

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson VI.—Second Quarter, For May 12, 1907.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson. Gen. xlvi. 1-15; 15, 21—Memorial Verses. 4, 5—Golden Text, Eph. iv. 32—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

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We have before us the task of summarizing and getting the heart of the last nine chapters of this wonderful book of beginnings, the topic of the portions assigned as the lesson being "Joseph's Forgiveness of His Brethren," which will have an analogy in Jesus' forgiveness of Israel when they shall receive Him at His coming in glory and, turning to Him with the whole heart, shall say, "Lo, this our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us" (Isa. xxv. 9). The gospel which does not proclaim forgiveness of sins as the first thing freely given is not the gospel of God, but "another gospel" of man's device (Gal. i. 6-12; Acts xiii. 38, 39; Luke xxiv. 46-48).

If Jesus has been truly revealed to us, then we have heard Him say, "Come near," and life and conscious forgiveness are ours in Him (Isa. xlv. 10, 11), with which compare Eph. ii. 13; 4, 6; 7. To question the reality and sincerity of this forgiveness, as Joseph's brethren did (v. 17), is only to display the contemptible meanness of our sinful nature and to accuse the Lord of forgiving us we do. No wonder Joseph wept when after all his kindness to his brethren he found them so misjudging him. Our similar treatment of our blessed Lord is enough to make Him weep too.

What an abundant revelation of the heart of Christ is to be found in His three weepings—at the grave of Lazarus, over Jerusalem, and in Gethsemane! We would do well to consider in this lesson study the seven weepings of Joseph (xlii. 24; xliii. 30; xlvi. 2, 14, 15; xlii. 29; 1, 1, 17), five times over his brethren and Benjamin, and twice over his father.

Last week's lesson left Joseph ruler over all the land of Egypt at the beginning of the seven years of dearth and in full and absolute control of all the corn to be had. If life was to be prolonged, it could only be by application to Joseph, and the corn had to be paid for. In our case there is no life but in Christ, yet it cannot be bought, but must be accepted, as Joseph's brethren obtained theirs, freely (John v. 12; Rom. vi. 23). The testing of Joseph's brethren in chapter xlii and the remembrance of their guilt suggest the true penitence of the nation in days to come (Zech. xii. 10), when they shall look upon Him whom they pierced.

In chapter xlii Judah consenting to become surety for Benjamin and his plan in chapter xlvi. 18-34, are among the most eloquent parts of the whole story, and particularly so as we remember that our Lord came from Judah and is spoken of as the surety for Israel in Jer. xxx. 21, revised version, margin.

The words "peace," "welfare," "well," "good health," of xlii. 23, 27, 28, are all the same word and remind us of Mordecai in Est. x. 3, but especially of Him who is our peace, our health, our salvation.

In xiv. 1, Joseph made himself known to his brethren. Jesus must make Himself known to us, and this He longs to do by His spirit through His word. We should beware of reading the Scriptures without seeing Jesus, for otherwise it may be time lost. It is beautiful to see Joseph recognizing the hand of God in all the events of the past (xli. 5, 7, 8; 9, 1, 20) and sending the messages of love and good cheer to his father from the long lost son.

Two of Joseph's words to his brethren as he sent them to bring his father should become watchwords with believers—"Regard not your stuff, for the good of all the land of Egypt is yours," and "See that ye fall not out by the way" (verses 20 and 24). God would have us as strangers here, regarding not this world's goods except in so far as we can use them for Him, but rich toward God in Christ Jesus, have our affections set upon things above and avoid all strife as we journey on.

In proportion as things unseen become real all things seen and temporal become unreal. Jacob in his old age is careful to walk with God, and as he is about to pass out of the land of promise to go down to Egypt he seems to have some misgivings and to desire a message from God. He is therefore granted a comforting and assuring message from his faithful God (xlii. 1-4) and so goes on his way to greet his long lost son. He could not believe that Joseph was still alive till he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent for him. It is well when there is visible evidence in our lives that Jesus lives and has sent us to bring people to Him (Eph. ii. 10; Tit. iii. 8).

