

Sabbath School.

BIBLE LESSONS.

Adapted from *Pharaoh's Slave*.
SECOND QUARTER.

Lesson IV. April 22. Gen. 41: 28-48.

JOSEPH RULER IN EGYPT.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Them that honor me I will honor."
1 Sam. 2: 30.

THE SECTION OF HISTORY. Chap. 39-41.

NEW TESTAMENT LIGHT. The story (Acts 7: 9-11). Peter in prison (Acts 12: 4-11). Paul in prison (Acts 23: 6-11). And by which he reached his desire of preaching in Rome. God's providence (Rom. 8: 28). Faithful in things, ruler over many (Matt. 23: 21-23; Luke 19: 26). The trial of our faith (1 Pet. 1: 7). Promises of success (Matt. 6: 33; Mark 10: 29, 30).

EXPLANATORY.

LINKS IN THE CHAIN OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE. "by which Joseph was delivered from his misfortune." The story of the dreams of the butler and baker and Joseph's aid to them is given in chap. 40. Joseph continued in prison for two years after showing kindness to the released cup-bearer, who gratefully forgot all about his young prison friend. Then God sends two strange dreams to Pharaoh. None of the wise men of Egypt could interpret the dreams. Then the butler remembered Joseph, and he was called out of prison, and, declaring the interpretation to come from God, told Pharaoh that the two dreams had the same meaning. "Seven years of an abundance, extraordinary even for fruitful Egypt, were to be followed by seven years of still more extraordinary dearth. Joseph went farther, and counselled Pharaoh to give a discreet person authority over all the land, that he might store up the surplus corn of the seven years of plenty against the seven years of famine."

JOSEPH EXALTED TO BE GOVERNOR OF EGYPT.—Va. 38: 45, 38. "And Pharaoh said." In response to the wise advice Joseph had given. "Can we find such a one as this is?" for the carrying out of the proposed plan? Doubtless the story of Joseph during his imprisonment to them, and by his past life, as well as his present wisdom, they saw clearly that he was especially fitted for the proposed work. A man in whom the spirit of God is. He was faithful to his duty, and his God's blessing will attend all his plans and deeds.

39. "Forasmuch as God hath showed thee all this." We see in Joseph a striking illustration of the truth of the promise, "Them that honor me, I will honor." If God had shown Joseph so much, He would also give him wisdom in the future. Such a man would be invaluable as a ruler. "There is no sign to discredit." "Intelligent, and a clear insight into matters, and an apprehension of their true character and condition; while 'wise' denotes a capacity of devising and employing proper measures to gain the ends desired."

40. "Thou shalt be over my house." My palace, including all the officers and ministers of the kingdom. The chief over the palace was in ancient times next in power to the sovereign. "According unto thy word shall all my people be ruled." Others translate "all my people shall kiss" (Ps. 105: 21, 22). This refers to the edict granting official power to Joseph, to be issued in the form of a firman, as in the Oriental countries; and all who shall all my people be ruled. "Others translate 'all my people shall kiss' (Ps. 105: 21, 22). This refers to the edict granting official power to Joseph, to be issued in the form of a firman, as in the Oriental countries; and all who shall all my people be ruled."

41. "And Pharaoh took of his ring." The ring was undoubtedly a signet, or seal-ring, which gave validity to the documents to which it was affixed, and by the delivery of which, therefore, Pharaoh delegated to Joseph the chief authority in the state. These things were not always finger rings, but were often worn as bracelets. In the East, the seal alone has the effect which we give to both the seal and the signature. People in the East do not sign their names. They have seals in which their names and titles are engraved, and with which they make an impression with thick ink, on all occasions for which we use the signature. This is necessary since most of those who signed or to whom a document or order was sent could not read and write. For the same reason in former times in England taverns were known by their signs as "The Bear's Head," "The Elephant and Castle," etc. "Arrayed him in fine linen." A costly fabric famous in the ancient world as the Egyptian Byssus, a flax that grew on the banks of the Nile. The delicacy of the Egyptian linen was of 300 strands. (It is the finest now in the world—has only 100 threads an inch, that of Egypt has in times 140 threads to the inch. Herodotus says that sometimes each thread was composed of 300 strands. It is exceedingly soft and of dazzling whiteness. This linen had been sold for twice its weight in gold, according to Pliny.) "And put a gold chain about his neck." A badge of high office, as now in England, where are jewelled chains as a badge of office.

