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SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson XI.—Second Quarter, For June 15, 1913.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Gen. xlvii, 1-12. Memory Verses, 8-10—Golden Text, Rom. viii, 28—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

This is the only lesson assigned in the remaining five chapters of Genesis, and while giving some attention to "Jacob before Pharaoh," the lesson title, we must consider as many as possible of many most important things of all these chapters. It is worth while to notice when Jacob is so called and when he is called Israel, the old name and the new, remembering the when and where of the change. Being convinced by the sight of the wagons that Joseph still lived, he started on his journey to Egypt and at Beersheba offered sacrifices unto God. Thus began, with the entrance into Egypt of these seventy souls, the fulfillment of the word of the Lord to Abram, "Thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs" (Gen. xv, 13, 14). The other end of the promise, "Afterward shall they come out with great substance," seems to have been so real to Jacob that, as Israel, he said to Joseph before he died, "Behold, I die, but God shall be with you and bring you again unto the land of your fathers" (xlviii, 21). When Joseph died, over fifty years later, he said to his brethren: "I die, and God will surely visit you and bring you out of this land. And ye shall carry up my bones from hence" (l, 24, 25). When Jacob and all his household drew near to Egypt he sent Judah to advise Joseph and to direct his way. And again we think of Him who came from Judah, who only can direct our way.

Joseph, being thus advised of his father's arrival at Goshen, went in his chariot to meet his father and presented himself unto him (xli, 26), and who can tell what is so briefly summed up in the words, "He fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while?" What a meeting it must have been after twenty-two years of separation, and Joseph all that time supposed by his father to be dead! Now he receives him back from the dead and finds him ruler over all Egypt and a savior of multitudes in all lands as well as of himself and his household. What a day it will be when the nation of Israel shall look upon Him whom they crucified and find in Him not only their own Messiah, but the one who will bring salvation to all nations!

As Joseph's brethren found him married, so Israel shall see their Messiah associated with His bride, the church, for "when Christ, our life, shall appear, then shall we also appear with Him in glory" (Col. iii, 4).

It seems to me that there are just two prominent things in the lesson verses of today—Pharaoh bestowing the best of all the land of Egypt upon Joseph's father and brethren and Jacob's reply to the question of Pharaoh, "How old art thou?" (Verses 6, 9, 11). Because of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus all who truly receive Him and thus become His brethren are blessed with all things in Him, and believing this makes us strangers and pilgrims here and fills us with a sense of our own unworthiness (1 Pet. ii, 11).

So Joseph nourished his father and his brethren and all their households during all the remaining years of famine (verse 12), and Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. Jacob therefore had Joseph with him the first and last seventeen years, the first seventeen of Joseph's life and the last seventeen of Jacob's life (xxvii, 2; xlvii, 28). It is worth while to consider the seven weepings of Joseph, but I think the last is in some respects the most touching. He had nourished his brethren and their families for seventeen years, having fully assured them of his forgiveness at the beginning of that period, but now, their father being dead, they say "he will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him." So they send a messenger asking him to forgive their trespass and their sin and the evil which they did unto him (l, 15-17).

Joseph wept when they spoke unto him. Was there ever anything so mean and contemptible as such conduct? Yet see his most Christlike words in l, 19, 21. He reassured them and comforted them and spoke kindly unto them. What shall we say of those who, having come to Christ and received Him as their Saviour, will not take His word for it that He has freely and fully forgiven all their sins and will remember them no more, but seem to ever in doubt concerning their acceptance? In Jacob's farewell predictions to his sons concerning the last days note the pre-eminence of Judah concerning the Messiah (xlix, 10) and the wondrous typical suggestiveness in the portion concerning Joseph (xlix, 22-26). "The stone of Israel" carries us on to Isa. xxviii, 16; Pa. cxviii, 22; Matt. xxi, 42; Eph. ii, 20; 1 Pet. ii, 6-8; Dan. ii, 35, 45. "Separate from his brethren" is repeated in the farewell blessings of Moses (Deut. xxxiii, 16) and wondrously links Joseph with Christ. "A fruitful bough by a well whose branches run over the wall" makes us think of Jesus and all that it suggests. The last words in Genesis, "in a coffin in Egypt," and the story of that coffin (Ex. xiii, 19; Josh. xxiv, 32; Heb. xi, 22) teach the victory of faith.

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Lv. GASTONIA	Ar.
10:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.
4:40 p.m.	3:10 p.m.

Between Gastonia and Charlotte. Effective Sunday Apr. 27, 1913.

Lv. Gastonia	Ar. Gastonia
No. 2 7:00 a.m.	No. 1 7:55 a.m.
" 4 8:15 "	" 3 9:15 "
" 6 9:30 "	" 5 10:15 "
" 8 10:20 "	" 7 11:50 "
" 10 11:55 "	" 9 12:45 p.m.
" 12 12:50 p.m.	" 11 1:55 "
" 16 2:00 "	" 15 2:55 "
" 18 3:00 "	" 17 4:30 "
" 20 5:00 "	" 19 5:35 "
" 22 6:45 "	" 21 7:45 "
" 24 8:45 "	" 23 9:45 "
" 26 10:55 "	" 25 11:55 "

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Dr. B. E. Washburn Enters Health Work.

Dr. B. E. Washburn of Boatie, N. C., in Rutherford county has given up a lucrative practice to become a district director in the State campaign against Hookworm disease. He is splendidly fitted for the work, being an A. B. and A. M. graduate of the University of North Carolina, a graduate in Medicine from the University of Virginia, and having had a year's hospital service in the City Hospital of Wilmington, N. C. There are now seven physicians devoting their entire time to this work in the state. In addition to Dr. J. A. Eerrell, the State Director, the following physicians are engaged in conducting the dispensary campaigns for the free examination and free treatment of the disease and in improving sanitary conditions: Dr. C. L. Pridgen, Dr. P. W. Covington, Dr. G. F. Leonard, Dr. W. P. Jacobs, Dr. H. L. Sloan and Dr. B. E. Washburn. Mr. R. O. Self of Jackson county is also connected with the work as a special agent making the preliminary arrangements in the counties for opening the work. Eight microscopists are engaged in making the examinations. Every tenth person in the state has been examined and every twentieth one treated up to date.

The Medical Society of the State of North Carolina will hold its annual session at Morehead City, June 17th.

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