

Old Testament Stories

CLASSIC LIT FOR YOUNG READERS

EDWIN CHISHOLM

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Edwin Chisholm

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Old Testament Stories
Classic Literature for Young Readers

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Old Testament Stories

Selected for the Children by
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With Pictures by
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About This Book

These stories from the Bible are very old. Hundreds of years before they were written down at all they were told over and over again to the children of Israel by their parents. You may be sure that the things about their forefathers which were remembered for so long were the things that made the people of long ago most real to the children of Israel. And they are real to us too, for we see that these men of the old world were not unlike ourselves: the good people then loved obedience and patience, kindness and truth; and the evil things they had to fight against were disobedience, bad temper, and deceit.

So their struggles were like ours, and this draws us near to them; but what

draws us nearer still, is that over and over again we see that God helped them when they asked Him, just as He helps us now.

E. C.

CHAPTER 1
Abraham

Now it came to pass that God spake to Abraham, and said, 'Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, and go into a land that I will shew thee. And thy children's children will be many, they shall be a great nation, and I will bless thee and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing to many. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee.'

So Abraham went out from his home, not knowing whither God would lead him; and he was seventy and five years old when God spoke to him.

And Abraham took with him Sarah

his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all the flocks and herds and servants that belonged to them, and went forth to go into the land of Canaan. And into the land of Canaan they came.

Then God again spake to Abraham, and said, 'Unto thy children will I give this land.' And Abraham builded an altar unto God, who had appeared unto him.

Afterwards Abraham journeyed to Bethel, and there pitched his tent, and builded an altar, and called upon the name of the Lord.

And there was a famine in the land of Canaan; and Abraham went down into Egypt, but returned again to Bethel with Lot, his nephew, and with their household, and with all their flocks and herds. And Abraham was very rich in gold, in silver, and in cattle; and Lot also had flocks, and herds, and tents. And it came to pass that the number of their

cattle was so great that there was not food enough for them, and Abraham's herdsmen quarrelled with Lot's herdsmen.

Then Abraham said unto Lot, 'Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen; for we are brethren. Behold, the whole land is open to thee: separate thyself, I pray thee, from me. If thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if thou choosest the right hand, I will go to the left.'

And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well-watered everywhere, even as the garden of the Lord. Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan. But the men who lived in Sodom and other cities of the plain of Jordan, were wicked, and great sinners.

And the Lord said unto Abraham after Lot had gone away from him, 'Lift

up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art, northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward, for all the land that thou seest, to thee will I give it and to thy children for ever.'

Now it came to pass that certain kings of the land made war against Sodom, where Lot was; and the king of Sodom fled, and the kings took Lot and all that he had away to their own country. And they came and told Abraham, and when Abraham heard that Lot was taken prisoner, he armed his servants, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them. And at night he attacked the kings and smote them, and brought back again Lot and his goods, and all his people. And the king of Sodom went out to meet Abraham as he returned, and offered him gifts. But Abraham said, 'I will not take anything that is thine.'

After these things the word of the

Lord came to Abraham in a vision, saying, 'Fear not, Abraham, I am thy shield.'

And Abraham said, 'Behold, Lord God, to me thou hast given no children.'

And God brought Abraham out of his tent, and said, 'Look now toward heaven and tell the stars if thou be able to number them. And yet as many as the stars shall thy children and thy children's children be.'

And Abraham believed God.

Sarah, Abraham's wife, had no child. And Abraham took Sarah's handmaid, Hagar, and made her his wife (for it was the custom long ago in that country for rich men to have more than one wife). And Sarah was jealous and unkind to Hagar, and dealt so hardly with her that Hagar fled.

And the angel of the Lord found her in the wilderness beside a fountain of

water, and he said, 'Hagar, whence camest thou, and whither wilt thou go?'

She said, 'I flee from the face of Sarah, my mistress.'

The angel of the Lord said, 'Return to thy mistress, and be obedient to her. Behold, thou shalt have a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael. But he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him.'

And she called the name of the Lord that spake unto her, 'Thou God seest me.'

And Hagar did as the angel commanded her. And it came to pass that she had a son; and Abraham called his son's name Ishmael.

And the Lord appeared again unto Abraham as he sat in the tent-door in the heat of the day. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and lo! three men stood by him: and when he saw them he

ran to meet them from the tent-door, and bowed himself to-wards the ground. And he said, 'Pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant. Let a little water, I pray thee, be fetched, and wash your feet and rest yourselves under the tree; and I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts.'

And they said, 'So do as thou hast said.'

Then Abraham took cakes, and butter, and milk, and meat, and set these before them: and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat.

And the men said to Abraham, 'Where is Sarah, thy wife?'

He said, 'Behold, in the tent.'

And one of the men said, 'Lo, I will certainly fulfil my promise, and Sarah thy wife shall have a son.' And Sarah heard it in the tent-door, and she laughed within herself, saying, 'Shall I have a son

now that I am old?'

And the Lord said to Abraham, 'Wherefore did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for the Lord?'

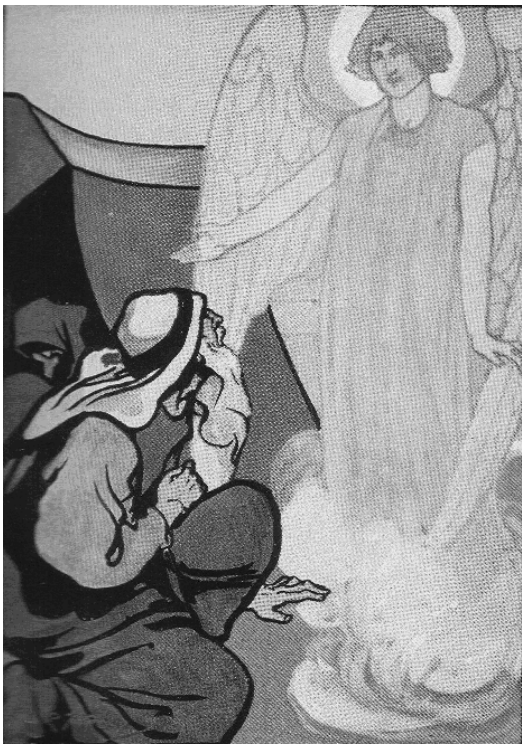
Then Sarah denied, saying, 'I laughed not,' for she was afraid.

But he said, 'Nay, but thou didst laugh.'

And the men rose up and looked towards Sodom; and Abraham went with them to bring them on their way.

And the Lord said to Abraham, 'I shall not hide from thee the thing I am about to do. Behold, the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah is very grievous. I will go down now and see whether they do as great evil as I have heard, and if the evil is very great, I will destroy these wicked cities.'

But Abraham drew near and said, 'Wilt thou destroy the good with the wicked? If there be fifty good men in the



And Sarah heard it in the tent door.

cities, wilt thou not spare the place for their sakes?'

And the Lord said, 'If I find in Sodom fifty good men, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.'

Abraham said, 'Behold, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord. If there shall lack five of the fifty good men, wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five?'

And the Lord said, 'If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.'

Then Abraham spake yet again, and said, 'If there be forty there?'

And the Lord said, 'I will not do it for forty's sake.'

Again Abraham said, 'Let not my Lord be angry, and I will speak. If now thirty be found there?'

And the Lord said, 'I will not do it if I find thirty there.'

And Abraham once more said, 'Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak

unto the Lord. If there shall twenty be found there?'

And the Lord said, 'I will not destroy it for twenty's sake.'

Even again Abraham said, 'Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but this once. If ten shall be found there?'

And the Lord said, 'I will not destroy it for ten's sake.'

Then came two angels to Sodom at even, and Lot sat at the door of his house, and seeing them rose up to meet them.

And Lot said, 'Turn in now, I pray you, my lords, into your servant's house, and tarry all night and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early and go on your way.' But they said, 'Nay, but we will abide in the street all night.'

Then Lot pressed them greatly, and they entered into his house, and he did make them a feast, and they did eat.

But before they lay down, the men of Sodom surrounded the house, and called to Lot to bring them out to them. And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, and said, 'I pray you, brethren, do no evil to these men, for they are my guests.'

And the men of Sodom were angry, and said, 'Stand back, or we will deal worse with thee than with them.' And they pressed sore upon Lot, and came near to break the door. But the angels put forth their hand and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. And they smote the men that were at the door with blindness, so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

Then the angels said unto Lot, 'Get ready your goods and your family, and prepare to leave this place, for God has seen their great wickedness, and hath sent us to destroy the city.' And when

the morning was come the angels hastened Lot, saying, 'Arise, take thy wife and thy daughters, lest thou be burned up in the city.' And while Lot lingered, the angels laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters, and brought them forth and set them without the city.

Then said they to Lot, 'Escape for thy life, look not behind thee; escape to the mountains lest thou be burned up.'

And Lot said, 'Oh, not so, my Lord. I cannot escape to the mountains lest some evil take me and I die; behold now, let me escape unto the city of Zoar, for it is near to flee to.' The angel said, 'Haste thee, escape to that city, and for thy sake it shall not be overthrown.'

Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire out of heaven, and utterly destroyed the

cities and the people in them. But for Abraham's sake the Lord spared Lot, and he escaped with his family to Zoar. But Lot's wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Now it came to pass that Sarah had a son, as God had promised. And Abraham was glad, and Sarah said, 'God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me.' And they called the boy Isaac.

But now that Sarah had a son of her own, she hated more bitterly Hagar and her son Ishmael. So she said to Abraham, 'Cast out now Hagar and her son, for Ishmael shall not be heir with my son.' And what she said grieved Abraham sore, because of Ishmael.

Then God said to Abraham, 'Do as Sarah asks, for Ishmael shall yet become the head of a great nation.'

And Abraham rose up early in the

morning, and took bread and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and sent her away with the child. And Hagar wandered in the desert, and the water in the bottle was spent. So she cast the child under one of the shrubs, and she herself sat down a good way off, for she said, 'Let me not see the death of the child.' And Hagar lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the lad, and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, 'What aileth thee, Hagar? Fear not, for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad, for I will make him a great nation.' And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water, and she went and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink. And God was with the lad, and he grew, and he lived in the wilderness and became an archer.