42. "Made him to ride in the second chariot." Thus arrayed, Joseph is placed in Pharaoh's second chariot (next to Pharaoh), and in the midst of a splendid procession conducted through the city. "Bow the knee." The heralds that went before him cried, "Abreke!" rendered, "bow the knee." Perhaps it means, "Rejoice," or "We are at thy service," and it was shouted before Joseph by the multitude, as "Vive le roi!" in our day.

44. "I am Pharaoh." That is, I, by my authority as the Pharaoh, or Emperor, raise thee to this position. "And without thee?" Joseph's authority was to be absolute and universal.

45. "And Pharaoh called Joseph's

Zephath-paaneah. Brugsch translates this as meaning, "Governor of the district of the place of life," or, as Gelkins suggests, "Governor of the Living One," with a reference to Joseph's true God. Canon Cook shows that it means, "Bread of Life," a most appropriate name. Jer-me says it means "Various of the world." "And he gave him to wife Asenath." An Egyptian word, signifying the "Favorite of Neith," the Egyptian Minerva. "Daughter of Potephrah." "Belonging to Rah," i. e., the sun. "Priest of On," or Heliopolis, a city of the sun. The two obelisks called Cleopatra's needles, one of which is now in London, and the other in New York, came originally from this city. "I believe that the king did this on purpose to have one of his men connected with the most ancient and venerated college of priests, who must have been very powerful at that time when we see Joseph respecting all their privileges while he treated so heavily all the rest of the country."

IV. JOSEPH'S GREAT WORK.—Va. 46: 48, 46. "And Joseph was 30 years old." By this note of time we learn how many years Joseph was in servitude, for he was wheat, raised from when sold into Egypt. "And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh." He did not remain among the novel delights and pleasures of the court, but immediately went forth in the performance of the new duties of his office. "And went throughout all the land of Egypt." To issue the proper orders, and to see their execution. Made an immediate survey to determine the site and size of the storehouses, and the different quarters of the country.

47. "The earth brought forth by handfuls." That is, in vast abundance; one kernel yielding a whole handful, or each stock producing as much corn as properly speaking, the hand could grasp. There was not a place in the then known world so well adapted to the production of corn (grain) as Egypt. The best wheat in Mid-Lothian, of which Edinburgh is the centre, is much less than that of Egypt. This is shown in an ancient mummy case from Egypt.

48. "And he gathered up all the food of the seven years." According to Joseph's advice that Pharaoh gather up a fifth part (v. 34). This was the government tax, or was bought up at low prices such as would prevail amid such abundance. Doubtless the people also stored up grain for themselves, but according to their faith, which was much less than Joseph's. This continued during the seven years of plenty.

TRUE SUCCESS. We should take great care to show that the wealth and power to which Joseph attained, were not his success, but only certain outward and temporal success, a portion of success which would not have been a success, if alone. He could have attained the largest and best part of his success, even if he had remained a slave. E. W. Robertson well says, "Shortly after his imprisonment, Joseph was released, his merits acknowledged, and almost regal dignity conferred upon him. Whereupon we say, 'Now all is right, merit has its reward; and with this political justice we are satisfied.' But he is not the justice of God's world. Are 'these' then the rewards of well doing—horses and carriages, the royal robe, and the knee bowed before him? Is it with these things, quite earthly, that the everlasting rewards celestial qualities? Neither in this world nor in the world to come are these the rewards of goodness."

LESSONS FROM JOSEPH IN EGYPT.

1. There is a divine and human element in life. They are the warp and woof of which the web of life is woven. Both are necessary to a successful life. The trials and experiences of youth are meant to be the preparation for larger and fuller lives. We do not know what is before us, but we do know that a right use of the present is the only true preparation for the future.

2. So our whole life is a preparation for the future. Life is the time of preparation. "We know not what we shall be." We do not know what glorious work or place is before us.

3. But we do know that faithfulness in little things is the preparation for greater things; that doing good, living rightly, trusting God in all circumstances is the only way to larger usefulness, to higher experiences, to wider spheres.

B. Y. P. U.

OUR OBJECT.
The unification of Baptist young people; their spiritual and social education; their Christian service; their education in scriptural knowledge; their instruction in Baptist history and doctrine; their maintenance in missionary activity, through existing denominational institutions.

