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SIMPLE BIBLE STORIES.

ILLUSTRATED.

*ADAPTED TO THE CAPACITY OF YOUNG CHILDREN, AND
DESIGNED FOR USE IN SABBATH SCHOOLS,
PRIMARY ASSOCIATIONS, AND FOR
HOME READING.*

PUBLISHED AT THE
JUVENILE INSTRUCTOR OFFICE,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

1891

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PREFACE.

THE great demand for new subject matter in the primary classes of our Sabbath Schools and in Primary Associations, has induced us to publish this little book of Bible Stories. Books of this character published in the east, we find, are not entirely suitable for use among our people. This fact is also one reason for issuing this work.

Brother Edwin F. Parry, who has done so much for the Sunday Schools in composing music and poetry, and in writing various articles of value, prepared these stories, which is itself a sufficient guarantee of their suitability.

It has been the aim in preparing the SIMPLE BIBLE STORIES to word them to suit the capacity of young children. Where difficult words necessarily occur, their meaning is explained in simple language, so that children in reading the stories will be able to understand them.

To make the stories short the incidents they contain are narrated as briefly as possible. The teacher in using the book can enlarge upon each story as he chooses.

To see that the children fully understand each lesson, the teacher might question them about it. Or, better still, call upon one of them to relate the story in his own way. Also, before taking up a new story for study, review the pupils on the previous one. In this way they will be enabled to connect the narratives. When they have gone over say half of the book, it would be well to give each lesson to a separate pupil in the class and have him prepare himself on that particular lesson. Then the next time the class meets have a general review of all the lessons learned, by having the pupils repeat the lessons in the order in which they come in the book. Try as much as possible to have them relate the stories in their own language, and not to commit them to memory word for word as they are in the book.

THE PUBLISHERS.

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SIMPLE BIBLE STORIES.

STORY OF ADAM AND EVE.

WHAT little boy or girl does not love to hear nice stories? In this book I am going to tell you some true stories which I am sure you will be glad to hear. These stories are from the Bible. Do you know what the Bible is? I will tell you. The Bible is a book that tells about the Lord, our Father in heaven. It tells how good He was to the people who lived a long time ago. The Lord is always good and kind. He is good to you and to every body. But the book called the Bible tells only about the people who lived a long time before you and I were born.

The first man the Bible tells about was named Adam. When the Lord made the world He placed on it all kinds of trees, and grass and plants. Then He put animals of every kind on it. As the animals found grass and plants growing on the earth and fruit growing on the trees, they ate what they liked when they were hungry, and lived. When the Lord made all these things and caused them to grow upon the earth He placed the man Adam in a garden on the earth. This garden was filled with nice fruit trees, and all kinds of good things that grow in the earth. It was called the Garden of Eden. Soon after Adam was placed in the Garden of Eden, the Lord brought to him a woman to be his wife. Her name was Eve.

The Lord told Adam and his wife Eve that they could eat any fruit they found in the garden except the fruit on one

tree. The fruit on that tree He said they were not to eat. The Lord then left them in the garden all alone. While the Lord was away the woman Eve was tempted or persuaded to eat the fruit which the Lord said they should not touch. She was led by this temptation to taste the fruit and then she asked Adam to do the same.

When the Lord came to them again He found that Adam and Eve had eaten the fruit of the tree they were told not to touch. Then for doing this He sent them out of the Garden of Eden, and told them they would have to work for their living. They would have to plant trees and grain and raise their own food. The Lord knows all things. When He placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden He knew they would disobey Him by eating the fruit He told them not to touch. But the Lord had a good reason or purpose for doing with them as He did. He is wise and knows what is best for His children. When they were cast out of the beautiful garden the Lord visited them and showed them how to till the earth, that is how to plant seed, and take care of the trees and plants that grow from them. We are all born on this earth to learn something. One thing the Lord wished Adam to learn was to till the ground. Then he could teach it to his children, and they could also teach their children, and so on. If he was left in the Garden of Eden he would not learn many things the Lord wished him to do. Our fathers and mothers do with us like the Lord did with Adam and Eve. When we do wrong they punish us so that we will learn to do better.

There are two useful lessons we can learn from this story. Do you know what they are, or shall I point them out to you? One is obedience. Obedience is to obey. You should obey your parents because they tell you what is right for you to do. The other is not to give way to temptation. To be tempted is to feel like doing something you know or have

been taught is not right. Whenever you are tempted it is to do wrong and you should not do as you feel led at such a time, but do as you have been taught.

In the Garden of Eden our first parents lived,
Where all things about them were fair ;
Where the trees and the shrubs yielded goodly fruit,
And the fragrance of flowers filled the air.

In this lovely retreat there they walked with the Lord,
Who taught them His will to obey—
Of what fruits they might eat, and of what they should not,
He there told them and then went away.

Soon the tempter appeared and to Eve he then told
How she might, if she chose, become wise ;
In his way, full of cunning and art he made plain,
How it was to her curious surprise.

So, deceived by his words, to temptation she yields,
And partakes of the fruit God forbade ;
Being pleased with the taste unto Adam she goes,
And him she doth also persuade.

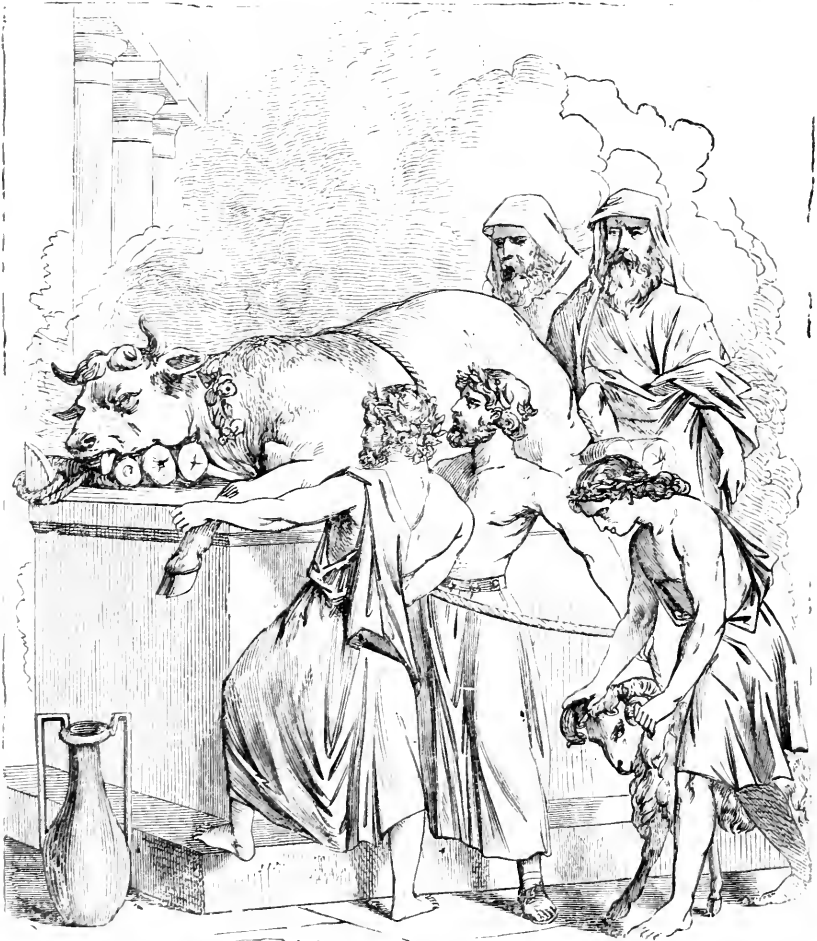
For their not giving heed to the Lord's strict command,
From the beautiful garden they're turned ;
From henceforth they must suffer grief, sorrow and pain,
And by labor their bread must be earned.

STORY OF CAIN AND ABEL.

THE two oldest sons of Adam and Eve were named, the one Cain, the other Abel. Adam and Eve had other children, but the Bible does not tell what their names were, except one more son who was named Seth. Cain was the oldest son. He was a tiller of the ground, or a gardener, as

we would call him. His brother Abel herded or took care of sheep.

