

**International S. S. Lessons.**

**April 15.**

**JOSEPH SOLD INTO EGYPT.**

Les. Gen. 37 : 23-36. Gol. Text, Gen. 50 : 20.  
Mem. vs. 26-28. Catechism Q. 97.

**HOME READINGS.**

M. Gen. 37 : 12-22... Joseph Visits his Brethren.  
T. Gen. 37 : 23-35... Joseph Sold into Egypt.  
W. Luke 22 : 1-6, 47-54 Jesus Sold.  
Th. Acts 7 : 1-16... God's Promise.  
F. Psal. 87 : 1-18... "Commit thy Way unto the Lord."  
S. Psalm 61 : 1-17... The Prayer of the Troubled.  
S. Rom. 12 : 9-21... Overcome Evil with Good.

Time—B. C. 1729, soon after last season.

Places—Hebron, twenty miles south of Jerusalem; Dothan, about seventy miles north-east of Hebron.

Opening words.—Jacob's partiality for Joseph, as shown by giving him the coat of many colors, and doubtless in other ways, first excited the envy and hatred of his brothers. Joseph's dreams added fuel to the flame. They hated him yet the more, and plotted to sell him into Egypt.

Helps in studying—23. Was come unto his brethren—at Dothan, where they were feeding their flocks. 24. Pit—an empty cistern for catching rain-water, dug in the ground. 25. Ishmaelites—descendants of Ishmael, Abraham's son by Hagar, called Midianites in v. 28. Gilcad—the region east of the Jordan. Spicery and balm and myrrh—still the products of that region. 27. Were content—satisfied to do as he advised. 28. Twenty pieces of silver—shekels, about fifteen dollars, the price of a slave under twenty years old, Lev. 27 : 5. 34. Dipped the coat—to give the appearance that Joseph had been killed. 34. Rent his clothes—showing his grief. 36. Pharaoh—the king of Egypt.

**QUESTIONS.**

Introductory.—What mark of love did Jacob give Joseph? How did his brothers feel toward Joseph? What increased their hatred of him? Why was Joseph sent to them? Title? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. Joseph Seized, vs. 23, 24.—How did Joseph's brothers feel when they saw him? What did they first do to him? What did they then do? What was the condition of the pit?

II. Joseph Sold, vs. 25-28.—What happened as they were eating? What did Judah propose? What was done? Which is the sixth commandment? What did our Saviour say of this commandment? Matt. 5 : 21, 22.

III. Joseph Mourned, vs. 29, 36.—What is said of Reuben? Why did he return to the pit? How did he express his grief? What did Joseph's brothers do with the coat? How was Jacob affected? How did he express his grief? What did his family do? What did Jacob say to them? What became of Joseph?

1. Envy leads to hatred, hatred to malice, and so to a readiness to injure others.

2. The one who hates his brother is a murderer in spirit, if not in deed.

3. God overrules for good the evil plans and deeds of men.

4. God will be with his children and will care for them in their trials.

**April 22.**

**JOSEPH RULER IN EGYPT.**

Les. Gen. 41 : 38-48. Gol. Text Gen. 41 : 33-48.  
Mem. vs. 38-40. Catechism Q. 98, 99.

**HOME READINGS.**

M. Gen. 40 : 1-23... Joseph in Prison.  
T. Gen. 41 : 1-24... Pharaoh's Dreams.  
W. Gen. 41 : 25-36... Joseph's Interpretation.  
Th. Gen. 41 : 37-57... Joseph Ruler in Egypt.  
F. Psalm 87 : 23-40... The Reward of the Righteous.  
S. Isa 55 : 1-9... Food for the Famishing.  
S. Psalm 40 : 1-17... Waiting for the Lord.

Time—B. C. 1716; Joseph thirty years old, and thirteen years in Egypt.

Place—Heliopolis, also called On.

Opening words.—Joseph remained in the service of Potiphar for about ten years. Then, on a false charge, he was cast into prison. There he gained the confidence of the keeper, and was given the care of the other prisoners. His interpretation of the dreams of two of Pharaoh's officers who were his fellow-prisoners finally led to his release. Pharaoh had two dreams which none of his wise men could explain. By the advice of the chief butler, whose dream he had interpreted, Joseph was called, and told Pharaoh that seven years of plenty were to be followed by seven years of famine. He advised Pharaoh to prepare for the years of scarcity by saving the surplus of the years of plenty. Pharaoh received the advice with favor, and made Joseph ruler over the land.

Helps in Studying.—38. The Spirit of God—the source of Joseph's wisdom. James 1 : 5, 30. Discreet and wise—such a man as Joseph had described. (See v. 33.) 40. Only in the throne—Pharaoh would be his only superior, 42. His ring—the seal ring, thus giving him authority to act for him. Fine linen—dress worn by persons of high rank. Gold chain—a badge of office, 43. Second chariot—next the king's, 44. Lift up his hand—have power. 45. Zaphnath-paaneah—an Egyptian name meaning "the revealer of secrets," or "the bread of life." On—the same as Heliopolis, a city on the east bank of the Nile, six miles north of the modern Cairo; the capital of Lower Egypt. 46. Thirty years old—thirteen years after he was sold into Egypt. Gen. 37 : 2. Stood before Pharaoh—as his minister. 47. By handfuls—abundantly. 48. Laid up the food in the cities—in storehouses built for the purpose.

Introductory.—Why was Joseph cast into prison? How long was he in prison? How was he released? What were Pharaoh's dreams? What was Joseph's interpretation of them? What did he advise Pharaoh to do? Title? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. Joseph Exalted, vs. 38, 41.—What did Pharaoh think of Joseph's advice? What did he say to his servants? To what office was Joseph raised? What did Pharaoh say to him in thus honoring him?

II. Joseph Honored, vs. 42-45.—What badge of office did Pharaoh give Joseph? How else was Joseph honored? What proclamation was made before him? What further did Pharaoh say to him? What new name did he receive? Whom did he marry?

III. Joseph Gathering Food, vs. 46, 48.—How old was Joseph? Where did Joseph go? For what purpose? How long did the plenty last? What provision did Joseph make for the famine? What amount of food was gathered? Where did Joseph lay it up? What do we pray for in the third petition? What else should we do when we offer this petition for daily bread? What do we read in 2 Thess. 3 : 10?

1. God will honor those that honor him.

2. Truthfulness, diligence and industry will ensure God's blessing.

3. Faithfulness in little things prepares the way for greater trusts.

5. The Lord is mindful of our good even when our way seems the darkest.