unto thee out of the land of Ca'naan : how then should we steal out of thy lord's house silver or gold ?

9 With whomsoever of thy servants it be found, both let him die, and we also will be my lord's bondmen.

10 And he said, Now also let it be according unto your words : he with whom it is found shall be my servant ; and ye shall be blameless.

11 Then they speedily took down every man his sack to the ground, and opened every man his sack.

12 And he searched, and began at the eldest, and left at the youngest : and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

13 Then they rent their clothes, and laded every man his ass, and returned to the city.

14 And Ju'dah and his brethren came to Jo'seph's house ; for he *was* yet there : and they fell before him on the ground.

15 And Jo'seph said unto them, What deed is this that ye have done ? wot ye not that such a man as I can certainly divine ?

16 And Ju'dah said, What shall we say unto my lord ? what shall we speak ? or how shall we clear ourselves ? God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants : behold, we are my lord's servants, both we, and *he* also with whom the cup is found.

17 And he said, God forbid that I should do so : but the man in whose hand the cup is found, he shall be my servant ; and as for you, get you up in peace unto your father.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

The morning after Joseph's brothers had had dinner with him, they set out very early on their journey back to Canaan. But before they went, Joseph had told his steward to fill their sacks with as much corn as they could carry, and to put every man's money back in the mouth of his sack, as had been done when they came into Egypt before. "And put also," he said, "my own silver cup into the sack of the youngest."

The brothers had scarcely left the city, before Joseph told his steward to follow after them and ask why they had done him evil for good,—why they had taken away his

silver cup. So the steward hurried after them, and spoke to them as Joseph had told him.

The brothers were very much distressed at this. "God forbid," they said, "that we should steal Joseph's cup." They had brought back the money which they found in their sacks the first time they returned to Canaan; how would they now take from Joseph's house silver or gold which did not belong to them ? If he found the cup in any of their sacks, let that man be put to death and the others would become Joseph's slaves. "No," said the steward, "but let him alone who has