And it came to pass that God did try Abraham to prove him. And God said unto him, 'Abraham.'

He said, 'Behold, here I am.'

And God said, 'Take now thy son, thine own son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah, and offer up thy son there for a burnt-offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.'

And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave wood for the burnt-offering, and rose up and went unto the place of which God had told him. Then in the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, 'Abide ye here with the ass, and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.' And Abraham took the

wood for the burnt-offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and they went both of them together.

And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, 'My father.'

Abraham said, 'Here am I, my son.'

And Isaac said, 'Behold the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for the burnt-offering?'

And Abraham said, 'My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt-offering.' So they went both of them together.

And they came to the place which God had told him of: and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

And the angel of the Lord called

unto him out of heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham.'

And Abraham said, 'Here am I.'

Then the angel said, 'Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him, for now I know that thou dost obey God, for thou hast not kept back from me thy son.'

And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt-offering in the stead of his son.

Then the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, saying, 'Because thou hast done this thing, and hast not kept back from me thine own son, behold I will bless thee, and thy children shall become a great nation, as many as the stars in heaven and as the sand which is upon



And Abraham stretched forth
his hand, and took the knife to
slay his son.

the seashore in number. And a blessing shall come to all nations from one of thy children's children.'

And Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old; and Sarah died at Hebron, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her. And Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spake unto the sons of Heth. For the land there belonged to the sons of Heth. And Abraham said, 'I am a stranger and a sojourner with you; give me a burying-place that I may bury my dead out of my sight.'

And the children of Heth answered, saying, 'Hear us, my lord. Thou art a mighty prince amongst us: in the choice of our sepulchres bury thy dead.'

So Abraham communed with them, saying, 'If it be your mind that I should bury my dead, hear me, and entreat for me to Ephron the son of Zohar, that he

may give me the cave of Machpelah which he hath, which is in the end of his field; for as much money as it is worth he shall give it to me.'

And Ephron answered Abraham, 'Nay, my lord, the field I give thee, and the cave that is therein I give it thee; bury thy dead.'

Then Abraham bowed down himself before the people of the land, and spake unto Ephron, saying, 'But if thou wilt give it, I pray thee hear me, I will give thee money for the field, take it of me, and I will bury my dead there.'

But Ephron answered, 'My lord, hearken unto me; the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver: what is that between me and thee?' Yet Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver which he had named, and the field of Ephron and cave which was in it was made sure to Abraham for a burying-place.

And Abraham was one hundred and seventy-five years old, and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. Then Abraham died, an old man, and was buried in the cave of Machpelah.

CHAPTER 2
Isaac

While Abraham was old, he had said unto the eldest servant of his house, 'Promise me now that thou shalt not take as a wife for my son one of the daughters of the people of Canaan. But thou shalt go unto my own country and my own people, and choose from amongst them a wife for my son Isaac.'

And the servant said unto him, 'If now the woman whom I choose will not be willing to follow me unto this land, must I then bring thy son again into the land from whence thou camest?'

Abraham said unto him, 'Thou shalt not take my son thither. But the Lord God of heaven who led me to this land,

and has promised to give this land to my children, he shall send his angel with thee. And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee, thou canst do no more: thou hast kept thy promise. Only bring not my son thither.' Then the servant promised.

And the servant took ten camels, and set out and came to the city of Nahor in Mesopotamia. And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening. And at that time the women go to the well to draw water.

And the servant said, 'O Lord God, I pray thee help me this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham! Behold, I stand here by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water. Let it now come to pass that the damsel who shall say unto me, "Drink, and I will give thy

camels drink also"; when I shall say to her, "Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink": let this be she whom thou hast chosen as a wife for thy servant Isaac.'

And it came to pass before he had done speaking that, behold, Rebekah came out with her pitcher upon her shoulder. And she was the daughter of Bethuel, and Bethuel was the son of Abraham's brother Nahor. Rebekah was very fair to look upon: and she went down to the well and filled her pitcher, and came up. And the servant ran to meet her and said, 'Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water from thy pitcher.'

And Rebekah said, 'Drink, my lord': and she hasted, and set down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink. And when she had done giving him drink, she said, 'I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking.'

Then she emptied her pitcher into the trough for the camels, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels. And the man said nothing, but wondered whether God had heard him and sent him what he sought.

When the camels had done drinking, the man took a gold earring and two bracelets and gave them to Rebekah, and said, 'Whose daughter art thou? Tell me, I pray thee, is there room in thy father's house for us to lodge in?'

And Rebekah said, 'I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Nahor, and we have food enough, and room for you to lodge in.'

Then the man said, 'Blessed be God, who is good to my master Abraham, and has led me to the house of my master's brethren.'

Then Rebekah ran, and told her mother and her brother Laban these

things; and Laban ran out unto the man unto the well, and said, 'Come in, for I have prepared the house, and room for the camels.' And the man came into the house, and Laban gave him straw and food for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the men's feet that were with him. And food was set before him.

But the man said, 'I will not eat until I have told thee what I have come for. I am Abraham's servant. The Lord hath made my master great, and hath given him flocks and herds, and silver and gold, and man-servants and maid-servants, and camels and asses. And Abraham my master hath given all that he hath to his son Isaac. My master made me promise, saying, "Thou shalt not take a wife for my son out of the land of Canaan in which I dwell, but thou shalt go into the land from whence I came, and unto my father's house, and take a wife unto my

son." Then I said unto my master, "But if the woman will not follow me?" And he said unto me, "The Lord who has been with me, will send his angel to direct thee." So I came this day unto the well, and said, "O Lord God of my master Abraham, behold I stand at the well of water. Let it be that when a damsel cometh forth to draw water, and I say to her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water out of thy pitcher to drink, and she say, Drink, and I will also draw for thy camels; let that be the woman whom the Lord has chosen for my master's son." And before I had done speaking in mine heart, behold, Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder, and she went down to the well and drew water. And I said unto her, "Let me drink, I pray thee." And she made haste, and let down her pitcher from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will give thy camels drink

also": so I drank, and she made the camels drink also. Then I asked her, "Whose daughter art thou?" and she said, "The daughter of Bethuel the son of Nahor." Therefore I bowed my head and worshipped the Lord, and thanked the Lord God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the right way, to take Rebekah unto his son. Now tell me if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master: and if not, tell me.'

Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, 'We can say nothing; this is the Lord's doing. Behold, Rebekah is before thee; take her and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife.'

And it came to pass that when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the Lord, and bowed himself to the earth. Then he brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment, and gave them to Rebekah: he

also gave to her brother and to her mother precious things.

And they did eat and drink, he and the men that were with him, and tarried all night. And they rose up in the morning, and the servant said, 'Send me away unto my master.'

But Rebekah's brother and her mother said, 'Let the damsel abide with us a few days, at the least ten: after that she shall go.'

But he said unto them, 'Hinder me not, seeing the Lord hath given me what I sought: send me away, that I may go to my master.'

So they said, 'We will call the damsel and ask her.' And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, 'Wilt thou go with this man?' And she said, 'I will go.'

And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. And the servant

took Rebekah and went his way. And Rebekah and her damsels rode upon camels, and followed the man.

Now Isaac went out to pray in the field at eventide. And he lifted up his eyes, and behold, the camels were coming.

And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she alighted from off the camel, for she had said unto the servant, 'What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us?' And the servant had said, 'This is my master.'

Then the servant told Isaac all things that he had done. And Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother's tent, and she became his wife, and he loved her.

Now it came to pass that Rebekah had sons, and they were twins. The name of the first-born was Esau, and the name of the younger was Jacob. And the boys grew; and Esau was a cunning hunter, a

man who lived in the fields. But Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents.

Now Isaac their father loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

And Jacob made pottage; and Esau came from the field, and he was faint.

And Esau said to Jacob, 'Feed me, I pray thee, with that same pottage, for I am faint.'

And Jacob said, 'Sell me this day thy birthright.'

And Esau said, 'Behold, I am at the point to die, and what profit shall this birthright do to me?' And he sold his birthright unto Jacob.

Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils: and he did eat and drink, and rose up and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.

And it came to pass that when Isaac was old and his eyes were dim, so that he

could not see, he called Esau, his eldest son, and said unto him, 'My son.'

And Esau said unto him, 'Behold, here I am.'

And Isaac said, 'Behold now I am old, I know not how soon I may die. Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field and hunt, and make me savoury meat, such as I love, that I may eat. Then will I bless thee before I die.'

And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her younger son, saying, 'Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying, "Bring me venison and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before I die." Now therefore, my son, obey my voice, and do that which I command thee. Go now to the flock, and fetch me thence two good kids, and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth. And thou shalt bring

it to thy father that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death.'

And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, 'Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man. If my father feel me, I shall seem to him a deceiver, and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing.'

But his mother said, 'Only obey my voice, and go and fetch me the kids.'

And Jacob went and fetched them, and brought them to his mother; and his mother made the savoury meat that his father loved.

And Rebekah took raiment of her eldest son Esau, which was with her in the house, and put it upon Jacob, her younger son. And she put the skins of the kids upon his hands, and upon the smooth part of his neck, and Rebekah gave the savoury meat, and the bread she had prepared, into the hand of her son

Jacob.

And he came unto his father, and said, 'My father." And his father said, 'Here am I; who art thou, my son?'

And Jacob said unto his father, 'I am Esau, thy first-born. I have done as thou badest me. Arise, I pray thee, and eat of my venison, that thou mayest bless me.'