After Adam and Eve were turned out of the Garden of



OFFERING SACRIFICE.

Eden the Lord did not visit them as He did before. He told them that they were to offer sacrifices to Him, and to show that He was pleased with them and watched over them, He

would make it known to them by accepting the sacrifice they offered. Let me tell you what the sacrifice was. The sacrifice they made was what the Bible in some places calls a burnt offering. First they built an altar. You can see what an altar is like by looking at the picture. This was built of stones. Then they killed a lamb or a calf and placed it on this altar. They then prayed to the Lord to accept the offering. If He was pleased with them He accepted the offering or sacrifice by sending fire down from heaven, which would burn the lamb or other animal which was placed on the altar.

When Cain and Abel were old enough they offered sacrifices to the Lord, as Adam their father had taught them to do. Abel, who took care of sheep, offered on the altar the lambs of his flock, and Cain, who was a gardener, made an offering of the fruits of the earth which he raised.

It seems the Lord was not pleased with Cain, and did not accept his offering. But Abel's offering he did accept, showing that He was pleased with Abel. Cain noticed this and became jealous of his brother Abel. Do you know what it is to be jealous? It is to have bad or angry feelings towards another person because he or she has something we want but have not got. Cain envied his brother Abel, or felt angry towards him because the Lord loved and favored him. The reason the Lord loved Abel was because he was a good man. He was not pleased with Cain because he was a wicked man. Cain was such a wicked man and was so jealous of Abel that he killed him.

After Cain killed his brother Abel, the Lord came to him and asked him where his brother was. Cain told the Lord a lie by saying he did not know. But the Lord knew he did not tell the truth. The Lord even knows our thoughts as well as our acts, and we cannot hide anything from Him. So the Lord cursed Cain for his wicked deeds. After that he did not till the earth, for the Lord told him the ground would not

yield or bring forth fruit for him. He then became a vagabond, or wanderer on the earth.

Little friends is there any lesson you can learn from this story? I think there is one very good lesson to be learned, and you should always remember it. It is this: to never let jealous feelings remain in your heart. Do not envy or feel bad towards others because they have something you do not have. If other children are liked better than you are, try to be good so that you will be liked as well. Do not let angry feelings cause you to do wicked deeds. It is wrong to get angry with your brothers or sisters and strike them or hurt them in any way. Always remember what Cain did by getting angry with his brother, and ever try to keep such feelings away.

THE STORY OF NOAH.

ADAM, the first man placed upon the earth, lived to a very old age. When he died he was nine hundred and thirty years old. His son Seth lived nearly as long, and many others after him did also. The oldest man, whose name was Methuselah, lived till he was nine hundred and sixty-nine years old.

A long time after Adam died there was a man by the name of Noah. He was a good man, but most of the people who lived when he did were not good people. They were wicked and did not serve the Lord. So the Lord was not pleased with them. As they were all so very wicked He decided to destroy or kill them.

Noah was a just man and the Lord loved him and told him what He was going to do. He said to Noah that He would send a flood of rain on the earth and drown all the people

and animals. But as Noah and his family were not wicked like the other people, the Lord told him to build an ark, or boat in which to go when the rain came.

This ark or boat was covered over like a house so that the rain would not fall in it. It was a very large boat, so that it would hold two of each of all kinds of animals that live on the earth as well as Noah and his family.

It took Noah a long time to build the ark, or boat, it was so large. When it was done the Lord told him to put in the ark all the animals and to get in himself with his family.



THE DELUGE.

As soon as they were all in, it began to rain, and it rained for forty days and forty nights. By this time the whole earth was covered with water. The water was so deep that the mountains were covered. But the ark floated on the water and those in it were safe. All the other people, though, were drowned, and there was not a man or woman living in the world except Noah and his family.

For one whole year they stayed in the ark. It took all this time for the water to dry up so that they could get out. When the earth was getting dry Noah sent out through the window of the ark a bird called a raven. This bird did not



THE RETURN OF THE DOVE.

come back. He then sent a dove or pigeon. This bird came back, as it found no place to go. After seven days he sent it again and it came back with an olive leaf in its mouth. Noah knew by this that the water was drying away. Soon

the Lord told Noah that the ground was dry, and for him to get out of the ark and let the animals out, too.

You may be sure they were all glad to get out again. Noah was so thankful to the Lord for saving him and his family that he built an altar and offered a sacrifice to Him. The Lord accepted the sacrifice and blessed Noah and his family.

There were now no bad people on the earth, for they had all been destroyed in the flood. Noah and his family could now live in peace and happiness.

The story of Noah shows us how good the Lord is to those who obey His laws. It also shows how He punishes those who are wicked and disobedient. The Lord is so kind that He would forgive the wicked of their sins if they would not sin any longer ; but they would not try to obey Him, and that is why He destroyed them.

From the Bible we find
 Nearly all of mankind,
 In Noah's day,
 Had gone astray
 From the path of truth and right.
 As they did not repent,
 O'er the earth the Lord sent
 A shower of rain
 That flooded the plain
 And covered each mountain height.

So the people were drowned,
 And none could be found,
 Besides a few,
 Still good and true,
 Whom the Lord spared with their lives :
 Of those few He did save
 From a watery grave
 The only ones
 Were Noah and sons,
 As well as those four men's wives.

For these few souls to keep
From the waters so deep
Noah built a boat,
Or ark, to float
On the waters that covered the ground ;
Then of bird and of beast,
From the greatest to least,
Two of each kind
He then did find,
And took in to save from being drowned.

STORY OF ABRAHAM.

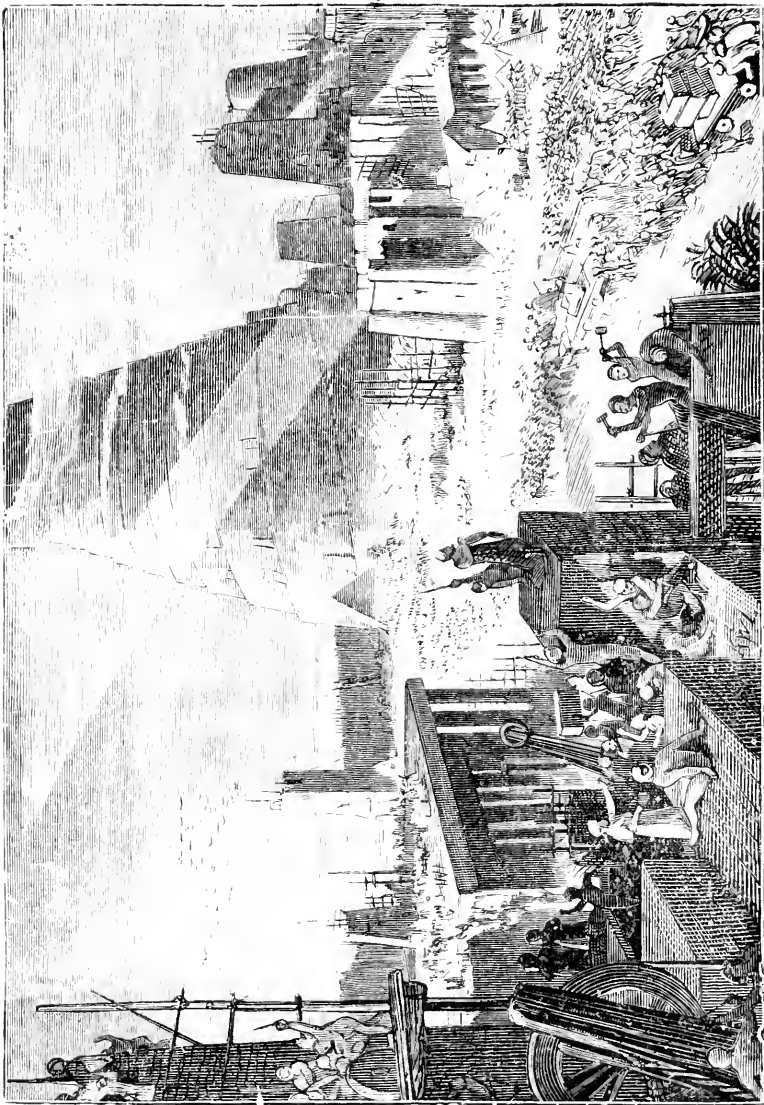
ANOTHER great and good man the Bible tells of was named Abraham. He was born nearly three hundred years after the flood which came over the earth in the days of Noah.