Do not fail to note the meeting of Jacob and Pharaoh and Jacob's testimony (xlii. 9); also Jacob's blessing upon the two sons of Joseph (xliii. 13-29) and the wondrous fullness of the blessings upon Joseph himself (xlii. 22-26). Compare the last words of Jacob and Joseph in xliii. 21, and 1, 24, and note the assurance of deliverance from Egypt as foretold to Abraham in chapter xv. 12-16. See Joseph's twice repeated "God will surely visit you" (v. 24, 25) and think of the testimony of that coffin in Egypt to many a discouraged soul 'tose long years of oppression ere Moses led them out. We look not to a dead person, but to a risen, living, returning Christ, who will fulfill every promise of God to every believer.

THE FARM TELEPHONE.

Brings The Rural Districts in Close Touch With the Inhabitants of The Towns—Residence on The Farm More Desirable.

Farmers are probably the most enthusiastic telephone users. To the resident of the rural sections, the telephone means even more than it does to have a splendidly organized postal service, distance reducing, rapid transit electric systems and they live almost next door to every other inhabitant in the city. Consequently even without the telephone they have not the sense of isolation, the feeling that they are cut off from all their fellow beings that the farmer experiences. Even with all these advantages over the farmer, the city dweller, almost without exception, has a telephone in his office or in his home. He finds it absolutely indispensable. It is a business necessity. In many instances more business travels by way of the telephone than over all the other highways of commerce. There has been and still is a great demand for the telephone in this country and all are bending their energies to supplying this demand.

The latest developed telephone field, however, is the rural or the agricultural sections of the country. Two reasons can be set down for the backwardness of telephone development in these places. The first and most important is to be found in the fact that up to the last four or five years farmers practically did not know what a telephone was. They depended entirely for communication on the slow going mails or their own teams. The second reason was the fact that even had the farmers wanted telephone service they could not have had it. The Bell Telephone Company absolutely refused, time and time again, to give any telephone service to small cities, much less so to a half dozen or more farmers scattered over wide sections of the country. "There is no money in it," said they. But then the men came into the telephone business, the men who are now known as the "Independents."

While, comparatively speaking, the telephone development on farms is not great, yet taking into consideration the very short time the farmers have had telephones at all, this development is most wonderful of the achievements of the telephone. On the modern farm the telephone is a luxurious necessity. One could expatriate all day on the utility of farm telephone and yet not have to quarter. To the farmer the telephone is almost human. It is more to him than any other of the great inventions of the nineteenth century.

A telephone on the farm is the best investment a farmer can make, to say nothing of its convenience, and where he can build his own line the expense is nothing compared with the benefits.

1. It saves time, "horse flesh" and money, making many trips to the village unnecessary.

2. It gives the farmer all the advantages of his village neighbor, by placing him in communication and easy access of all.

3. It calls the doctor night or

day, saving the time that may often mean life or death.

4. It orders supplies from his hardware or implement dealer sent out by parties coming in his direction, and in urgent cases by special messenger, saving the time which a farmer in seed time and harvest means many dollars.

5. It gives him the daily weather reports whenever he cares to inquire, enabling him to avoid loss of crops by storm, and the opportunity of planning his work accordingly.

6. It enables him to take every advantage of the market in the sale of his grain, and his grain buyer is ever ready to keep him informed. In this alone he can save more than the cost of his telephone every year.

7. It enables him to call up his grocer and sell his butter, eggs and vegetables before they leave the farm, receiving therefor an average price far in excess of what he would receive were he compelled to accept what is offered in a congested market.

8. It places him in direct contact with the Post Office in the event of important adjunct to his rural delivery privileges.

9. It sells his stock to the local shipper for more than the market price "in order to fill up the car," and enables him to deliver it in prime condition, with the least possible shrinkage.

10. It enables him to plan his work during harvest and threshing when "exchange work" is necessary, and many delays from break-downs in securing supplies are prevented.

11. It places him in direct communication with his town and county officials whose representative capacity enables them to more fully serve his interests.