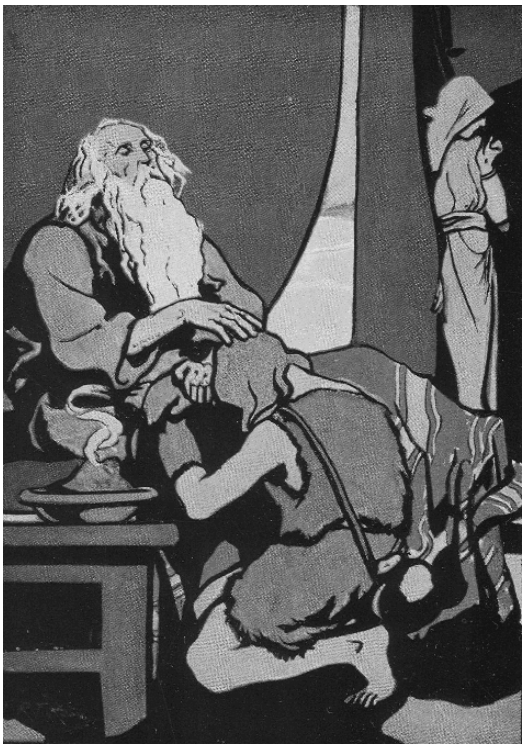
And Isaac said to his son, 'How is it thou hast found it so quickly, my son?'

Jacob said, 'It is because the Lord thy God helped me.'

Then Isaac said to Jacob, 'Come near, I pray, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be in truth my son Esau or not.'

And Jacob went near unto Isaac, his father; and Isaac felt him, and said, 'The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.'

Then Isaac said again, 'Art thou my very son Esau?'



And Jacob said, “I am Esau.”

And Jacob said, 'I am.'

So Isaac said, 'Bring the venison near to me.' And Jacob brought it near, and Isaac did eat.

Then his father said unto Jacob, 'Come near now and kiss me, my son.'

And Jacob came near and kissed his father, and Isaac smelled his raiment, for it smelled of the field; and Isaac blessed Jacob.

And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was gone out from the presence of his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

Esau also had made savoury meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto him, 'Let my father arise and eat of his son's venison, that he may bless him.'

And Isaac his father said unto him, 'Who art thou?'

He said, 'I am thy son, thy first-born,

Esau.'

Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, 'Where is he who has already brought me venison? For I have eaten before thou camest, and blessed him who brought it, yea, and he shall be blessed.'

When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, 'Bless me, even me also, O my father!'

And Isaac said, 'Thy brother came, and hath taken away thy blessing.'

Esau said unto his father, 'Hast thou but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father!' And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

Then Isaac blessed Esau also. But Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father had blessed him.

And Esau said, 'When my father is dead, then will I slay my brother Jacob.'

When Rebekah heard the words of

Esau, she sent and called Jacob, her younger son, and said unto him, 'Behold, thy brother Esau desireth to kill thee. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice and arise, and flee thou to Laban my brother, and tarry with him, till Esau's anger turn away from thee, and he forget that which thou hast done to him. Then will I send and fetch thee again.'

And Rebekah said to Isaac, 'Let us send away Jacob our son, to find a wife for himself among the daughters of Laban my brother.' And they sent Jacob away.

Then Isaac died, and was buried.

CHAPTER 3
Jacob

Now it came to pass that Isaac and Rebekah sent their younger son Jacob away to the land of Padan-aram, that he might find for himself a wife from among the daughters of Laban, his mother's brother.

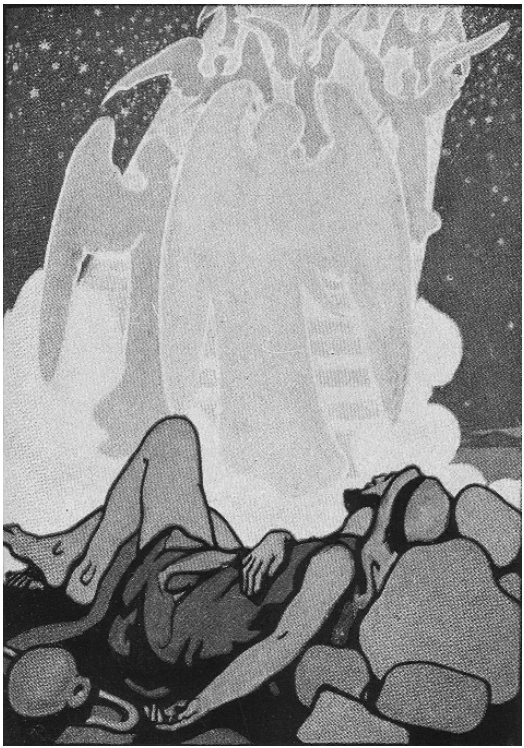
And Jacob went on till he lighted upon a certain place, and there he tarried all night, because the sun was set. He took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillow, and lay down in that place to sleep.

And he dreamed, and behold there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold the angels of God ascending and

descending on it. And behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, 'I am the Lord God of thy father Isaac; the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy children. Behold I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and I will bring thee back again to this land, for I will not leave thee, till I have done all that which I have promised thee.'

Then Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not.' And he was afraid, and said, 'How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stones that he had put for his pillow, and set them up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel, that is, the house of God.



He took of the stones of that
place and put them for his pillows.

Then Jacob vowed a vow, saying, 'If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then shall the Lord be my God. And this stone which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that God gives me, I will surely give again to God the tenth part.'

Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east.

And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks; and a great stone was upon the well's mouth. Thither were all the flocks gathered. And the shepherds rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in

its place.

And Jacob said to the shepherds, 'Know ye Laban?'

And they said, 'We know him.'

Jacob said to them, 'Is he well?'

And they said, 'He is well; and behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep.'

And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she kept them.

And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel, the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept.

Then Jacob told Rachel that he was Rebekah's son, and she ran and told her

father.

And it came to pass when Laban heard that Jacob his sister's son had come, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him, and brought him to his house. And Jacob abode with him a month.

And Laban said, 'Because thou art my sisters son, shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought? Tell me what shall thy wages be?'

Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah was tender-eyed, but Rachel was beautiful; and Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, 'I will serve thee seven years for Rachel, that she may be my wife.'

And Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man. Abide with me.'

And Jacob served seven years for

Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days, for the love he had to her.

And when the seven years were passed Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife.'

And Laban made a feast, and brought Leah to Jacob.

But Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this thou hast done? Did not I serve with thee for Rachel?'

And Laban said, 'It must not be so done in our country to give the younger before the first-born.'

Then Laban said, 'Serve me yet other seven years, and thou shalt also have Rachel.' And Jacob did so, and fulfilled seven other years.

And it came to pass after many years, that Jacob said unto Laban, 'Send me away, that I may go to my own country. Give me my wives and my children, for whom I have served thee, and let me go.'

But Laban said, 'I pray thee tarry, for I have learned that the Lord hath blessed me for thy sake.'

And Jacob said, 'Appoint me then wages, and I will serve thee.'

And Laban said, 'What shall I give thee?'

Jacob said, 'Thou shalt not give me anything. If thou wilt do this thing for me, I will again feed and keep thy flock. I will pass through all the flock to-day, removing all the speckled and spotted cattle, and all the brown cattle among the sheep, and the spotted and speckled among the goats, and of such shall be my hire. And so in days to come shalt thou know that every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the sheep, shall be counted stolen by me.'

And Laban said, 'Behold, I would it might be as thou sayest'; and he removed

the speckled cattle according to Jacob's words.

And Jacob increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maid-servants, and men-servants, and camels, and asses.

And Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, 'Jacob hath taken away all that was our father's.'

And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and behold, it was not friendly towards him as before.

Then the Lord said to Jacob, 'Return unto the land of thy father, and I will be with thee.'

And Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field unto his flock, and said unto them, 'I see your father's countenance, that it is not toward me as before, but the God of my father hath been with me: and ye know that with all my power I have served your father. And behold now the countenance of your

father is no longer friendly towards me, but God has not suffered him to hurt me. And now the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, "Jacob, arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy fathers.'"

And Rachel and Leah answered and said unto him, 'Now, then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do.'

Then Jacob rose up and set his sons and his wives upon camels; and he carried away all his cattle, and all his goods which he had gotten, to go to the land of Canaan.

And Jacob stole away, and told Laban not that he fled. So he fled with all that he had, and he passed over the river, and set his face toward mount Gilead.

And Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's, but Jacob knew not that she had stolen them.

And it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob was fled; and he followed after him for seven days, and Laban overtook Jacob in the mount Gilead.

And God came to Laban in a dream by night, and said unto him, 'Take heed that thou do no harm to Jacob.'

Then Laban overtook Jacob, and said to him, 'What hast thou done, that thou hast stolen away unawares to me? Wherefore didst thou not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth and with songs? and thou hast not suffered me to kiss my sons and my daughters. Thou hast now done foolishly. It is in the power of my hand to do you hurt; but the God of your father spake to me yesternight, saying, "Take heed that thou harm not Jacob my servant." And now, though thou wouldest needs be gone, because thou sore longedst after thy father's house, yet

wherefore hast thou stolen my images?'

Now Jacob knew not that Rachel had stolen them. Therefore he answered and said, 'With whomsoever thou findest thy images, let him not live.'

And Laban searched in all the tents, but found them not, for Rachel had hidden them in the camel's furniture.

Then Jacob was wroth, and chid with Laban and said, 'Whereas thou hast searched all my stuff, what hast thou found? Set it here before my brethren, that they may judge between us both.'

And Laban answered and said unto Jacob, 'These daughters are my daughters, and these children are my children, and these cattle are my cattle, and all that thou seest is mine; and what can I do this day unto these my daughters, or unto their children? Now therefore, come, let us make a covenant, I and thou, and let it be for a witness between

me and thee.'

And Jacob took a stone, and set it up for a pillar. And he said to his men-servants, 'Gather stones.' And they took stones and made an heap, and they did eat there upon the heap.

And Laban said, 'This heap is a witness between me and thee.' And he called the name of it Mizpah, for he said, 'The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from the other.'

Then Jacob offered sacrifice upon the mount Gilead, and they did eat bread and tarried all night in the mount.

And early in the morning Laban rose up, and kissed his sons and his daughters, and blessed them.

Then Laban departed, and returned unto his place.

