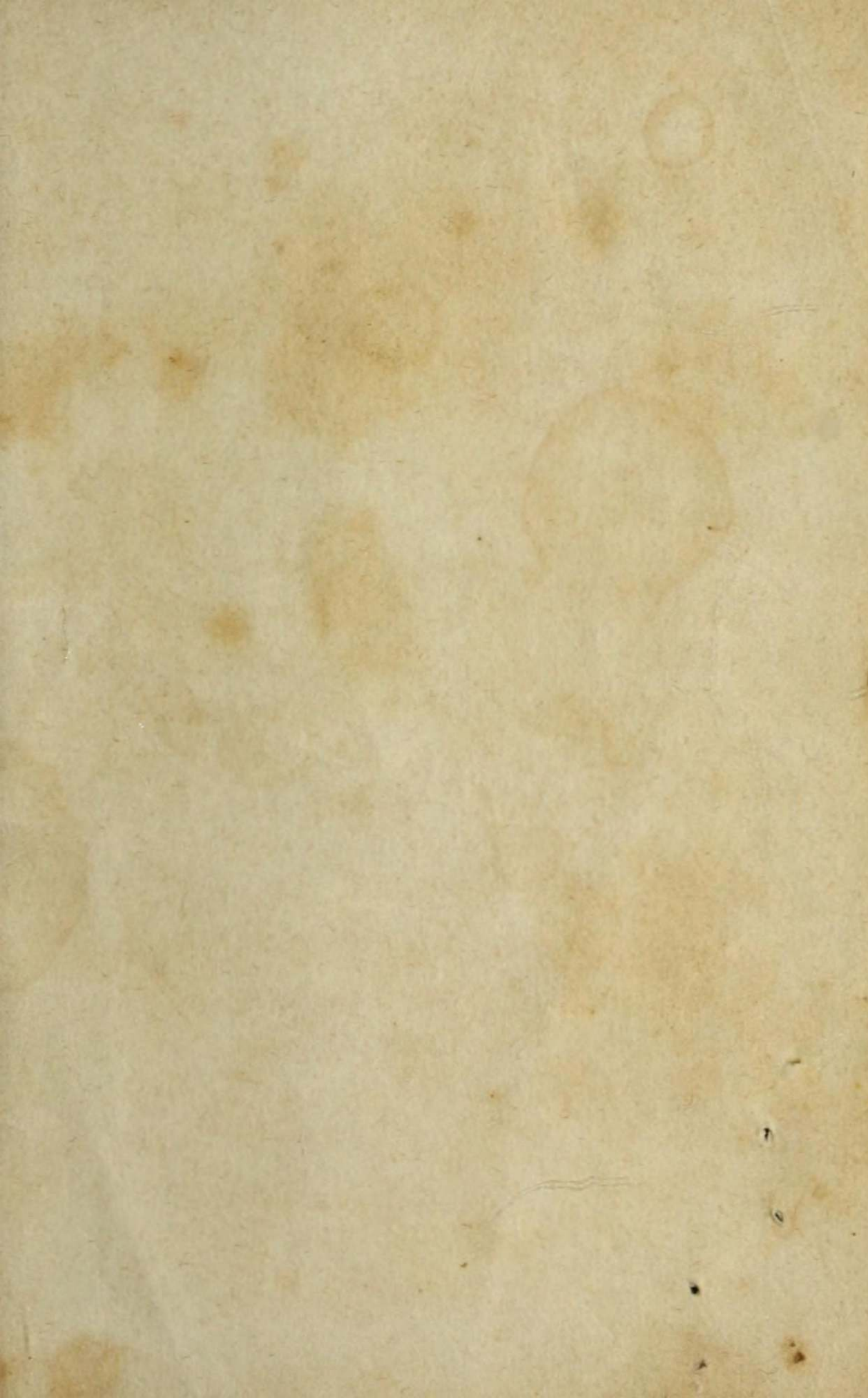




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THE
HISTORY
OF
JOSEPH.



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PREFACE.

Joseph's father's name was Jacob, and his grandfather, Isaac, who was the son of Abraham, called the Faithful, because he trusted in God.

Jacob had twelve sons, and the names of them were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Ashur, Issachar, Zebulon, Joseph, and Benjamin. It is Joseph, whose history we intend now to lay before our young readers.

HISTORY
OF
JOSEPH.

Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his brethren; and he made him a coat of many colors. And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.





And their brethren went to feed their father's flocks in Shechem. And Israel said unto Joseph, "Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and their flocks; and bring me word again."

And when they saw Joseph afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

Then Reuben said unto them, "Shed no blood; but cast him into the pit, that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him."



For he sought to save him out of their hands, and deliver him to his father.

And when Joseph came up to his brethren, they stripped him of his coat, and cast him into the pit; and they sat down to eat bread.

And Joseph's brethren beheld a company of merchants, who were going to Egypt. Then Judah said, "What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? Let us sell him to these merchants." And they sold him for twenty



pieces of silver, and Joseph was carried to Egypt.

And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid, and dipped the coat in the blood; and they sent it to their father.

Then Jacob knew the coat, and said, "It is my son's coat; an evil beast has devoured him."

And Jacob mourned for Joseph many days, and he refused to be comforted, saying, "I will go down to the grave mourning."