At that time there were many people on the earth again. Noah's three sons each had several children. These children grew up and had children, and so the people got very numerous and spread over the land.

They built many large cities, and in one place they started to build a high tower. This was called the Tower of Babel. They thought very foolishly that they could reach to heaven in this high building. But the Lord was not pleased with them for doing this. Before they built it very high the Lord changed their language so they could not tell what each other said, and they gave up the work on the tower. They then became scattered all over the earth.

The people also got to be wicked again and would fight and kill each other in battles.

When Abraham was living two cities, where the people were all so wicked, were burned. The Lord sent fire and



THE TOWER OF BABEL.

brimstone from heaven and burned them. A man named Lot, who was Abraham's nephew, lived in one of these cities. He was a good man and the Lord told him to take his family and



ABRAHAM SENDING HAGAR AWAY.

leave the city so he would not be killed. He did this and was saved ; but all the other people were killed.

As I told you, Abraham was a good man. The Lord loved him because he was good. But the Lord wished to prove Abraham and see if he would be true to Him in all things.

Little children, the Lord tries all those whom He loves to

see if they really love Him better than anything in the world. Let me tell you how he tried Abraham. This good man had been married to his wife, whose name was Sarah, for many years; but they had no children. When they were quite old the Lord promised them they should have a son. True to the Lord's word they had a son born to them, and they named him Isaac. Abraham had another wife named Hagar, who had a son who was called Ishmael. This son was not such a good boy as Isaac, and as he was mean to Isaac he was sent away with his mother to live in another place. The Lord said that by his son Isaac he would raise up a great nation of people, who would be the descendants of Abraham.

Abraham was a rich man. He had gold and silver, and owned great herds of cattle. He also had many servants, or men whom he hired to work for him. But he loved his son Isaac more than these riches. The Lord, to see if Abraham loved Him more than he did Isaac, told him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. That is, instead of killing a lamb or calf and putting on the altar to be burned, he was to take Isaac for that purpose.

What do you think Abraham did? He loved his son Isaac more than he did his own life. But he knew it was best to do as the Lord told him. He trusted in the Lord. He took his son with him to a high mountain. There he built an altar and placed Isaac upon it. As he drew a knife to slay him the Lord sent an angel to stop him. The Lord was now sure that Abraham loved Him more than he did his dear son.

Just then Abraham saw a ram in the brush near by. He caught it and offered it as a sacrifice to the Lord.

The Lord was now more pleased than ever with Abraham because of his great faith and his love for the Lord. He blessed Abraham for this and promised him many good things.

Little boys and girls, you should learn from this to trust in the Lord. Whatever is His will you should do, go and do it



HAGAR AND ISHMAEL IN THE DESERT.

cheerfully. If you do this He will bless you and you will be happy.

When you are older the Lord may try your faith as He did that of Abraham, but perhaps in another way. By being always ready and willing to do what is right you will be able to stand this trial when it comes.

STORY OF ISAAC AND HIS SONS JACOB AND ESAU.

WHEN Isaac, the son of Abraham, was about thirty-seven years old his mother died. Three years after this he married. His wife's name was Rebekah. She was the daughter of Abraham's brother's son.

Abraham sent to the place where his relatives lived to get a wife for his son. Abraham had moved several times, and lived at this time in a land called Canaan. It was in this land he died several years afterwards. His relatives lived in a place called Mesopotamia.

For a long time Isaac and Rebekah were without children. Isaac prayed to the Lord that they might have children and the Lord answered his prayer. Two sons were born to them. They were twins. The older one was named Esau and the younger Jacob.

Esau when grown up became a hunter. His father seemed to love him most, but his mother loved Jacob.

As Esau was the older of the two it was considered that he had the first right to the blessings of his father. But one day he came from the field very hungry. He asked Jacob for some pottage, a kind of food he had cooked. Jacob told him he would give him some food if he would sell him his birthright. That is, give Jacob the first right to his father's



JACOB LEAVING HIS FATHER-IN-LAW.

blessing, or to anything else his father might have to give. Esau was very hungry and willingly gave Jacob this right for the pottage and some bread.

The Lord had told their mother, Rebekah, that the younger should be greater than the elder son, and so it was. When

Isaac got very old and was blind, he sent Esau to hunt deer and told him to bring him some of the meat to eat. He promised him when he returned to bless him. But Rebekah managed to have him bless Jacob first, as he had by the agreement of the two sons the first right. Esau also received a blessing from his father; but because Jacob received the first and greatest blessing he became angry and wanted to slay his brother. The mother sent Jacob away so that Esau could not harm him, and he stayed away until his brother got over his angry feeling.

The people in the land where Isaac was living were not very good folks. They did not serve the Lord. Esau married two women of the land, which displeased his parents. Jacob, as his mother and father desired, went to the land where his father's relatives lived to get a wife. In this land he found his uncle, Laban, his mother's brother.

Laban had two daughters, one named Leah and the other Rachael. Jacob married these two daughters, and worked for Laban seven years for each of them. He also married two more wives. He was blessed of the Lord and became rich.

After staying with his uncle twenty years, Jacob took his family and went back to where his father Isaac lived in the land of Canaan. On his way he met his brother Esau. They had not seen each other for many years and were glad to meet again. Jacob reached the home of his father and saw him again before he died. When he was one hundred and eighty years of age Isaac died, and Jacob and Esau buried him. Jacob and his family settled in the land of Canaan. He had a large family—four wives and twelve sons, besides daughters. The names of Jacob's sons were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Isaachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin.

The life of Jacob affords a lesson of great patience. When

he lived with Laban he worked fourteen years to earn or buy his two wives. He then worked six years for the cattle he got. Laban changed his wages ten times, because, as the Lord prospered Jacob it seemed to Laban that Jacob was getting too much. He became envious of his son-in-law.



JACOB MEETING ESAU.

The reason Jacob left him was because of these ill feelings. After he left, Laban followed him and claimed that all Jacob had, were his. He even claimed Jacob's wives and children. Perhaps he would have ill used him, but the Lord had warned him in a dream not to harm his son-in-law. Jacob bore all

these things with patience, and after making a covenant or agreement with Laban he was allowed to go on his journey.