And Jacob went on his way; and he sent messengers before him unto Esau his brother, and he commanded them,

saying, 'Thus shall ye speak unto my lord Esau, "Thy servant Jacob saith thus, I have sojourned with Laban and stayed there until now, and I have oxen and asses, flocks, and men-servants and women-servants, and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in thy sight."'

And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, 'We came to thy brother Esau, and also he cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men with him.'

Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people that was with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two bands.

And he said, 'If Esau come to the one company and smite it, then the other company which is left shall escape.'

Then Jacob prayed, 'O God of my father Isaac, the Lord which said unto me, "Return unto thy country and to thy

kindred, and I will deal well with thee," deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children.'

And Jacob lodged there that same night, and he got ready a present for Esau his brother; two hundred she-goats, and twenty he-goats, two hundred ewes, and twenty rams, thirty camels with their colts, forty kine and ten bulls, twenty she-asses and ten foals. And he delivered them into the hand of his servants, every drove by themselves, and said unto his servants, 'Pass over before me, and put a space between drove and drove.'

And Jacob commanded the foremost, saying, 'When Esau my brother meeteth thee and asketh thee, saying, "Whose art thou, and whither goest thou, and whose are these before thee?" then thou shalt say, "They be thy servant Jacob's. It is a

present sent unto my lord Esau; and behold also thy servant Jacob is behind us.'"

And so commanded Jacob the second and the third, and all that followed the droves, saying, 'On this manner shall ye speak unto Esau, when ye find him.'

For Jacob said, 'I will first give him the present that goeth before me, and afterward I will see his face, and peradventure he will accept of me.' So went the present over before him.

And Jacob rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two womenservants, and his eleven sons; and he took them and sent them over the brook.

And Jacob was left alone, and there wrestled a man with him, unto the breaking of the day. And when the man saw that he prevailed not against Jacob, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of

joint as he wrestled with him. And the man said, 'Let me go, for the day breaketh'; and Jacob said, 'I will not let thee go except thou bless me.'

And the man said, 'What is thy name?'

And he answered, 'Jacob.'

And the man said, 'Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel, for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men.'

And Jacob asked him and said, 'Tell me, I pray thee, thy name.'

And the man said, 'Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name?' And he blessed Jacob there.

And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for 'I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.'

And at break of day Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men.

And Jacob passed over before Rachel and Leah and the children, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children. And Esau said, 'Who are those with thee?'

And Jacob said, 'The children which God hath graciously given thy servant.'

Then Esau said, 'What meanest thou by all this drove which I met?'

And he said, 'These are to find grace in the sight of my lord.'

But Esau said, 'I have enough, my brother; keep that thou hast unto thyself,'

And Jacob said, 'Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand'; and he

urged Esau, and Esau took it.

And Esau said, 'Let us take our journey together, and I will go before thee.'

But Jacob said, 'My lord knoweth that the children are tender, and if one should over-drive the flock, they will die. Let my lord therefore pass on before his servant, and I will follow as the cattle that goeth before me and the children are able to endure.' So Esau returned that day to his own land.

And God said, 'Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there, and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee, when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother.'

Then Jacob said to his household and all that were with him, 'Let us arise and go up to Bethel, and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress.'

So Jacob journeyed to Bethel; and he

built there an altar, and called it El-bethel, because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.

And God said to Jacob, 'Thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name.' And he called his name Israel.

And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

CHAPTER 4
Joseph

Now the sons of Jacob were twelve, and Joseph and Benjamin, the children of Rachel, were the youngest of Jacob's sons. And when Joseph was seventeen years old, he was feeding the flock with his brethren. And Joseph brought home an evil report of his brothers.

Now Jacob loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of Rachel and of his old age; and he made him a coat of many colours. And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated Joseph, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

And Joseph dreamed a dream; and

he told it to his brethren, and they hated him yet the more. And Joseph said unto them, 'Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed. For behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright, and behold, your sheaves stood round about and made obeisance to my sheaf.' And his brethren said to Joseph, 'Dost thou indeed think thou shalt reign over us?' And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

And Joseph dreamed yet another dream, and told it to his brethren, and said, 'Behold, I have dreamed a dream more, and behold the sun, and the moon, and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.' And he told his father also. And his father rebuked him, and said unto him, 'What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I, thy mother, and thy brethren indeed come to bow down

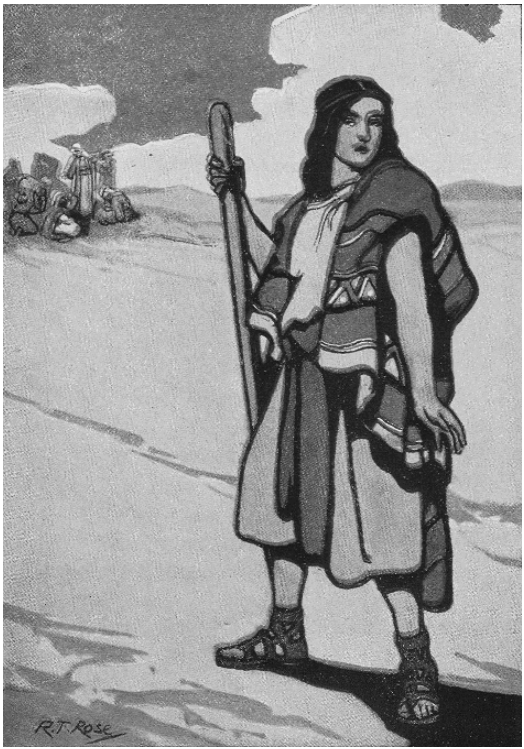
ourselves to thee to the earth?' And his brethren envied him, but his father remembered the dream.

Now his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. And Jacob said unto Joseph, 'Come, I will send thee to thy brethren.' And Joseph said, 'Here am I.'

And Jacob said, 'Go, I, pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren and well with the flocks, and bring me word again.'

And when Joseph's brethren saw him afar off, even before he came near, they said one to another, 'Behold, this dreamer cometh. Come now, therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, "Some evil beast hath devoured him"; and we shall see what will become of his dreams.'

And Reuben, one of his brothers, said, 'Let us not kill him, but cast him



They said to one another,
"This dreamer cometh."

into this pit that is in the wilderness.' For Reuben wished to take him out of their hands to deliver him to his father.

Now it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours, that was on him. And they took him and cast him into a pit; and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

And Joseph's brethren sat down to eat bread, and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and behold, a company of merchants came with their camels, bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

Then Judah said to his brethren, 'Come and let us sell Joseph to these merchants.' And his brethren were content. But Reuben was not with them. And they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the merchantmen for twenty pieces of silver; and

Joseph was taken into Egypt.

And Reuben returned unto the pit, and behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes, and he returned to his brethren and said, 'The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?'

And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; and they brought the coat of many colours to their father and said, 'This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no.'

And Jacob knew it and said, 'It is my son's coat: an evil beast hath devoured him. Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.' And Jacob mourned for his son many days. And all his sons and his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and said, 'For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning.' Thus his father wept for him.

And the merchants who bought

Joseph sold him into Egypt, unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

And Joseph found favour in the sight of his master, and Potiphar made Joseph overseer over his house. And the Lord blessed Potiphar's house for Joseph's sake.

But Potiphar's wife was angry with Joseph, and spake evil about him to Potiphar; therefore Potiphar took Joseph and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound.

But the Lord was with Joseph, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners. And all that Joseph did, the Lord made it to prosper.

And it came to pass after these things, that the butler of the king of Egypt and his baker had offended their

lord, the king of Egypt. And Pharaoh was wroth against them, and put them into prison, the place where Joseph was. And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them.

And they dreamed a dream, both the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt.

And Joseph came in unto them in the morning, and looked upon them, and behold, they were sad. And Joseph said, 'Wherefore look ye so sadly to-day?' They said unto him, 'We have dreamed a dream, and there is no man to tell us the meaning of it.'

Then the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said unto him, 'In my dream, behold, a vine was before me; and in the vine were three branches; and it was as though it budded, and her blossoms shot forth, and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes. And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the

grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup.'

And Joseph said unto him, 'This is the meaning of it. The three branches are three days. Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, as thou wert used to do. But remember me,' said Joseph, 'when it is well with thee, and speak for me to Pharaoh that he bring me out of this prison, for indeed I was stolen away out of the land of Canaan; and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into this dungeon.'

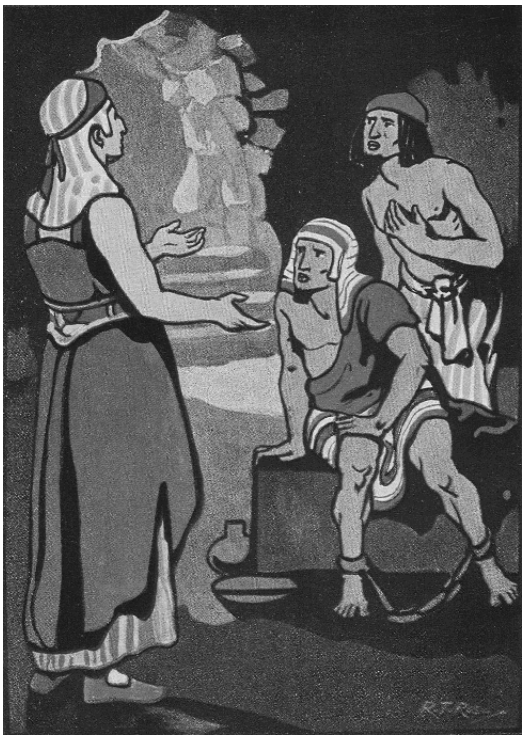
Now when the chief baker saw that the meaning of the butler's dream was good, he said unto Joseph, 'I also saw in my dream, and behold, I had three white baskets on my head; and in the uppermost basket there were all kinds of cakes

for Pharaoh, and the birds did eat them out of the basket upon my head.'