12. It gives him the important daily news and keeps his local newspaper fully informed of the social happenings in his neighborhood.

13. It oversteps storms and snow-drifts, and brings to him assistance in time of need.

14. It renders fire protection and is the best "thief catcher" in the world.

15. It is protection to wife and daughters against the importunities of tramps and vagabonds, and gives a security nothing else can.

16. It finds the way strayed cattle, returns the lambkin to the fold and becomes the shepherd of the neighborhood.

17. It gives his family church and social privileges they can not enjoy without it, while his rural neighbors are always within "talking distance" though many miles apart.

18. It affords his family, and especially his young people, the social converse so essential to their happiness, making home more attractive and therefore more enjoyable.

19. Over it he discusses business, politics and religion, debates "ways and means" with his neighbors, arranges picnics and club outings, school meetings and road-work, in fact the thousand and one advantages wherewithal is annihilated. It makes rural life the most ideal of all life, brings the whole country within the confines of a neighborhood and bestows upon the farmer

many, if not all, of the privileges of his city kinsmen. It is the most valuable investment he can make, pays for itself many times every year and when once installed will make itself as indispensable as to remain a fix adjunct to rural life.

For full information, rates and terms apply to The Asheboro Telephone Company, Asheboro, N. C.

MOORE COUNTY ROADS.

Good Roads Association Goes To Work In Ernest to Better Conditions.

The Moore County Good Roads Association meeting appointed Messrs. D. A. McDonald, Joe, L. Currie and Geo. H. Huber as a Central Committee to inaugurate an energetic campaign in favor of the Bond issue.

The Committee has made arrangements to have speakings at Cameron, Vass, Southern Pines and Aberdeen on the subject of Good Roads on next Saturday, the 27th inst.

On May 4th a Good Roads Rally and Barbecue will be held at Pinehurst. The barbecue and dinner will be furnished by Mr. Leonard Tufts.

Miss Emma Patterson, daughter of Mr. William Patterson, residing near Niagara, accidentally fell into the well Sunday morning and was drowned.

Col. J. W. Hinsdale of Winston President of Glendale Mining Co., II have a fine exhibit at James- town Exposition.

No Tuberculosis In The Goat's Milk.

The milk of the goat has of late been the subject of much investigation, and the highest medical authorities are unanimous in declaring it to be the most wholesome and desirable milk obtained from animals for human consumption, says Richard Arthur, in "The Circle" magazine, says February. To begin with, the goat is extremely unsusceptible to, and indeed practically immune from, tuberculosis. It contracts this dread disease only in conditions which can hardly come about in condition which can hardly come about in the ordinary course of things. Next, goat's milk is more nearly allied than any other to human milk, not only in its composition but also in its peculiar fermentative properties—an important point. It has been established beyond refutation that infants deprived of their mother's milk thrive upon goat's milk much better than upon that of any other animal.

Summer School at Chapel Hill.

The University wishes to help the teachers of the State as far as possible, especially with a view to the new high school movement. A summer term for these teachers will be held this summer at Chapel Hill. It is important that teachers be present at the opening, June 17. The only charge for teachers will be a registration fee of \$3.00; for others, an additional charge of \$10.00 for tuition. Board and lodging can be obtained in the village at reasonable rates, varying from \$10.00 to \$20.00 a month. The University building will not be available for these purposes.

The courses offered are in English, Latin, Mathematics, French, German, History and Elementary Physics.

SUMMER SCHOOL AT CHAPEL HILL.

The University wishes to help the teachers of the State as far as possible, especially with a view to the new high school movement. A summer term for these teachers will be held this summer at Chapel Hill. It is important that teachers be present at the opening, June 17. The only charge for teachers will be a registration fee of \$3.00; for others, an additional charge of \$10.00 for tuition. Board and lodging can be obtained in the village at reasonable rates, varying from \$10.00 to \$20.00 a month. The University building will not be available for these purposes.

The courses offered are in English, Latin, Mathematics, French, German, History and Elementary Physics.

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