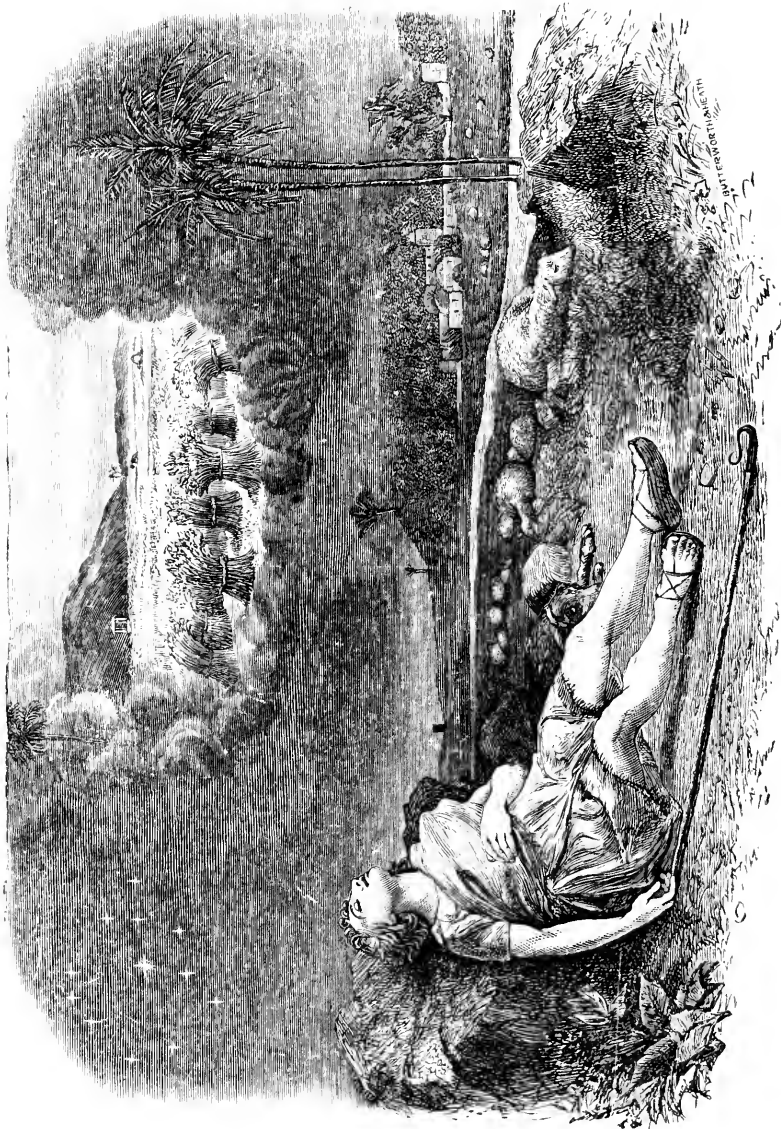
THE STORY OF JOSEPH.

ONE of the nicest stories in the Bible is that of Joseph. Joseph was next to the youngest son of Jacob. He was born when Jacob was getting old, and his father loved him more than he did his other children. It was perhaps because he was a better boy that he was more loved.

Jacob made for his young son Joseph a coat of many colors. This in those days was a very nice thing to have. Because he was his father's favorite son Joseph's brothers hated him. Joseph was beloved of the Lord as well as of his father. The Lord told him in dreams what should take place in time to come. When he told his dreams to his brothers they hated him more than before.

One time he dreamed that he and his brothers were in the field binding sheaves of wheat. Then he noticed that his sheaf arose and stood up, and his brothers' sheaves stood around it and bowed to it. The meaning of this dream was that his brothers would some day bow to him, as he would be greater than they. Joseph's brothers asked him if he expected or thought he would reign or rule over them. They then felt still more hateful towards him.

Joseph had another dream. This time he saw in his dream that the sun and moon and eleven stars bowed down to him. His brethren knew the meaning of this was that Joseph's father and mother and his eleven brothers should all come and bow down to him. His father rebuked him for thinking this should take place, but he kept in mind the dream.



JOSEPH'S DREAM.

At one time Jacob's older sons went to feed their sheep which were at a place distant from their home. Jacob after-

wards sent Joseph to visit them and see how they were getting along. He was then to return and tell his father.

The boy went as he was bid to find his brothers. When they saw him coming they made a plan to kill him. They said they would slay him and cast him in a pit, and tell his father



JOSEPH SOLD TO THE ISHMAELITES.

that some wild animal had eaten him. "Then," they said, "we shall see what will become of his dreams."

Reuben, the oldest of the brothers, heard what the others were going to do, and he said, "Let us not kill him." He then told them to cast him into a pit, or hole in the ground. He

intended if they did this to afterwards take him out and bring him back to his father.

So when Joseph got to the place where his brothers were they took off his coat of many colors and threw him into the pit.

While they were sitting down eating bread they saw a company of Ishmaelites passing by. This company were on their way to a great place called Egypt. When Joseph's brothers saw these men coming, Judah spoke up and said, "Let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother." The others agreed to do this and Joseph was taken from the pit and sold.

Reuben, the oldest of the brothers was not with the others when they sold Joseph. When he came back to the pit and found he was gone he felt very bad.

Joseph's coat of many colors was dipped in the blood of a kid to make it appear he had been killed and eaten by some animal. Then his brothers took it to their father and made him believe that his beloved son had been killed. This caused him great sorrow. He wept many days, and his children could not comfort him.

Joseph's brethren were very cruel and wicked to do as they did. But the Lord took care of Joseph and it turned out well that he was sold and carried to Egypt.

In the next story will be told what became of Joseph after he was taken to Egypt.

JOSEPH IN EGYPT.

WHEN the company of Ishmaelites came to Egypt they sold Joseph to Potiphar. This man was an officer of Pharaoh the king of Egypt. Joseph was a good and honest young man and Potiphar, his master, was pleased with him.



ISHMAELITES ON THEIR WAY TO EGYPT.

He soon found the Lord favored him and blessed him. So he placed Joseph to watch over the other servants of his house. He was also given the care of all his goods and everything he owned. For Joseph's sake the Lord blessed this man, Potiphar.

But always when a man is blessed of the Lord and tries to serve Him the evil one comes to tempt him to do wrong. It was so with Joseph.

One day Potiphar's wife tried to persuade Joseph to sin. He refused and would not do as she asked him. Because he would not do as she desired she got him into trouble by telling a lie about him to her husband.

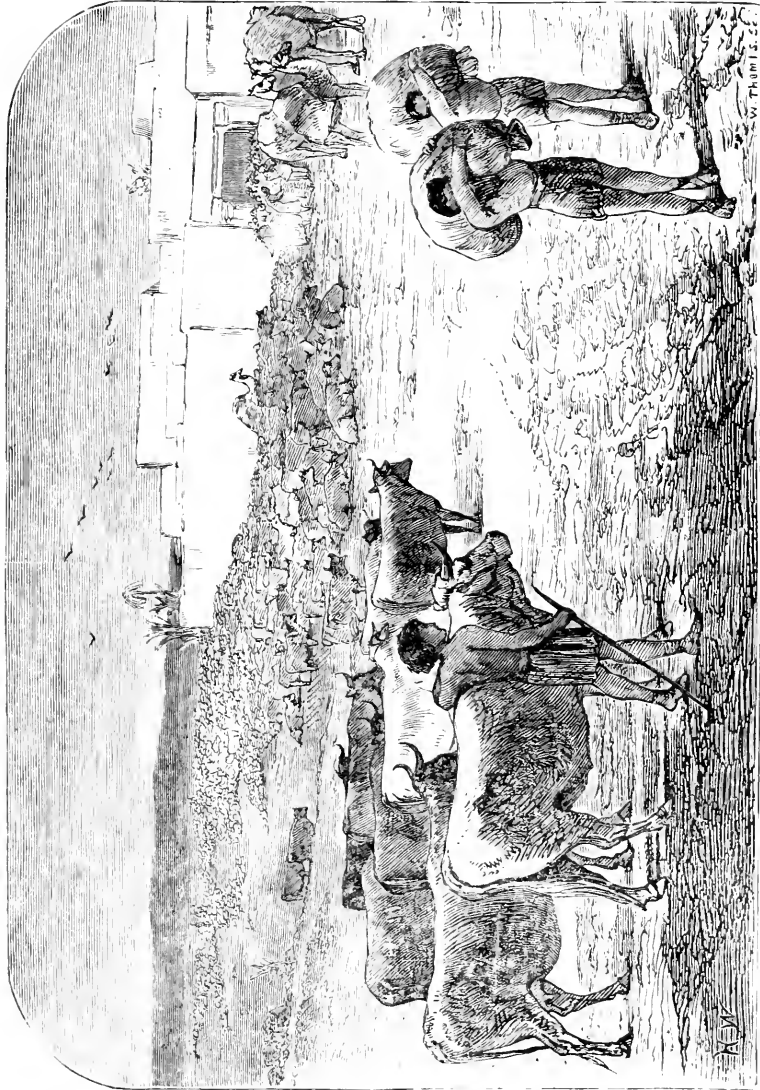
Potiphar believed what his wife told him. He became angry with Joseph and had him cast into prison.

Joseph had done no wrong and he trusted in the Lord. The Lord was pleased with him and was merciful to him. When he was put in prison the keeper of the prison favored him. He knew Joseph was a man who could be trusted, and he gave him care over the other prisoners. We see by this that a servant of God is always favored wherever he is placed.