And Joseph answered and said, 'This is the meaning. The three baskets are three days. Yet within three days shall Pharaoh hang thee on a tree, and the birds shall eat thy flesh from thee.' And it came to pass the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants, and he restored the chief butler to be butler again, but he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had foretold. Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgat him.

Now it came to pass at the end of two full years that Pharaoh dreamed a dream, and in the morning he was troubled in spirit, because the meaning was hid from him. So he sent and called for all the wise men in Egypt, but none of them could tell him what the dream meant.

Then spake the chief butler unto



And Joseph answered and said,
"This is the meaning thereof."

Pharaoh, saying, 'I do remember my faults this day. When Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, and put both me and the chief baker in prison, we dreamed a dream in one night, both I and he. And there was there with us a young man, and we asked him, and he told to each of us the meaning of his dream. And all that he told us came to pass.'

So Pharaoh sent and called for Joseph; and they brought him hastily out of the prison, and he came in unto Pharaoh.

And Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'I have dreamed a dream; and I have heard that thou canst understand dreams and tell the meaning thereof. And Joseph answered, 'It is not in me to do this, but God shall give Pharaoh an answer in peace.'

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of

the river; and behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, fat and healthy, and they fed in a meadow. And behold, seven other kine came up after them, poor and ill-looking and very lean, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness. And the lean kine did eat up the first seven fat kine. And when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them, for they were still as poor and ill-looking as at the beginning. So I awoke. And again I dreamed, and behold, seven ears came up in one stalk, full and good. And behold, seven ears, withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind, sprang up after them. And the thin ears eat up the seven good ears; and I told this unto the wise men, but none could tell me the meaning of it.'

Then Joseph said unto Pharaoh, 'God has shewn Pharaoh in his dream

what he is about to do. The seven good kine are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years. Both dreams have the same meaning. And the seven thin and wretched kine that came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty ears blasted with east wind are seven years. What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh. For behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt, and there shall arise after them seven years of famine, so grievous that the seven years of plenty shall be forgotten. And God hath shewn these things to Pharaoh in two dreams, because he will shortly bring it to pass. Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a wise and careful man, and set him over the land of Egypt, and let this man appoint officers to gather into store-houses the food that is not needed in the seven years of plenty. And this store of

food will feed the people lest they die of hunger during the seven years of famine.' And what Joseph said seemed good in the eyes of Pharaoh.

And Pharaoh said to his servants, 'Can we find such an one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?' And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, 'As God has showed thee these things, there is none so wise as thou art.

'Behold, thou shalt be over all the land of Egypt, and all my people shall be ruled by thy words.' Then Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and clothed him in white linen, and put a gold chain about his neck. And he made him to ride in a chariot; and the people cried before him, 'Bow the knee.'

So Joseph was ruler over the land of Egypt under Pharaoh. And in the seven years of plenty Joseph gathered corn as

the sand of the sea very much, and stored it in storehouses in the cities.

And the seven years of plenty were ended, and the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said. And the famine was in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. And when the people of Egypt cried unto Pharaoh for bread, Pharaoh said to the Egyptians, 'Go unto Joseph, and the thing he says unto you, do.' And Joseph opened the storehouses and sold corn to the Egyptians.

Now the famine was sore in the land of Canaan as in the land of Egypt; and it came to pass that when Jacob, Joseph's father, heard that there was corn in Egypt, he said to his sons, 'Get you down to Egypt, and buy corn for us there, that we may live and not die.' And Joseph's brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt. But Benjamin, Jacob's youngest

son, did he not send with them, for he was afraid that evil might befall him.

And when Joseph's brethren came into the land of Egypt, into the presence of Joseph, they bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them; but they knew not Joseph. And Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamed about them, and he spake roughly to them, and said, "Whence came ye?' They said, 'From the land of Canaan to buy food.'

And Joseph said, 'Nay, but ye are spies, and to see how poor the land is are ye come.'

'Nay, my lord,' they said, 'but to buy food are thy servants come. We are all one man's sons; we are true men, thy servants are no spies.'

And Joseph again said, 'Nay, but to spy how poor the land is are ye come.'

And they said, 'Thy servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan, and behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is not.'

Then Joseph answered, 'Nay, but ye are spies, and hereby shall ye be proved. Behold, ye shall not go from here until your youngest brother come hither. Send therefore one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be kept in prison, that your words may be proved whether there be any truth in you.' And he put them all together into prison there.

And Joseph said to them the third day, 'This do and live, for I fear God. Let one of your brethren remain here bound in the prison until ye bring your youngest brother unto me, and go ye carry corn for the famine of your houses.'

When they heard this, they said one

to the other, 'This distress has come upon us because we did evil to Joseph our brother, and when he begged us to treat him kindly, we would not.' And Reuben said, 'Spake I not unto you, saying, "Do not sin against the child," and ye would not hear?' They knew not that Joseph understood, for he had spoken to them by an interpreter.

And Joseph turned himself about from them and wept, and returned to them again, and took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes.

Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for their journey. And they laded their asses with corn and they went on their way.

And as one of them opened his sack to give his ass food, he espied his money, for behold, it was in his sack's mouth.

And he said unto his brethren, 'My money is restored, and lo, it is even in my sack.' And their hearts failed them, and they were afraid, saying one to another, 'What is this that God hath done unto us?'

Now when they came into Canaan unto Jacob their father, they told him what had befallen them. And it came to pass that they emptied their sacks, and behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack. And when both they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid.

And Jacob their father said unto them, 'Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away.'

And Reuben spake unto his father, saying, 'Slay my two sons if I bring not Benjamin back to thee. Deliver him into my hand, and I will bring him to thee

again.'

Then Jacob said, 'My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is left alone. If mischief befall him by the way in the which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.'

And the famine was sore in the land of Canaan. And it came to pass, when they had eaten of the corn which they had brought out of Egypt, their father said unto them, 'Go again, buy us a little food.'

But Judah answered, 'The man did solemnly say, "Ye shall not see my face except your youngest brother be with you." If thou wilt send our brother with us, we will go and buy thee food. Send the lad with me: I will be surety for him, and if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever.'

And Jacob said to them, 'If it must be so now, do this. Take of the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down to the man a present, a little balm, and a little honey, spices and myrrh, nuts and almonds. And take double money in your hand; and the money that was brought again in the mouth of your sacks, carry it again in your hand, peradventure it was an oversight. Take also your brother, and arise, go again unto the man. And God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send away your other brother and Benjamin.'

Then the men rose up, and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.

And when Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the ruler of his house, 'Bring these men home and make ready, for they shall dine with me at noon.' And the man did as Joseph bade, and brought the men into Joseph's house.

Now the men were afraid, for they thought, 'Because of the money that was returned in our sacks are we brought in, that he may seek a cause of complaint against us, and take us, and make us his bondmen.'

And they came near to the steward of Joseph's house, and said, 'O sir, we came indeed down at the first time to buy food; and it came to pass when we came to the inn that we opened our sacks, and behold, every man's money was in the mouth of his sack. That money have we brought again in our hands, and other money have we brought down also to buy food. We cannot tell who put our money in our sacks.'

Then the steward said, 'Peace be to you; fear not, your God and the God of your father hath given you treasure in your sacks.' And he brought Simeon out unto them.

Then the man brought the men into Joseph's house, and gave them water, and he washed their feet, and gave food to their asses. And they made ready their present for Joseph, for they heard that they should eat bread there.

And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves to him to the earth.

And he asked them of their welfare, and said, 'Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive?'

They answered, 'Thy servant our father is in good health; he is yet alive.' And they bowed down their heads with reverence.

And Joseph lifted up his eyes, and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, 'Is this your youngest brother of whom ye spake to me?' And he said, 'God be gracious unto thee, my

son.'

Then Joseph made haste, for his heart went out to his brother, and he sought where to weep, and he entered into his chamber and wept there. And he washed his face, and returned to his brethren.

Then he ordered his servants to set food before his brothers, and he sent them dainties from his own table. But Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of theirs. And they drank and were merry with him. And Joseph commanded the steward over his house, saying, 'Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put every man's money in his sack's mouth. And put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his corn money. And he did as Joseph had told him. Now as soon as the morning was light the men were sent away, they and

their asses. And when they were gone out of the city, and not yet far off, Joseph said unto his steward, 'Up, follow after the men, and when thou dost overtake them, say unto them, "Wherefore have ye done evil in return for good? Ye have done wrong to take away the cup from which my lord drinketh."'

And the steward overtook them, and spake unto Joseph's brethren these same words. They said unto him, 'Wherefore saith my lord these words? God forbid that thy servants should do this thing. Behold, did we not bring again unto thee out of the land of Canaan the money which we found in our sacks' mouths? How then should we steal of thy lord's house silver or gold? If thy lord's cup be found with any of thy servants, let that one die, and we, all of us, shall be thy bondsmen.'

And the steward said, 'Nay, but he

with whom the cup shall be found will be my servant, and ye shall be blameless.'

Then they speedily took down every man his sack to the ground, and opened every man his sack. And the steward searched, and began at the eldest, and left at the youngest: and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. Then they rent their clothes, and laded every man his ass, and returned to the city.

And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph's house, for he was yet there, and they fell before him on the ground. Then Joseph said unto them, 'What deed is this that ye have done? Do ye not know that God has given me power to discover what is hidden?'

And Judah said, 'What shall we say unto my lord? What shall we speak, or how shall we clear ourselves? God hath found out the sin of thy servants: behold, we are my lord's servants, both we, and

he also with whom the cup is found.'

But Joseph said, 'God forbid that I should punish you; but the man in whose hand the cup is found, he shall be my servant: and as for you, get you up in peace unto your father.'