OUR FOLLOWERS.
All Young People's Societies of whatever name in Baptist churches, and Baptist churches having no organizations are entitled to representation. We depend for our unity not upon any young people's name or method. Our common bond is the New Testament, in the full affirmation of whose teachings

WE ARE ONE PEOPLE WITH OUR MISSION.

Correspondence to this department should address their communications to Rev. J. J. Barnes, St. John, N. B.

For the week commencing April 15th.

Topic: Testifying in the midst of new benedictions. Ps. 22: 57-62.

1. Study the steps that lead up to Peter's denial.

2. Give attention to learn what kind of testimony is valuable among unbelievers and how to give it.

C. E. THAYER. "Self Control and How to Gain It." Prov. 16: 32.

News! See what the mail bag had for us this week.

On March 8th a Y. P. B. U. was organized in the Rev. William's church with seventeen active members.

The officers are as follows: President, Mr. Wm. Saunders; vice president, Miss Annie Coumser; treasurer, Mr. Wm. Kelly; secretary, Mr. Wm. Kelly; organist, Miss Minnie A. Hoyt.

Since organization our membership has been increased by three active and six associate members; the weekly meetings are held on Monday evening.

A club of nine subscribers to the Baptist Union has been forwarded. We pray for and expect God's blessing on the work.

HELMER M. ESTABROOKS, Cor. Sec.

Port Medway, N. S., Mar. 30, '94.

Instead of four regular conquest meetings, we commemorated the resurrection from the dead of the "Great Missionary—Jesus Christ."

One of the main features of our programme was a recitation by one of the juniors.

Our Union is "alive" and "lively."

We find the work of our church progressing much better with organized effort. We like to hear of the organization and progress of other Unions. The way is clear!

Let us be strong in Christ and "go forward."

MAUD MAUTHORNE, Cor. Sec.

On March 21st, Bro. J. S. Clark presented the objects of the Young People's Union before our church.

After discussion a vote was taken recommending the formation of a Union in connection with our church.

Accordingly the young people met last evening, adopted a constitution and elected officers as follows: President, J. N. Schurman; vice president, Thos. Johnson; secretary, Annie Schurman; treasurer, Wm. Downes.

About forty were present and signed the constitution with the pledge. When we get the harness adjusted properly we expect to have one of the best working Unions in the convention. You will hear more from the secretary later.

PASTOR

Summerside, Mar. 27, '94.

Upper Canada, Kings Co., N. S.

Our Young People's Society held a Missionary Conquest Meeting on Sunday evening, March 25th.

The exercise consisted of Scripture reading, prayer, music, Life and Work of Madam Feller, dialogues and recitations.

The meeting was full of interest and instruction. We have held several Conquest meetings, but this one seemed especially interesting as the subject discussed was one with which we were more or less familiar. We find these Conquest services are very instructive to us, and trust our love and zeal for the missionary cause will be greatly increased.

Our collections for the evening was \$2.95.

Yours very sincerely,

Mrs. E. M. THOMAS, Cor. Sec.

In the Conquest Meeting in Leinster street on the 27th ult., which was very well attended, one of the items of interest was an address by the pastor on "Why Baptist Preaching only will save Quebec." He put the matter in a strong light, and some of us feel more than ever that we have indeed a message for French Romanists.

The Conquest Meeting under the auspices of Y. P. B. U. of Main St. church, on 27th ult. was a very grand success. The papers were all well written and read, music excellent and congregation filled the school-room.

The pastor's address on "Was Peter a Pope in Rome, or was he ever in Rome at all?" interested with marked attention and interest. Collection good. This Union makes things hum.

WOLFVILLE, N. S.

"Sanhedrim and Synagogue or the Influence of Judaism on Christianity," formed the subject of a most interesting lecture delivered under the auspices of the Wolfville B. Y. P. U. on Tuesday evening, March 27, by Rev. G. E. White, of Yarmouth.

A short descriptive sketch of the Holy Land, "the chosen stage of a world's religious drama," and brief history of the Hebrew nation from Sinai to the return from Babylon, prefaced the main subject matter of the evening.

The origin, composition and powers of the Sanhedrim, its relation to the ecclesiastical councils of the church; the "origin and composition of the Synagogue, the influence on religious freedom, were the points chiefly dwelt upon. Mr. White developed his subject in a pleasing manner, thoroughly appreciated by an attentive audience. He has the thanks of the Union.