Soon after Joseph was put in prison, two of the king's servants were also placed there with him. One of these men was King Pharaoh's butler, who took charge of his wine. The other was his baker. Both men had offended the king, so he sent them to prison.

One night each of these two men had a dream. They believed their dreams had some meaning to them, but they did not know what it was. In the morning when Joseph saw them they looked very sad. He asked them what was the matter, and they told him about their dreams, which troubled them. Joseph told them that the interpretation or meaning of dreams came from God. He then asked them to tell him their dreams, as he had faith or believed that the Lord would tell him the meaning of them.

The butler then told his dream. He dreamed that he saw a grape vine with three branches spring up, blossom and bear fruit. He took these grapes and pressed out the wine from them into Pharaoh's cup and gave it to him to drink.



JOSEPH LABORING IN POTIPHAR'S SERVICE.

Joseph told him this meant that in three days the butler should be set free from prison. He should then take his old place as the king's butler, and give to the king wine as before.

Joseph asked the butler to think of him when he got out of

prison, and tell the king about him, to try and get him free. For, he said, "I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon."

When the baker saw that the interpretation or meaning of the butler's dream was good he told his dream. He dreamed he had on his head three baskets. In the top basket were baked meats for Pharaoh. While he was carrying the baskets the birds came and ate the food from the top basket.

Joseph told him the meaning of this was that in three days he should be hung, and that the birds would eat his flesh.

In three days it was the king's birthday, and he made a great feast for all his servants. On that day he released or set free from prison, the butler, and gave him the same work to do as he had done before. The baker on that day was hanged.

Thus the dreams were fulfilled as Joseph said they would be. This showed that Joseph was blessed of the Lord, and could by the aid of His Spirit interpret dreams.

The butler, when he was released forgot about Joseph, and did not speak of him to the king. And so he was left there in prison. How he was set free and what became of him afterward will be told in the next story.

JOSEPH MADE RULER OF EGYPT.

OUR last story told about Joseph being in prison, and about him interpreting the baker's and butler's dreams.

Two years after this, Pharaoh, who was king of Egypt, had two dreams. He did not know what was meant by



JOSEPH INTERPRETING THE KING'S DREAM.

them, and could find nobody who could tell him. He sent for all the wise men in the land, but none of them could explain to him what was meant by his dreams, and he felt troubled.

Then the king's butler, the man who had been in prison with Joseph, remembered what Joseph had asked him to do.



JOSEPH PROCLAIMED RULER OF EGYPT.

That was to speak to the king, and get him out of prison. But the butler forgot all about Joseph until this time. Then he told Pharaoh about Joseph, and said that he could interpret his dreams.

So Joseph was sent for in great haste, and was brought before king Pharaoh. The king told Joseph what he had dreamed, and Joseph said that the Lord would make the meaning or interpretation known.

He had great faith in the Lord, and felt that the Lord would give him the interpretation to the king's dreams. And so it was. Joseph told the king that both his dreams had the same meaning. The meaning was that there would be seven years in which plenty of grain could be raised. At the end of these seven years would come a famine which would last also seven years. During this time there would be nothing grown to eat.

Joseph also told the king that he ought to get a wise man to look after the land of Egypt, and see that while the seven years of plenty lasted, there was grain enough saved to last during the seven years of famine.

Pharaoh was pleased with Joseph, for he felt that the Lord was with him, and that he gave the right interpretation to his dreams. As Joseph advised him, he decided to select a man to rule the people; and as Joseph was so favored of the Lord Pharaoh thought he was the best man to put in as ruler.

Pharaoh then set Joseph as ruler of the whole land of Egypt. There was no man greater than he was in the land except Pharaoh himself, and even he would be counseled by Joseph.

Joseph was dressed in fine clothes. The king took off the ring from his own finger and placed it on Joseph's. He also placed a chain of gold about his neck, and made him ride in his chariot; and the people bowed down to him as he rode in the streets.

After being made ruler, Joseph went about all the land and directed his servants to gather up grain and keep it for use during the time of famine. At the end of the seven years of plenty the famine began, as Joseph had said it should. But

he had prepared for it, and when the people wanted grain they came to him and he sold it to them.

People came to Egypt from all parts of the country to buy grain, as it could not be had anywhere else.

You can see, then, that it turned out to be a blessing that Joseph was brought to Egypt. It was the Lord's will that he should go there, and the Lord watched over him while there.

In the next lesson will be told how Joseph met his brothers again, and how the dream he had long ago, which signified that they should bow down to him, came true.

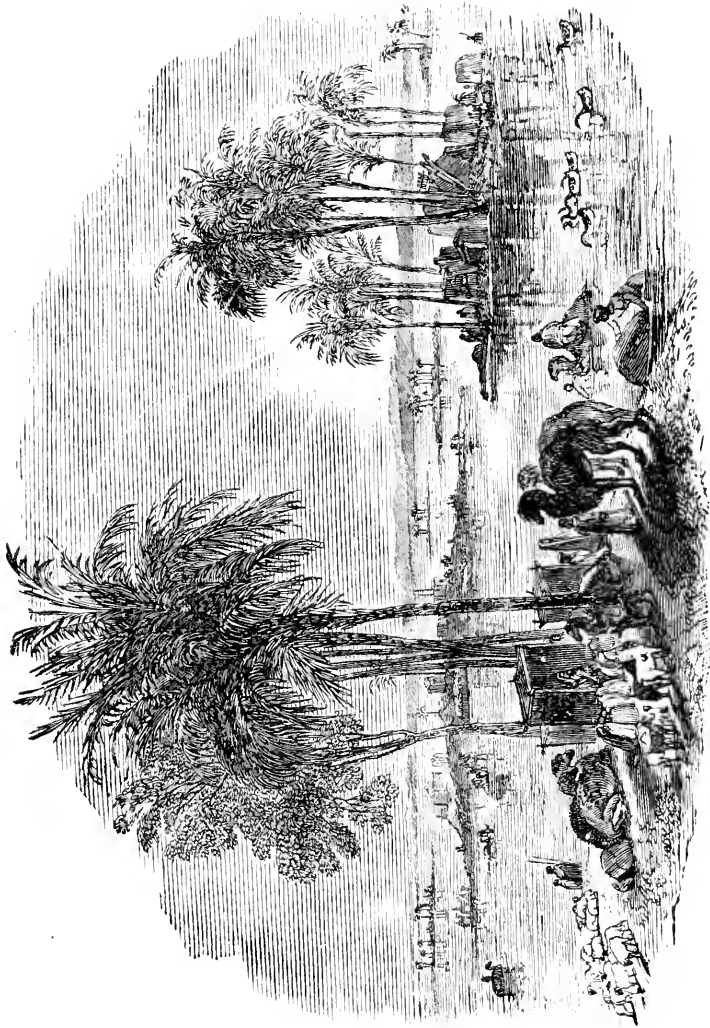
JOSEPH MEETS HIS BRETHREN.

SOON after the famine began, and the people were in need of food, they came to Egypt to buy grain.

Jacob, Joseph's father, who lived in Canaan, also heard that grain could be bought in Egypt. So he sent his sons there to get food, as they were in need of it.

When they reached Egypt they went to Joseph to buy grain. Joseph was the governor of the land, and it was from him the people had to buy. They did not know Joseph when they met him, but Joseph knew his brethren.

They bowed to him, as it was the custom to do in the presence of a ruler. They did not know at the time that they were fulfilling a dream Joseph had told them when he lived with his father. But so it came about. Joseph spoke roughly to his brethren and pretended to take them for spies. He accused them of being spies come to see the land, and kept them a few days as prisoners. The brothers, of course, told him they were not spies, but came to buy bread. They also



A SCENE IN THE COUNTRY OF EGYPT.

told him they were all brothers, the sons of one man, and that they had a younger brother at home. Joseph still accused them of being spies, and spoke as if he did not believe them. Then they began to talk among themselves. They felt guilty of their cruel treatment of Joseph when they sold him, and began to feel that their treatment now was the result of their

cruelty. Reuben, one of them, also reminded them that he asked them not to be cruel to Joseph, but they would not listen to him.