Then Judah came near to Joseph, and said, 'O my lord, let thy servant, I pray thee, speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not thine anger burn against thy servant. My lord asked his servants, saying, "Have ye a father or a brother?" And we said unto my lord, "We have a father, an old man, and he has a child of his old age, a little one, and his brother is dead, and his father loveth him." And thou saidst unto thy servants, "Bring him down unto me, that I may set mine eyes upon him." And we said unto my lord, "The lad cannot leave his father; for if he should leave his father, his father would die." And thou saidst unto thy servants,

"Except your youngest brother come down with you, ye shall see my face no more." And it came to pass when we came up to thy servant my father, we told him the words of my lord. And our father said, "Go again, and buy us a little food." And we said, "We cannot go down; if our youngest brother be with us, then will we go down; for we may not see the man's face, except our youngest brother be with us." And thy servant my father said, "Joseph went from me, and is torn of wild beasts, and I saw him not since. If now ye take Benjamin also, and mischief befall him, ye shall bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave." And therefore when I come to thy servant my father, and the lad is not with us, seeing that his life is bound up with the lad's life, it shall come to pass, when he seeth that the lad is not with us, that he will die: and thy servants shall bring down the gray hairs

of thy servant our father with sorrow to the grave. For thy servant became surety for the lad unto my father, saying, "If I bring him not unto thee, then I shall bear the blame unto my father for ever." Now therefore, I pray thee, let thy servant abide instead of the lad a bondman to my lord: and let the lad go up with his brethren. For how shall I go up to my father, and the lad be not with me?'

Then Joseph cried, 'Cause every man to go out from me.' And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren. And he wept aloud, and said to his brethren, 'I am Joseph. Doth my father yet live?'

And his brethren could not answer him, for they were troubled at seeing him.

But Joseph said, 'Come near to me, I pray you; be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves that ye sold me hither, for

God did send me before you to save your lives. For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years to come during which the corn shall not ripen nor be gathered in harvest. So now it was not you who sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me lord of Pharaoh's house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, "Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt; come down unto me, tarry not. And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast. And there will I nourish thee, for yet there are five years of famine, lest thou and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty." And behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is my mouth

that speaketh unto you. And ye shall tell my father of all the glory of Egypt, and of all that ye have seen, and ye shall haste and bring down my father hither.' And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. Moreover, he kissed all his brothers, and wept upon them, and after that his brethren talked with him.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, 'Say unto thy brethren, "This do ye; lade your beasts, and go, get you unto the land of Canaan. And take your father, and your households, and come unto me: and I will give you the good of the land of Egypt, and ye shall eat of the best things in the land. Now thou art commanded, this do ye: take you wagons out of the land of Egypt for your little ones, and for your wives, and bring your father, and come."'

And the sons of Jacob did so: and

Joseph gave them wagons and provisions for the way. To all of them he gave each man changes of raiment; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of raiment. And to his father he sent ten asses laden with good things of Egypt, and ten she-asses laden with corn and bread and meat for his father by the way. So he sent his brethren away, and they departed.

And they went up out of the land of Egypt, and came unto the land of Canaan unto Jacob their father, and told him, saying, 'Joseph is yet alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt.' But Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not. And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them. Then when Jacob saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, Jacob said, 'It is enough: Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I

die.'

And Jacob took his journey with all that he had, and came into the land of Egypt.

And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went out to meet his father. And when his father saw him, he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while.

Then Joseph came and told Pharaoh, and said, 'My father, and my brethren, and their flocks and their herds, and all that they have, are come out of the land of Canaan.' And Joseph took five of his brethren and presented them unto Pharaoh.

And Pharaoh asked them, saying, 'What is your work?'

And they said, 'We are shepherds, and to sojourn in the land are we come; for the famine is sore in the land of Canaan, and there is no pasture for our flocks.'

Then Pharaoh spake unto Joseph, 'The land of Egypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell, in the land of Goshen let them dwell.'

And Joseph brought in Jacob his father, and set him before Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

Pharaoh then said unto Jacob, 'How old art thou?'

And Jacob answered, 'The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years; few and evil have the days of the years of my life been.' And Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh.

Then Joseph placed his father and brethren in the best of the land, as Pharaoh had commanded; and he gave bread to his father and his brethren, and all his father's household.

And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt

seventeen years, and the time drew nigh that he must die. So he called his son Joseph, and said unto him, 'Deal kindly and truly with me; bury me not, I pray thee, in the land of Egypt, but carry me to the land of Canaan, and let me lie with my fathers in their burying-place.'

Joseph answered, 'I will do as thou hast said.'

And it came to pass after these things that one told Joseph, 'Behold, thy father is sick.' And Joseph took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

Then one told Jacob and said, 'Behold, thy son Joseph cometh to thee.' And Jacob strengthened himself and sat upon the bed.

And Jacob beheld Joseph's sons and said, 'Who are these?'

Joseph said, 'They are my sons, whom God has given me in this place.'

And Jacob said, 'Bring them, I pray

thee, unto me, and I will bless them.'

Now the eyes of Jacob were dim for age, so that he could not see: and he drew them near unto him, and kissed them, and embraced them. And Jacob said to Joseph, 'I had not thought to see thy face again, and lo, God hath shewed me thy children.' And Jacob stretched out his right hand and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand laid he upon Manasseh's head, who was the first-born. And Jacob blessed Joseph and his sons, and said, 'God, who has fed me all my life long unto this day, and who has led me away from evil, bless the lads, and let them grow into a great nation upon the earth.'

And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he held up his father's hand to take it from

Ephraim's head and to put it upon Manasseh's head, saying, 'This is the first-born; put thy right hand upon his head.'

But his father refused and said, 'I know it, my son, I know it; he also shall become a great people, and he also shall be great, but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he.' And Jacob said unto Joseph, 'Behold, I die, but God shall be with you, and shall bring you back again to the land of your fathers.'

And it came to pass that Jacob died; and Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept upon him, and kissed him.

Then Joseph spake to Pharaoh, saying, 'My father made me swear, saying, "Lo, I die; in my grave which I have digged for me in the land of Canaan, there shalt thou bury me." Now therefore let me go up, I pray thee, and bury my father, and I will come again.'

And Pharaoh said, 'Go up and bury thy father'; and Joseph went, and with him his sons and his brethren, and a great company. And they buried Jacob as he had commanded them.

Then Joseph returned into Egypt, and when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said among themselves, 'Joseph will hate us, and will certainly seek to do us evil for the evil we did unto him.' So they sent a messenger to Joseph, saying, 'Thy father did command before he died, saying, "So shall ye say to Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the sin of thy brethren, for they did evil unto thee."'

And Joseph wept when they spake unto him, and his brethren went and fell down before his face, and said, 'Behold, we are thy servants.'

But Joseph said unto them, 'Fear not; ye thought evil against me, but God

meant it unto good. Fear not, I will nourish you and your little ones.' And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

And Joseph lived an hundred and ten years; and he said, 'Behold, I die, but God shall surely visit you, and bring you out of this land, to the land which he promised Abraham and Isaac and Jacob to give you.' So Joseph died.

CHAPTER 5
Moses

Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. And he said, 'Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we. Come on, and let us deal wisely with them, lest they become too many, and it come to pass that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us.'

Therefore they did set over the children of Israel task-masters to afflict them with their burdens. But the more they afflicted them, the more they grew.

And the Egyptians made the lives of the children of Israel bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in

all manner of service in the field.

And the king of Egypt charged all his people, saying, 'Every son that is born to the Hebrews ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.'

And there was a woman of the house of Levi who had a son, and when she saw that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could no longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein, and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. And his sister stood afar off to know what would be done to him.

Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river. And her maidens walked along by the river side. And when the daughter of Pharaoh saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. And when she had opened it, she saw the child, and behold,



She laid it in the flags by the river's bank.

the babe wept. And she had compassion on him and said, 'This is one of the Hebrews' children.'

Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?'

And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Go.' And the maid went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, 'Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages.'

And the woman took the child and nursed it. And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses, and she said, 'Because I drew him out of the water.'

And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, the Hebrews, and

looked on their burdens. And he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren.

And Moses looked this way and that way; and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.

And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together.

And Moses said to him that did the wrong, 'Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow?'

And the Hebrew said, 'Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? Intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian?'

And Moses feared, and said, 'Surely this thing is known.'

Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in

the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters; and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

And the shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered the flock.

And when they came to their father, he said, 'How is it that ye are come so soon to-day?' And they said, 'An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock.'

And the father said unto his daughters, 'And where is he? Why is it that ye have left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.'

And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and the man gave Moses his daughter to wife.

And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died. And the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God remembered them.

Now Moses kept the flock of his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the back-side of the desert, and came to the mountain of God.

And the Angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. And Moses looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

And Moses said, 'I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the

bush is not burnt.'

And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the midst of the bush, and said, 'Moses, Moses.'

And he said, 'Here am I,'

And he said, 'Draw not nigh hither, put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.' Moreover, he said, 'I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

And the Lord said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.

Come now, therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.'

And Moses said unto God, 'Who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?'

And he said, 'Certainly I will be with thee and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee. When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God on this mountain.'

And Moses said unto God, 'Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, "The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you," and they shall say to me, "What is his name?" what shall I Say unto them?'

And God said unto Moses, 'I AM THAT I AM'; and he said, 'Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, "I

AM hath sent me unto you." And ye shall gather the elders of Israel together and say unto them, "The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt. And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt, unto a land flowing with milk and honey." And they shall hearken to thy voice, and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, "The Lord God of the Hebrews hath met with us. And now, let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God." And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand. And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst

thereof, and after that, he will let you go. And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, and it shall come to pass that when ye go, ye shall not go empty. But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment. And ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters, and ye shall spoil the Egyptians.'

And Moses answered and said, 'But behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice, for they will say, "The Lord hath not appeared unto thee."'

And the Lord said unto him, 'What is that in thine hand?'

And he said, 'A rod.'

And the Lord said, 'Cast it on the ground.' And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses fled

from before it.

And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail.' And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand.

And the Lord said furthermore unto him, 'Put now thine hand into thy bosom.' And he put his hand into his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow.

And he said, 'Put thy hand into thy bosom again,' and he put his hand into his bosom and plucked it out, and behold, it was turned again as his other flesh.

And God said, 'It shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that

thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land, and the water which thou takest out of the river, shall become blood upon the dry land.'

