

Lesson VIII.

JACOB WINS ESAU

November 24, 1918

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Twenty long years have passed since our last lesson. All this time Jacob spends in Haran with Laban, the brother of Rebekah. Now he returns homeward with his wives and children. Our lesson finds him at the brook Jabbok (see Geography Lesson) with Esau drawing near.

GOLDEN TEXT—A soft answer turneth away wrath.—Proverbs 15 : 1.

*Memorize Matt. 25 : 41-43.

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Genesis 33 : 1-11.

1 And Ja'cob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, E'sau came, and with him four 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 fel' 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 are² those with thee ? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant.

6 Then the³ handmaidens came near, they and their
Revised Version—1 himself ; ² these ; ³ handmaids ; and he ; ⁴ her ; ⁵ company ; ⁶ To find grace ; ⁷ let that thou hast be thine ; ⁸ forasmuch as I ; ⁹ one seeth the face ; ¹⁰ gift.

children, and they bowed themselves.

7 And Le'ah also ⁴ 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 ⁶ drove which I met ? And he said, ⁶ These are to find grace in the sight of my lord.

9 And E'sau said, I have enough, my brother ; ⁷ keep that thou hast unto thyself.

10 And Ja'cob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand : ⁸ for therefore I have seen thy face, as ² though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me.

11 Take, I pray thee, my ¹⁰ blessing that is brought to thee ; because God hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. And he urged him, and he took it.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Jacob wins Esau, Gen. 33 : 1-11.

T.—Jacob fears Esau, Gen. 32 : 3-12.

W.—Jacob sends presents to Esau, Gen. 32:13-23.

Th.—Jacob wrestles with the angel, Gen. 32 : 24-32.

F.—Dealing with an offended brother, Matt. 18:15-22.

S.—The unmerciful servant, Matt. 18 : 23-35.

S.—How to win our enemies, Luke 6 : 27-38.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

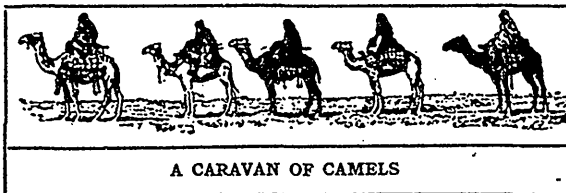
I. THE MEETING.—1. Jacob *lifted up his eyes . . . looked . . . behold* ; a dramatic way of indicating that a crisis is drawing near. Jacob is not looking

in the crafty way he looked for Esau coming from the fields long ago. There is fear, born of a sense of wrong-doing, in his eyes. Nor is it the same Jacob that looks. Discipline has done

much for him. 2 He has known the bitterness of being deceived by Laban as he deceived Esau. He has known what it is to love with a pure love. His love for Rachel made seven years seem as a few days. He has seen God face to face, wrestling with the angel until a new blessing, a new name, a new nature came with the new day. Esau came. Is he the same Esau with vengeance in his heart ? That is Jacob's anxious thought. With him four hundred men ; a formidable band if Esau is unchanged. Divided the children. He had already divided his whole band in two (ch. 32 : 6-8) so that one might escape if the other was attacked. Now he divides the children for the same reason. Leah ; daughter of Laban, sister of Rachel, married before Rachel to Jacob. Rachel ; Jacob's favorite wife. Handmaids ; female attendants.

3. Rachel and Joseph hindermost ; so that favorite wife and favorite son have the best chance of escape. Jacob is fearful, but not in a panic. He

has not lost his presence of mind. This is strategy. He had previously shown diplomacy by sending a gift to Esau of 550 animals sent in 9 different droves in order to make a greater impres-



A CARAVAN OF CAMELS

sion. Moreover, he had asked protection from God.

3-7. Bowed himself to the ground ; in profound Oriental courtesy. The supplanter has become suppliant. Seven times ; the perfect number. Jacob showed Esau the greatest reverence. Esau ran to meet. Esau cannot remain on his dignity. Jacob shows studied courtesy ; Esau, unstudied eagerness. Fell on his neck. This reads like a part of the parable of the Prodigal Son (see Luke 15 : 11-24). Kissed ; in token of reconciliation. Wept ; tears that washed away bitter memories. Who are those. After the first burst of emotion, Esau's interest is excited by the sight of the children. Came near . . . and . . . bowed ; introduced as they come band by band.

II. THE GIFT.—8, 9. What *meanest* thou by all this drove. Esau now refers to the gift of cattle that Jacob sent before in 9 bands. To find

* 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.