While they were talking they did not know that Joseph understood them, for he spoke a different language to them, and had a man called an interpreter to tell them the meaning of what he said. These words of his brethren so affected Joseph that he turned away and wept. Then he ordered their sacks to be filled with grain and that their money be placed back in the sacks. He also took Simeon from them and bound him, and told them to prove whether or not they were true men he would keep him prisoner.

The others were to return to their father, and the next time they came they were to bring their younger brother. If they did not do this Joseph told them they should not see his face.

So the brethren went home and told their father what had happened. After opening their sacks they all found that their money was returned. This caused them to fear, as they did not know why the money was placed there, unless it was to accuse them again of being dishonest men.

Jacob was grieved to learn that Simeon was left as a prisoner, and that Benjamin, the younger boy, would have to go with his other sons the next time.

But when their food was nearly all gone Jacob told them to go again to Egypt to buy grain. His sons would not go, though, without Benjamin. Then Reuben said he would see that Benjamin was brought back safely. Judah also agreed to take care of him, and told his father he would bear the blame forever if anything happened to Benjamin.

As they would soon be in want, Jacob told them they might take Benjamin and go. He also gave them presents to take to the ruler, and money to buy more grain, as well as the money which was found in their sacks. With these things the ten brothers started again to go to Egypt.

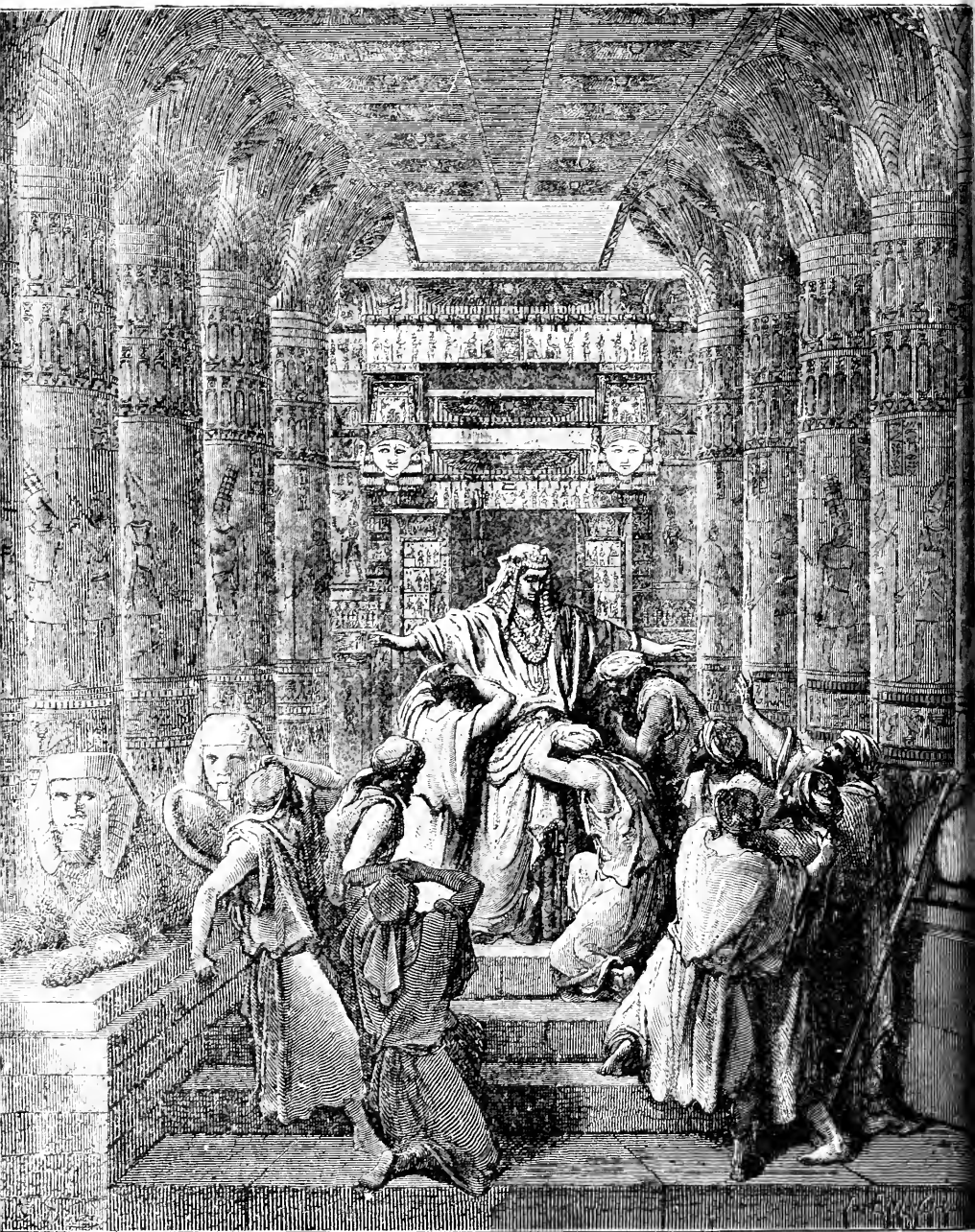
JOSEPH TELLS HIS BROTHERS WHO HE IS.

JOSEPH saw his brothers as they were coming the second time to buy grain. He also noticed that Benjamin was with them, and ordered the ruler of his house to prepare a dinner for them.

When the brothers arrived they were brought into Joseph's house. This made them fear, as they supposed it was because the money was taken in their sacks that they were brought in the house. Then they spoke to the steward, a servant of Joseph, and told him how it happened. He told them they need not fear, as all would be well with them.

When Joseph came home at noon, his brothers gave him the present their father had sent, and bowed down before him. Joseph inquired of them about their father, and seeing Benjamin asked if he was their younger brother. Joseph could not help giving way to his feelings, and went into another room and wept. Then he came back and joined in the feast which had been prepared. They all ate and drank and had a merry, happy time.

When it was time for the ten brothers to return home their sacks were again filled. Benjamin's sack also had a silver cup placed in it. Then early in the morning they started out. But before they had gone far Joseph sent his servant after them to accuse them of taking his silver cup. The servant went as ordered. When he accused them of taking the cup, they said, "Let him die with whom the cup is found, and we all will be servants to the ruler." Joseph's servant then said he would agree for them all to go but the one who had the cup. This one was to remain as a servant.



JOSEPH MAKING HIMSELF KNOWN TO HIS BRETHREN.

The sacks were then searched, and the cup found in Benjamin's sack. This grieved them all, as they feared it would break their father's heart to return without Benjamin. Two of them also had promised their father to return him. So they all went back to the city and went to Joseph and gave themselves up to him. He told them they might all go but the one in whose sack the cup was found.

Judah then spoke up and told him all about his father, how he loved the younger boy, and how unwilling he was to let him come with them to Egypt. He also told him that he had promised to bring him back, and he could not go to his father without bringing Benjamin. Then he pleaded for Joseph to take him as a bondsman or servant instead of Benjamin, and let Benjamin go to his father.

Joseph could no longer keep from telling who he was. He sent all the servants from the room and wept aloud. He then said to his brethren, "I am Joseph; doth my father yet live?"

His brethren were so surprised they could not answer him. He then called them to come near and said, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now, therefore, be not grieved nor angry with yourselves that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life."

Joseph told his brothers to go and tell their father about him and his glory in Egypt. He gave them wagons to bring their families back and told them to bring their father and come and live there with him. He then kissed them all and sent them away on their journey.

The king, Pharaoh, when he heard about these things was pleased, and told Joseph to send with his brethren besides the wagons plenty of food and clothing and money, as well as presents to his father.

When the brethren reached home they told their father about Joseph, and he was made glad by the happy news, and all of them gathered their things together and went to Egypt.

Joseph met his father and fell upon his neck and wept. Jacob was brought before Pharaoh the king, and blessed him. A place named Goshen was given for him and his children to live in, and they all remained in Egypt.