And Moses said, 'O my Lord, I cannot speak well, for I am slow of speech and of a slow tongue.'

And the Lord said unto him, 'Who hath made man's mouth? Have not I the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.'

And Moses said, 'O my Lord, send, I pray thee, not by my hand.'

And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and he said, 'Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well; and also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee, and when he seeth thee he will be glad in his heart. And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth, and I will be with thy

mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. And Aaron shall be thy spokesman unto the people, and thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.'

Then Moses went and returned to his father-in-law, and said unto him, 'Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren which are in Egypt, and see whether they be yet alive.'

And he said, 'Go in peace.'

And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Go, return into Egypt, for all the men are dead which sought thy life. Then Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt, and Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

And the Lord said unto Moses, 'When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thy hand.

And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, "'Thus saith the Lord, Israel is my son, even my first-born son, and I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me; and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy first-born.'"

And the Lord said to Aaron, 'Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.' And Aaron went to meet him, in the mount of God, and kissed him. Then Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him.

And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. And Aaron spake all the words which the Lord had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed, and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then

they bowed their heads and worshipped.

And afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, 'Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, "Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness."'

And Pharaoh said, 'Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go.'

And they said, 'The God of the Hebrews hath met with us. Let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert and Sacrifice unto the Lord our God.'

And the king of Egypt said, 'Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, hinder the people from their works? Get you unto your burdens.'

And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmasters of the people, and their officers, saying, 'Ye shall no more

give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. And they shall make as many bricks as heretofore, for they be idle. Therefore they cry, saying, "Let us go and sacrifice to our God." Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may not listen to foolish words.'

And the taskmasters of the people went out, and their officers, and they spake to the people, saying, 'Thus saith Pharaoh, "I will not give you straw. Go ye, get you straw where you can find it."' So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt, to gather stubble instead of straw. And the taskmasters hasted them, saying, 'Fulfil your works, your daily tasks, as when there was straw.' And the officers of the children of Israel, which Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten, and demanded, 'Wherefore have

ye not fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday and to-day, as heretofore?'

Then the officers of the children of Israel came and cried unto Pharaoh, saying, 'Wherefore dealest thou thus with thy servants? There is no straw given unto thy servants, and they say to us, "Make brick," and behold, thy servants are beaten, but the fault is in thine own people.'

But Pharaoh said, 'Ye are idle, ye are idle, therefore ye say, "Let us go and do sacrifice to the Lord." Go therefore now and work, for there shall no straw be given you, yet shall ye deliver the tale of bricks.'

Then the Israelites met Moses and Aaron, who stood in the way as they came forth from Pharaoh, and they said unto them, 'The Lord look upon you and judge you, because ye have made us to be

abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants.'

And Moses returned unto the Lord and said, 'Lord, wherefore hast thou done evil to this people? Why is it that thou hast sent me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in thy name, he hath done evil to this people, neither hast thou delivered thy people at all.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh, for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of this land.'

And Moses encouraged the children of Israel. But they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage.

And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh that he send the children of Israel out of his land. But Pharaoh shall

not hearken unto you, and I shall lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments; and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.'

And the Lord spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, 'When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, "Shew a miracle for you." Then thou shalt say unto Aaron, "Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh," and it shall become a serpent.'

And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh; and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers, and they cast down, every man his rod, and they became serpents, but

Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. And Pharaoh hardened his heart, and refused to let the people go.

Then the Lord said unto Moses, 'Get thee unto Pharaoh in the morning. Lo, he goeth out unto the water; and thou shalt stand by the river's brink till he come, and the rod which was turned to a serpent shalt thou take in thine hand. And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, "The Lord God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee, saying, Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness, and behold, hitherto thou wouldest not hear. Thus saith the Lord, In this thou shalt know that I am the Lord; behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood, and the fish that are in the river shall die, and the Egyptians shall loathe to drink of the water of the river."'

And Aaron lifted up the rod, and smote the waters in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants, and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood, and the fish that were in the river died. And the magicians of Egypt did the same with their enchantments. And Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he turned and went into his house. And all the Egyptians digged round about the river for water to drink, for they could not drink of the water of the river. And seven days were fulfilled after that the Lord had smitten the river.

And the Lord spake unto Moses, 'Go unto Pharaoh and say unto him, "Thus saith the Lord, Let my people go, that they may serve me, and if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs. They shall go up and come into thine house, into thy bedchamber, and upon thy bed, into the

house of thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thine ovens, and into thy kneading-troughs.'"

And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, 'Entreat the Lord, that he may take away the frogs from me and from my people, and I will let the people go, that they may do sacrifice unto the Lord.'

And Moses said, 'When shall I entreat for thee, and for thy servants, and for thy people, to destroy the frogs from thee and thy houses, that they may remain in the river only?'

And Pharaoh said, 'To-morrow.'

And Moses said, 'Be it according to thy word, that thou mayest know that there is none like unto the Lord our God; and the frogs shall depart, and they shall

remain in the river only.'

And Moses cried unto the Lord; and the Lord did according to the word of Moses, and the frogs hied out of the houses, out of the villages, and out of the fields, and they gathered them together upon heaps. But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and would not let the children of Israel go to do sacrifice unto the Lord.

And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Say unto Aaron, "Stretch out thy rod and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt."' And Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and the earth became lice in man and beast. And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, 'This is the finger of God'; but Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto

them, as the Lord had said.

Then the Lord said unto Moses, 'Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh. Lo, he cometh forth to the water, and say unto him, "Thus saith the Lord, Let my people go, that they may serve me, else if thou wilt not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies upon thee and upon thy servants, and upon thy people and into thy houses. And I will sever in that day the land in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, to the end that thou mayest know that I am the Lord, and I will put a division between my people and thy people."'

And the Lord did so; and there came a grievous swarm of flies into all the land of Egypt.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, 'Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land.'

But Moses said, 'We will go three days' journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice there to the Lord our God.' And Pharaoh said, 'I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness, only ye shall not go very far away. Entreat for me that the flies may be taken away.'

And Moses said, 'Behold, I go out from thee, and I will entreat the Lord that the Swarm of flies may depart. But let not Pharaoh deal deceitfully any more, in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the Lord.'

And Moses entreated the Lord; and he did according to the word of Moses, and removed the swarm of flies. And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go.

Then the Lord said unto Moses, 'Go in unto Pharaoh and tell him, "Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews, Let

my people go, that they may serve me, for if thou refuse to let them go and wilt hold them still, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thy cattle which is in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: there shall be a very grievous disease. And the Lord shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt, and there shall nothing die of all that is the children's of Israel.'" And the Lord appointed a set time, saying, 'To-morrow the Lord shall do this thing in the land.' And the Lord did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died; but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one.

Then Pharaoh sent, and behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead. And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

And the Lord said unto Moses and unto Aaron, 'Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward heaven in the sight of Pharaoh, and it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil, breaking forth upon man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt. And Moses and Aaron did so; and the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boil was upon the magicians and upon all the Egyptians. And Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto Moses and Aaron.

And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, "Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me, for I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and

upon thy people, that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth." Behold, to-morrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now. Send therefore now, and gather thy cattle and all that thou hast in the field, for upon every man and beast which shall be found in the field, and shall not be brought home, the hail shall come down upon them, and they shall die.'

And he that feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh, made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses, and he that regarded not the word of the Lord, left his servants and his cattle in the field.

Then Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven, and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground, and the hail smote through-

out all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast, and the hail smote every herb and brake every tree of the field; only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail.

And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, 'I have sinned this time. Entreat the Lord that there be no more mighty thunderings and hail, and I will let you go, and ye shall stay no longer.'

And Moses went out of the city, and spread abroad his hands unto the Lord, and the thunders and hail ceased. And when Pharaoh saw the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, neither would he let the children of Israel go.

And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Go in unto Pharaoh, and say unto him,

"Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me. Else if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, to-morrow will I bring the locusts into thy coast, and they shall cover the face of the earth. And they shall eat that which remaineth unto you from the hail, and shall eat every tree which groweth for you out of the field. And they shall fill thy houses, and the houses of all thy servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians.'"

And Pharaoh's servants said unto him, 'How long shall this man be a snare unto us? Let the men go, that they may serve the Lord their God. Knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?'

And Moses and Aaron were brought again unto Pharaoh, and he said unto them, 'Go, serve the Lord your God; but

who are they that shall go?'

And Moses said, 'We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go, for we must hold a feast unto the Lord.'

And Pharaoh said, 'Not so; go now ye that are men, and serve the Lord, for that ye did desire.'

And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence. And the Lord said, 'Stretch out thine hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land, even all that the hail hath left.'

And Moses stretched forth his rod, and the Lord brought an east wind upon the land, and the east wind brought the locusts: very grievous they were, for they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened. And they

did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left.

Then Pharaoh called for Moses in haste and said, 'I have sinned against the Lord your God, and against you. Now therefore forgive, I pray thee, my sin, only this once, and entreat the Lord your God.' And Moses went out from Pharaoh, and entreated the Lord. And the Lord turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts and cast them into the Red Sea. But Pharaoh hardened his heart, and would not let the children of Israel go.

And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt.'

And Moses stretched forth his hand, and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days, but all the

children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Then Pharaoh called unto Moses and said, 'Go ye, serve the Lord, only let your flocks and your herds stay; let your little ones also go with you.'

And Moses said, 'Our cattle also shall go with us, for thereof must we take to serve the Lord our God.'

But Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let them go; and Pharaoh said to Moses, 'Get thee from me; take heed to thyself, see my face no more, for in that day thou seest my face thou shalt die.'

And Moses said, 'Thou hast spoken well; I will see thy face again no more.'

And the Lord said to Moses, 'Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt; afterward he will let you go. Speak to the people that they borrow of their neighbour, jewels of silver and

jewels of gold.'

And Moses said, 'Thus saith the Lord, "About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt, and all the first-born in the land of Egypt shall die, and there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt." And the Egyptians shall come and bow themselves unto me, saying, "Get thee out, and all the people that follow thee."'

