

Lesson XII.

JOSEPH CARES FOR HIS KINDRED

December 22, 1918

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—In the interval Jacob has been called to Egypt. God appeared in vision on the way telling him not to fear to go, for God had a purpose to work out there.

GOLDEN TEXT—Honour thy father and mother.—Ephesians 6 : 2.

*Memorize Matt. 25 : 44-46.

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Genesis 47 : 1-12.

1 Then Jo'seph¹ came and told Phar'ah, and said, My father and my brethren, and their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have, are come out of the land of Ca'nan; and, behold, they are in the land of Go'shen.

2 And² he took some of his brethren, *even* five men, and presented them unto Phar'ah.

3 And Phar'ah said unto his brethren, What is your occupation? And they said unto Phar'ah, Thy servants are shepherds, both we, and³ so our fathers.

4 They said moreover unto Phar'ah, For to sojourn in the land we come; for thy servants have no pasture for their flocks; for the famine is sore in the land of Ca'nan: now therefore, we pray thee, let thy servants dwell in the land of Go'shen.

5 And Phar'ah spake unto Jo'seph, saying, Thy father and thy brethren are come unto thee:

6 The land of E'gypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and thy brethren to dwell; in the land of Go'shen let them dwell: and if thou knowest

Revised Version—¹went in; ²from among his brethren he took five men; ³Omit also; ⁴And they said unto; ⁵Omit For; ⁶there is no pasture for thy servants' flocks; ⁷thy brethren; ⁸able men among; ⁹many are the days of the years of thy life; ¹⁰been; ¹¹and they have not; ¹²the presence of Pharaoh.

any⁹ men of activity among them, then make them rulers over my cattle.

7 And Jo'seph brought in Ja'cob his father, and set him before Phar'ah: and Ja'cob blessed Phar'ah.

8 And Phar'ah said unto Ja'cob, How¹⁰ old art thou?

9 And Ja'cob said unto Phar'ah, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have¹⁰ the days of the years of my life¹¹ been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.

10 And Ja'cob blessed Phar'ah, and went out from¹² before Phar'ah.

11 And Jo'seph placed his father and his brethren, and gave them a possession in the land of E'gypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Ram'ses, as Phar'ah had commanded.

12 And Jo'seph nourished his father, and his brethren, and all his father's household, with bread, according to their families.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Joseph cares for his kindred, Gen. 47 : 1-12.

T.—Joseph sends for his father, Gen. 45 : 16-23.

W.—Joseph meets his father, Gen. 46 : 28-34.

S.—Caring for her mother-in-law, Ruth 2 : 18-23.

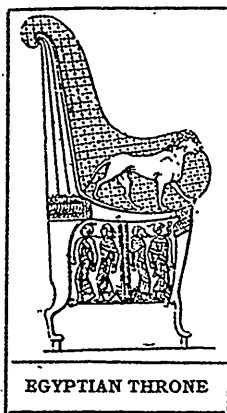
Th.—Joseph mourns for his father, Gen. 50 : 1-13.

F.—Joseph comforts his brothers, Gen. 50 : 14-21.

S.—Returning to the father's house, Luke 15 : 18-24.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. AT PHARAOH'S COURT.—1-4. My father and my brethren. Joseph's circle is now complete. It remains for him to provide for them in a strange



EGYPTIAN THRONE

land. The house of Jacob was three score and ten, ch. 46 : 27. Took some . . . *even* five; names not given. Presented; introduced. What is your occupation? Joseph had anticipated this question and told them what to say. Thy servants are shepherds. Shepherds were an abomination to the Egyptians, ch. 46 : 34. This very fact and the somewhat remote position of Goshen would help God's divine purpose to make them and keep them a separate

people to carry out his own purposes.

5, 6. The land of Egypt is before thee; Phar'ah's way of saying that their request is to be allowed to settle in Goshen was granted. Men of activity. Phar'ah is willing to avail himself of the help of Joseph's brothers if they are anything like Joseph. Rulers over

my, cattle. The overster of the royal herds was an important official.

7-10. Jacob blessed Pharaoh. Pharaoh was king and Jacob only a shepherd, but his age made it quite in keeping for Jacob to bestow a blessing. Jacob's heart would be filled with gratitude to Pharaoh for his doings to Joseph. How old art thou? always a natural question to put to an old man. The years of my pilgrimage; of my sojourning or wanderings. Jacob's life, like that of Isaac and Abraham, had been a wandering, unsettled one. Few; compared with Isaac who lived to be 180 and Abraham who lived to be 175. Evil. Jacob had many sorrows and stern experiences in his life, such as his strife with Laban and Esau, the misdoings of his sons, Reuben, Simeon and Levi, and greatest, his sorrow over the supposed loss of his favorite son Joseph. But Jacob was not blind to the blessings that God had bestowed on him in his life. His reunion with his son Joseph and the high place of Joseph must have gladdened him. Have not attained unto the days . . . of my fathers. The length of his life was not equal theirs. Went out from before Pharaoh; retired from his presence.

II. IN THE LAND OF GOSHEN.—11, 12.—Joseph placed his father; gave them a settled abiding place. All Joseph's influence and wisdom are used not only for the father but his brothers. In the best of the land; best from the standpoint of a shepherd people. In the land of Rameses; so called because of a city built in that district by Rameses II. and

* 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.