JACOB BEFORE KING PHARAOH.

Jacob was one hundred and forty-seven years old when he died. After his death his sons came to Joseph and asked forgiveness of him for their cruelty, and he very willingly forgave them.

O would that we
Each one could be
Like Abraham of old :
Trust in the Lord,
Obey His word,
And in his cause be bold.
Like Isaac, who,
Faithful and true,
Was favored of our God—
A promised boy,
His father's joy,
Who in his footsteps trod
And like his son—
The favored one—
Whom blessings great obtained ;
And Joseph, too,
Who did pursue
A course that for him gained
An honored name,
A widespread fame,
With riches, too, combined.
Let us all strive
Like him to live
And happiness we'll find.
If we but try,
I know not why
We cannot be like these
Good men of old,
Of whom were told
The Lord to bless did please.

STORY OF MOSES AND THE ISRAELITES.

MANY years after the death of Joseph, who was sold into Egypt, and who became a governor in that land, there arose a wicked king in the land of Egypt. He did not know of the good Joseph had done for the people of Egypt in his day.

The children of Israel, as the descendants of Joseph and his brethren were called, became very numerous. The king, seeing this, feared they might some day come up against them, the Egyptians, in battle and would perhaps destroy them. So he made slaves of the Israelites, and made them do very hard labor. Still they kept on increasing in numbers. Then the king ordered that every male child born to the Israelites should be drowned in the river.

It was after this decree or order was made that Moses was born. His mother, wishing to save his life, hid him for three months. Being unable to hide him any longer, she took a little ark of bulrushes and placed him in it. She then took him to the side of the river and laid him among the flags that grew by the water's edge. The child's sister stood afar off watching to see what would become of him.

Then the king's daughter came to the river to wash herself, and when she saw the ark she sent her maid after it. She opened the ark and found a child was in it. At this moment his sister spoke up and asked if she might go and get a woman to nurse the baby. On being told that she could, she went and called the mother of the child.

The king's daughter told the mother to care for the child.

After a while he was taken to the daughter of the king and she took him as her own son, and gave him the name of Moses.

When Moses grew up and saw how his brethren, the Israelites, or Hebrews, as they were also called, were treated, he went among them and witnessed their sufferings. The Egyptian task-masters who were placed over them were very



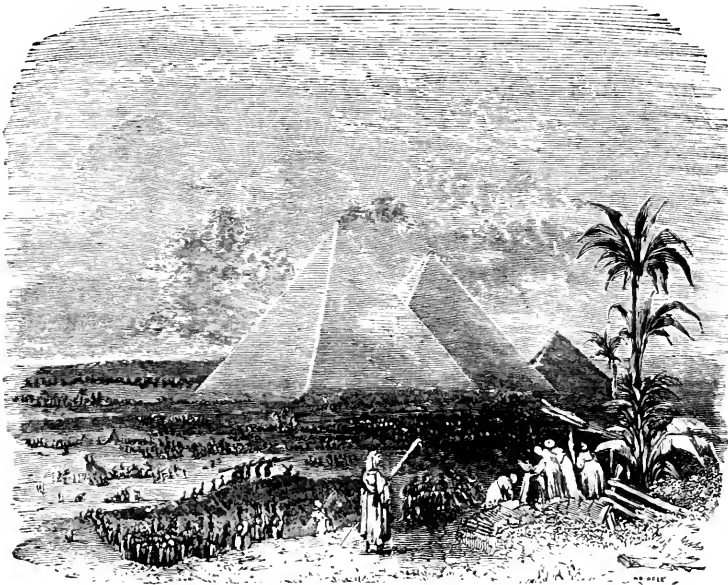
THE FINDING OF MOSES.

cruel. They required so much work of them that their lives were made very miserable and undesirable.

The labor they had to do was making brick, carrying mortar and building cities. And when they complained of their lot and cried for relief a greater task was given them.

When Moses saw how his people were ill-treated he was grieved. He desired and sought to lessen their suffering.

At one time, when he saw an Egyptian striking a Hebrew, he interfered, and, after looking about to see that no one saw him, he slew the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand. The next day he saw two of his own people quarreling with one another. He tried to reason with them, when one said, "Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? Intendest thou to kill me, as thou killest the Egyptian?" This caused



THE ISRAELITES IN BONDAGE.

Moses to fear, as it made him aware that what he had done the day before was known to the people. Soon it came to the ears of Pharaoh, the king, and he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from him and went to a place called Midian. There he met a priest by the name of Jethro. He had seven daughters, one of whom he gave to Moses for a wife.

So Moses contented himself to dwell in the land of Midian, where he spent his time in keeping his father-in-law's flock.

MOSES CALLED TO DELIVER ISRAEL.

AS Moses kept Jethro's flock near Mount Horeb, he saw a flame of fire in a bush. One thing very strange about this was the fire did not burn the bush. Moses, to get a better view of the great sight, turned to one side. As he did so the Lord called unto him from the burning bush. He told Moses He had seen the sufferings and knew the sorrow of his people, the Israelites; and He had come to free them from the hands of their enemies or oppressors, and to lead them to a goodly land, "flowing with milk and honey."

The Lord also told Moses that He had a work for him to do. He was to return to Egypt and tell the Israelites what the Lord intended to do for them.

Another thing for him to do was to go and ask Pharaoh, the king, to let the people depart out of the land of Egypt, that they might offer sacrifices unto the Lord. But Moses was not willing to do such a great task. He felt that it would be hard to make the people believe that the Lord had sent him. He told the Lord how he felt, desiring to receive more instructions from Him. The Lord then showed Moses how he should perform miracles or wonderful acts before his people that they might believe his story or message.

Moses did not yet feel like going, and said that he was not eloquent, or could not talk well, but that he was slow of speech. Moses' brother, Aaron, was then chosen to be a spokesman to him and would do the talking. After this Moses started on his way to do as the Lord had told him. On his way he met his brother, Aaron, and told him all that the Lord had said.



MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH.

When they reached Egypt they called together the elders of the Israelites and told their message from the Lord to them, and also performed the signs or miracles in their

sight. The people believed their words and bowed their heads in worship.

To carry out what the Lord had told Moses when He appeared in the burning bush, Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and asked him, in the name of the Lord, to let the Israelites go into the wilderness or prairie. But he would not let them go, and scolded Moses and Aaron for hindering the people in their work. In his anger he gave greater tasks to the Hebrews. The people then cried out and complained of Moses and Aaron. Moses also complained before the Lord, and the Lord again promised to deliver Israel from their bondage or service.

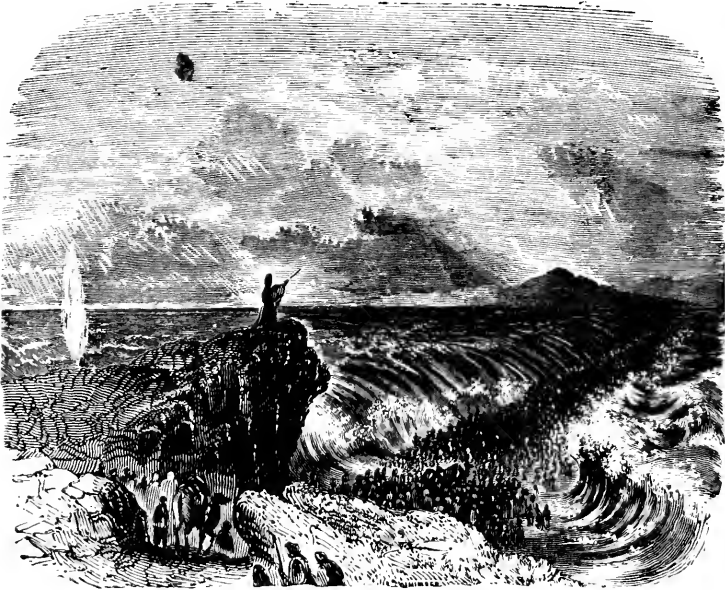
Moses was again told or commanded to go before Pharaoh. This time he was to perform a miracle before the king, if he should want it.