And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 'This shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak to the children of Israel, saying, "In the tenth day of this month they shall take every man a lamb, a lamb for an house. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side-posts and on the upper door-post of the houses, and they shall eat the flesh. And thus shall ye eat it: with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand. Ye shall eat it in haste,

it is the Lord's passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the first-born in the land. And when I see the blood upon the houses, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not smite you.'"

And it came to pass at midnight the Lord smote all the first-born in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh that sat on his throne, unto the first-born of the captive that was in the dungeon. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

And Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, 'Rise up, and get you forth, and go serve the Lord, and take your flocks and herds, and bless me also.' And the Egyptians made haste to send them out of the land, for they said, 'We be all dead men.'

And when Pharaoh had let the people go, God led them through the wilderness to the Red Sea. And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud to lead them in the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light.

And Pharaoh's heart was turned, and he said, 'Why have we let Israel go?' And he made ready his chariots, and he took his people with him, and he pursued after the children of Israel.

And when the children of Israel saw Pharaoh nigh, they were sore afraid, and they said unto Moses, 'Wherefore hast thou brought us into the wilderness to die?'

And Moses said, 'Fear not, the Lord shall fight for you.'

And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward; but stretch thou thy rod over the sea and divide it, and the

children of Israel shall pass over on dry ground.' And Moses did so; and the Lord caused a strong east wind to divide the waters, and the children of Israel went through the waters on dry ground. And when the Egyptians went in after them, the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out thine hand over the sea': and the waters returned, and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the host of Pharaoh. Thus the Lord saved Israel out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw that great work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians, and the people believed the Lord and his servant Moses.

So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea into the wilderness; and they found no water. And when they came to water it was bitter; therefore they could not drink, and the people murmured against Moses. And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord shewed him a tree,

which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet.

Then the children of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin; and they murmured there and said, 'Would to God we were in Egypt, where we did eat bread to the full. For ye have brought us to this wilderness to kill us with hunger.'

And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, and on the sixth day they shall bring in twice as much as they gather daily.' And the Lord said, 'At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread.'

And it came to pass that at even the quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay round about the host, and when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing,

as small as the hoar frost; and when the children of Israel saw it, they said, 'It is manna,' for they wist not what it was. And Moses said to them, 'This is the bread which the Lord hath given you.'

And the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, and they pitched where there was no water to drink. And the people did chide with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.'

And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, 'What shall I do unto this people? They be almost ready to stone me.'

And the Lord said, 'Take thy rod and smite upon the rock, and there shall come water out of it that the people may drink.' And Moses did so in the sight of all the people, and the people drank of the water.

In the third month the children of Israel were come to the desert of Sinai; and there Israel camped before Mount

Sinai, and Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountains. And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Go unto the people, and let them cleanse themselves, and let them wash their clothes. And thou shalt set bounds round the mount, that no one may go up unto it: for the third day the Lord will come down in the sight of all the people upon Mount Sinai. Whosoever toucheth the mount shall surely be put to death.' And on the third day Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God.

And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. And God spake to the people, and all the people saw the thunderings and lightnings and the mountain smoking, and when the people saw it, they removed and stood far off, and they said unto Moses, 'Speak thou with us,

and we will hear, but let not God speak with us lest we die.'

And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Come up to me in the mount and be there. And I will give thee tables of stone and commandments which I have written, that thou mayest teach them.'

And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount, and Moses went into the midst of the cloud; and he was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

And when God had made an end of communing with Moses upon Mount Sinai, he gave unto him two tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

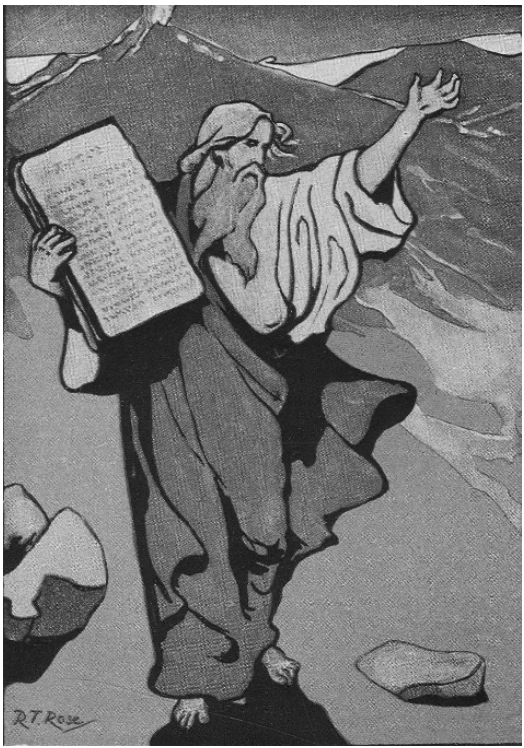
And when the people saw that Moses stayed in the mount, they went to Aaron and said, 'Make us gods which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, we know not what has become of him.'

And Aaron said unto them, 'Break

off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.'

And the people did so, and brought the golden earrings to Aaron, and he received them at their hand, and he made them into a molten calf. And Aaron built an altar before it, and said, 'To-morrow is a feast to this Lord.' And the people rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings.

And the Lord said to Moses, 'Go, get thee down, for the people have made a calf and are worshipping it.' And Moses turned and went down from the mount, and the two tables of stone were in his hand. And Joshua, Moses' servant, heard the noise of the people as they shouted, and he said unto Moses, 'There is a noise of war in the camp.'



And Moses turned and went down from the mount and the two tables of stone were in his hand.

But Moses said, 'The noise of them that sing do I hear.'

And it came to pass as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing; and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables of stone out of his hands and brake them. And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and cast it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it. And the Lord punished the people because they made the calf.

And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first, and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest.' And Moses was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights, and he did neither eat bread nor drink water. And when he came down from the mount, Moses wist not that the

skin of his face shone. And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw that the skin of his face shone, they were afraid to come nigh him. And Moses called unto them, and talked with them, and till he had done speaking with them, Moses put a veil on his face.

And Moses said, 'This is the thing which the Lord commanded. "Thou shalt make a tabernacle according to the pattern that I shall tell thee, and in it thou shalt put an ark of wood, which thou shalt overlay with pure gold, and thou shalt put the mercy-seat above upon the ark, and in the ark thou shalt put the tables of stone, and there will I meet with thee from above the mercy-seat."'

And the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sinai, and pitched their camp near to the land of Canaan. And the Lord said, 'Send men that they may search the land of Canaan, which I

give unto the children of Israel.'

And Moses sent twelve men to spy out the land, and said unto them, 'Get you up and see the land what it is, and the people that dwell therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many, and what the land is, whether it be good or bad, and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether tents or strongholds, also whether there is wood therein or not. And bring of the fruit of the land.'

Now this was the time of the first-ripe grapes.

And the spies came to the land, and cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff, and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs, and they returned from searching the land after forty days. And they came to Moses and all the people, and shewed them the fruit of the land, and they told Moses and said,

'We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey, and this is the fruit of it. Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled and very great.'

And Caleb, one of the spies, quieted the people and said to Moses, 'Let us go up at once and possess it, for we are well able to overcome it.' But the men that went up with him said, 'We be not able to go up against the people, for all the people we saw in the land are men of a great stature, and there we saw giants, and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.'

Then all the children of Israel lifted up their voices and wept, and murmured against Moses, and said, 'Would God we had died in Egypt,' or 'Would God we had died in this wilderness.' And they said one to another, 'Let us make a

captain, and let us return into Egypt.'

And the Lord said to Moses, 'How long shall I bear with this people, which murmur against me? Say unto them, "Ye shall not come into the land which I promised to give you, but ye shall die in the wilderness, and your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years."' And those men that did bring up the evil report of the land died by the plague before the Lord; but Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh died not.

Then came the children of Israel again into the desert of Sin; and there was no water in the desert, and the people rose up against Moses and said, 'Would God we had died when our brethren died. Why hast thou brought us to this evil place? It is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates, neither is there any water to drink.'

And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the people, and fell upon their faces before the Lord. And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 'Take thy rod, and gather the people together, and speak unto the rock before their eyes, and it shall give forth water, and thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.'

And Moses took the rod, and said unto the people, 'Hear now, ye rebels, must we fetch you water out of this rock?' And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice, and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. And the rock was called Meribah.

And the Lord spake unto Moses, 'Because ye obeyed me not, but struck the rock, therefore ye shall not bring this people into the land which I have given them.' And the Lord said, 'Aaron also

shall die, for he also rebelled against my word at the rock Meribah. Take Aaron and his son, and bring them up unto the mount, and strip Aaron of his garments and put them upon his son, and Aaron shall die there.' And Moses did so, and Aaron died there on the top of the mount, and all the children of Israel mourned for Aaron thirty days.

And the people were discouraged because of the way, and they spake against God and against Moses, 'Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness. For there is no bread, neither is there any water, and our soul loatheth this light bread.' And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, and much people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against thee. Pray unto the

Lord that he take away the serpents from us.' And Moses prayed for the people.

And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it shall live.' And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole; and it came to pass that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Get thee up into this mount, and see the land which I have given to the children of Israel, and when thou hast seen it thou also shalt die as Aaron thy brother, for ye rebelled against me at the waters of Meribah.' And Moses said, 'Let the Lord set a man over the congregation, which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in,

that the congregation of the Lord be not as sheep which have no shepherd.'

And the Lord said, 'Take Joshua the son of Nun, and lay thy hand upon him, and set him before the priest and before all the congregation, and give him charge in their sight.' And Moses did as the Lord commanded.

And Moses went up from the plains unto the mountain, and the Lord shewed him all the land, and the Lord said, 'This is the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, "I will give it unto thy children." I have caused thee to see it, but thou shalt not go over thither.'

So Moses the servant of the Lord died there, according to the word of the Lord. And the Lord buried him in the valley, but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.

And Moses was an hundred and

twenty years old when he died. His eye was not dim, nor was his strength abated.

And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains for thirty days; so the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.