The usually good music of the B. Y. P. U. choir had the additional attraction of a solo by Miss Ethel Johnson

and music rendered by a quartette from the "Hill."

On Sunday evening, April 1, one of the most successful conquest meetings of the year was conducted by Rev. J. Denovan, the subject being the Grande Ligne Mission. The programme consisted of excellent addresses and papers with appropriate music. Cor. Sec.

How are our S. L. Classes prospering? You have nearly finished the course, have you been reviewing the work? Try two or three map exercises as a help towards fixing places and incidents in your mind. Leaders should now begin gathering up important topics in the course—remembering the examination is almost here. Our large S. L. Union across the line have no idea of letting us again obtain the banner. They felt small when "that man from Nova Scotia" carried away the banner last year, and have deliberately set themselves to win it back. Collect your copies of the Union, so you can speedily review—and don't be afraid of an examination.

ESSEX.

Toronto Convention.

The work of a Transportation Leader is by no means easy, and perhaps you think the leaders for the Province are slow in giving you definite information. We are trying now to get the best possible accommodation to our delegates en route to Toronto. We want you also to see Quebec with its historic scenes, the St. Lawrence in all its mighty grandeur as it flows to the sea; Montreal, with its fine streets, magnificent hotels and its unrivalled Mount Royal; our wonderful canals and Lake Ontario; those gems of the lake, the Thousand Isles; Kingston, the seat of Queen's University and the Canadian Military School, and we want you to shoot the Rapids in one of the beautiful boats of the Ontario and Richelieu Navigation Co. Arranging for all this at the least possible cost takes a deal of time and persuasive interviewing. But to those who wish to estimate probable cost of the trip we can say, your ticket will cost you a single first-class fare from any point in the Maritime Provinces, which cost you will ascertain from your nearest railway station. Board and lodging can be had in private boarding houses for \$1 per day, at hotels for \$1.50 per day and upwards. You will be five days at Toronto. Add to this the cost of meals while travelling, which cost we hope to make very small, and six dollars for all the proposed sight-seeing trips and you will have the limit of your necessary expenditure. Of course these side trips are also optional, but by all means plan on taking in the full trip.

Now, to assist the leaders in making suitable arrangements for your comfort while travelling, it is necessary we should be sure to inform you of the number who will go. We will have to have one or two cars for ourselves, and the cost depends largely upon the number. We have received a number of names from various parts of the province. Nova Scotia contingent to point of numbers as follows: John will lead New Brunswick, Halifax, Yarmouth, Windsor and Amherst have so yet given no but little insight into their intentions in this regard. We want to hear from you. Fifty is a small delegation for us to send, and from present indications we will have more than that number. Let every Union be represented, one delegate from every twenty members and as many more as can attend. The inspiration you will receive unpurged on your return to your society will repay the outlay many times over. Look for notes and information every week with this.

Yours truly,

SMITH L. WALKER, M. D.,

Leader for Nova Scotia.

When Chilly Winds are Blowing.

Don't let the door half open, But shut it with much care, Without a bang, without a slam, Just shut it fair and square, When chilly winds are blowing, And some one taking cold, And the open door is creaking And hanging like a scold.

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from Weak Lungs to Consumption, from Depleted Blood to Anemia, from Diseased Blood to Scrofula, from Loss of Flesh to Illness.

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She dropped suddenly upon her knees beside the window seat. "I have done the best I knew. Lord, if I was in a hurry, and did not wait for all that Thon said, I should have done something wrong today, oh, put it right, or make right come of it!" And so she got up again leaving it there, where she left everything. He both could and would, she knew; though mistakes were piled on mistakes in all she did. Was it not what He came and is with us always, for to judge the world?—Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney.

In the Days When the World Grows Fair.

I tell you for a wonder that no man shall then be glad

Of his fellow's fall and misadventure to snatch at the work he had.

Then all mine and all thine shall be ours, and no more shall any man crave

For riches that serve for nothing but to fether a friend for a slave.

For all these shall be ours and all men's, nor shall any lack a share

Of the toil and the gain of living in the days when the world grows fair.

—William Morris.

So long as we are conscious of self we are limited, selfish, held in bondage; when we are in harmony with the universal order, when we vibrate in unison with God, self disappears. Thus in a perfectly harmonious choir the individual cannot hear himself unless he makes a false note.—Amiel.

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