So when Moses and Aaron appeared before Pharaoh, Aaron cast down a rod which he carried with him. The rod was changed into a serpent or snake, and the king and his servants saw it.

There were sorcerers in Egypt, wicked men, who, by an evil power, could work miracles. These men were called for and they also cast down their rods which also became serpents. But the serpent from Aaron's rod swallowed up the other serpents.

The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, so that he would not set the Israelites free. A number of plagues next followed. First the water in the rivers and ponds was turned into blood, and the fish in the river died; the river stank and the Egyptians could not drink of it. The king's heart was still hardened. Frogs in great numbers were next sent as a plague; then came lice, swarms of flies, a disease among the cattle, boils and blains upon both man and beast, fierce hail and fire, locusts, darkness, and last of all the firstborn of the Egyptians were slain.

Pharaoh was now willing that the Israelites might go, and the Egyptians urged them to depart in haste, fearing they all would be destroyed if the Israelites remained.



CROSSING THE RED SEA.

THE ISRAELITES SET FREE.

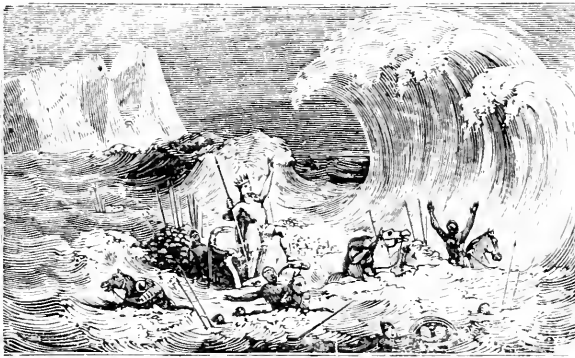
SOON after the children of Israel left Egypt, Pharaoh's heart was hardened. He was sorry he let the Hebrews go from serving him; so he gathered up all the chariots of Egypt and his army to go after the Israelites and bring them back. He overtook the camp of Israel by the side of the Red Sea.

When they saw the Egyptians coming towards them the people complained to Moses for taking them out of Egypt. They wished they had been left in Egypt, for, they said, it

was better that they should serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.

Moses replied saying: "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will show to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever."

The Lord told Moses to lift up his rod and stretch forth his hand over the sea, and it should be divided, so that the Israelites might cross over on dry ground. Moses did as the Lord directed, and the sea was divided. The people were thus



DESTRUCTION OF PHARAOH'S ARMY.

able to pass through the midst of the sea on dry land, while the waters rose up like a wall on each side.

Their enemies still followed them even into the midst of the sea. But the Lord desired that they should be destroyed, and He removed the wheels from their chariots, so that they could neither go forward nor go back. After the Israelites had crossed to the other side of the sea, Moses again stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the waters returned. Pharaoh's armies were drowned; and the children of Israel rejoiced in their deliverance.

Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, when he heard of the Israelites being set free from bondage, went forth to meet Moses in the wilderness. He had with him Moses' wife and two



MOSES MEETING HIS FAMILY.

sons. You can perhaps imagine the joy this meeting gave.
About three months after the Israelites left Egypt

reached the desert of Sinai. Here they camped at the foot of the mountain of the same name.

It was at this place that the Lord appeared to the people. On the morning of the third day after they camped a trumpet was heard sounding, then from a cloud that rested upon the mount was heard the voice of God. Amid the roar of thunder and the flash of lightning He gave unto the people the ten commandments, which were to be a law unto them and all their children.

The people trembled before the Lord and feared to be in His presence. They asked Moses to speak to them and not the Lord, lest they should die.

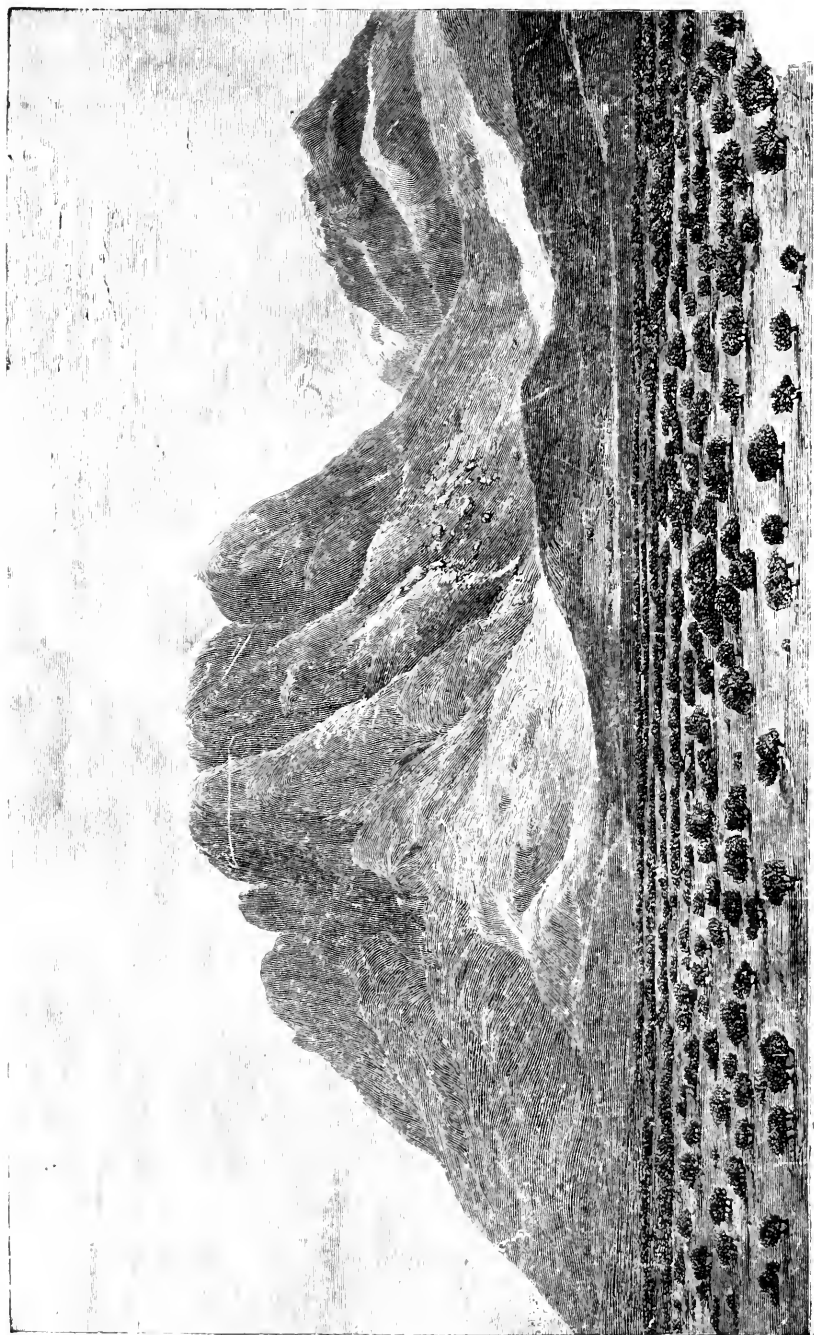
The Lord after this revealed to Moses a code of laws for their temporal guidance and welfare. He also gave many instructions concerning the building of a holy tabernacle, together with articles to be placed within it. And the duties of those officiating or acting in this holy place were made plain to them.

During the four hundred and thirty years that the children of Israel lived in Egypt, they seem to have become idolaters. That is they worshiped idols or images instead of the Lord. They were living among idolaters and no doubt they followed their habits and customs.

Often while in the wilderness they would find fault with Moses, their leader.

One time while Moses was up in the mountain being instructed of the Lord, the people persuaded Aaron to make an image for them to worship. So he gathered together their ear-rings of gold and molded them into a calf, which was set up for the people to worship.

The Lord told Moses what had been done. When Moses came down from the mountain and saw the golden image he took it and burned it in the fire; then he ground it up and strewed it in water for the people to drink.



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