Now Joseph was carried down into Egypt, and was purchased by Potiphar, the captain of the guard to Pharaoh, king of Egypt. And he found favor in his master's sight, and was made overseer over all his house. But afterwards, being falsely accused by the wife of Potiphar, he was cast into prison.

And the keeper of the prison showed favor to Joseph and trusted him with the care of the prison,



because he saw that the Lord was with him.

And Pharaoh beheld in a dream seven fat kine come out of the river, and seven lean kine followed them from the river, and did eat them up.

And again he saw seven good ears of corn spring up; and seven blighted ears spring up after them, and devour them.

And when the wise men of Egypt could not interpret the dream, Joseph was sent for. Then Joseph said, "God hath showed Pharaoh what he will do. There will be seven years of great plenty in the land of Egypt; and there will then follow seven years of famine. Now let the king gather in store, during the seven years of plenty, a supply of food for the seven years of famine."

And Pharaoh appointed Joseph to be ruler over all the land of Egypt. And Joseph bought up all the food that could be spared, during the seven years of plenty: and when the years of famine came, he sold it to the Egyptians, and to those who came from other countries.

And the famine reached even unto the land where Jacob lived. And when he knew that there was corn * in Egypt, he said unto them, Go down thither, and buy for us from thence, that we may live and not die.

* Not Indian Corn; for that grain was not known in those days. *Corn*, as expressed in the Bible, means wheat, rye, barley, &c; the same meaning they give it now in Europe. But in America, when we use the word *Corn*, we mean "Indian Corn," distinct from wheat, rye, barley, oats, &c. which, with Indian Corn, we class under the general name of *grain*.

And when Joseph's ten brethren came to buy corn in Egypt, Joseph knew them; but they knew him not. And when he inquired about their families, they said, "We are twelve brethren; and the youngest is now with our father, and the other is not."

Then Joseph said, "Fetch hither your youngest brother." And he put Simeon, one of them, in prison, until they should bring their youngest brother.

And they returned to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan, and told him of all that had befallen them, and that they must carry Benjamin with them when they should go again into Egypt.

And when they were obliged by the famine to come again to buy corn, they brought their youngest brother, Benjamin, with them.

And Joseph wept aloud, and said to them, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Be not grieved nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither. For God did send me before you to preserve life; so it was not you that sent me hither, but God. Haste then and say to my father; "Come down to me, tarry not: for I will nourish thee, for there are yet five years of famine to come."

And the sons of Israel returned to their father, in the land of Canaan; and they carried him, and their little ones, and their wives, and all that they had, to Egypt, in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent. And they dwelt in the land of Goshen, and had possessions therein, and grew and multiplied exceedingly.

Pharaoh was pleased to hear that Joseph's father and brethren were

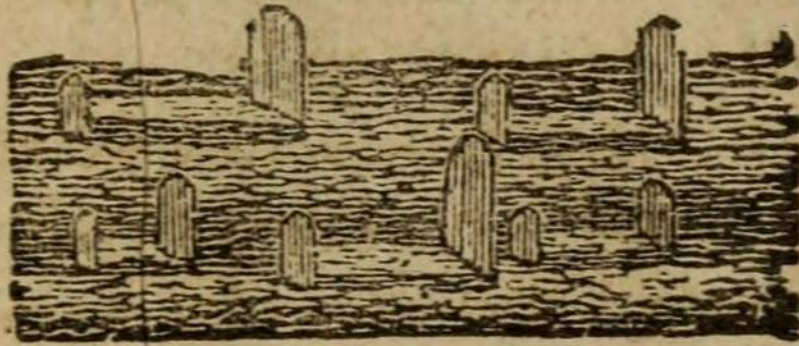
come. And Joseph took occasion to present his venerable parent to the king.

The time that Joseph's father, Jacob, lived in Egypt, appears to have been seventeen years. And when the time came that he should die, the aged patriarch called his sons around him, at this solemn time, and gave unto each of them his blessing. To Joseph he said: "Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well, whose branches run over the wall. The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him; but his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hand of the mighty God of Jacob."

And when Jacob had made an end of blessing his sons, he died.

And Joseph ordered the physi-

cians to embalm him, and then his sons went and buried him in the land of Canaan, according as he had commanded them.



When Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they were afraid, and said among themselves, Joseph will now punish us for all the evil we did unto him in selling him into Egypt. And they sent word to him, saying that their father on his death-bed had requested that he would forgive their sin in that matter. And his brethren said unto him, Behold, we are thy servants. And Joseph wept when they

spake unto him. And he said, Ye meant evil unto me, but God overruled it for good. Fear not; I will nourish you and your little ones.

And he comforted them, and acted kindly towards them.

Joseph lived nearly sixty years after the death of his father, and then he was taken to his "long home." He was one hundred and ten years old when he died. And they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.



When the children of Israel departed from Egypt, under Moses they took the bones of Joseph with them.



Now we have done with the history of Joseph, we wish to add a few words more, in much love to children. We see, by this little book, that Joseph began early to seek the Lord. And we learn thereby, that in early life, we need the grace of God to keep us from sinful acts. It was this divine favor and presence of the Almighty, that kept Joseph from sin, when strongly tempted, and it is this alone that will preserve us, when we fall into temptation. May little children always be watchful of their own acts, and avoid evil ways.

O happy parents, that have children in whose tender minds the grace of God is early known !

O happy children, who have parents that lead them from their infancy in the good ways of the Lord, and instruct them in the things that will make them happy here and hereafter !



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