



ROUTLEDGE'S  
SCRIPTURE  
GIFT BOOK

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Douglas. F. Black

Xmas. 1876



ROUTLEDGE'S  
SCRIPTURE GIFT-BOOK

CONTAINING

*ALPHABET OF THE OLD TESTAMENT*

*ALPHABET OF THE NEW TESTAMENT*

*HISTORY OF JOSEPH*

*HISTORY OF MOSES*

WITH

NINETY-SIX PAGES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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ALPHABET OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

ALPHABET OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

HISTORY OF JOSEPH.

HISTORY OF MOSES.



ALPHABET OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

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And the light of the day was  
the first day

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**AARON**, the High Priest of the Jews, within the  
Temple pray'd

And offer'd sacrifices, which were on the altar laid.

**BALAM** the Prophet, on an ass, a visit went  
to pay

To Balak: but an Angel stood to meet him on the way.

**CAIN**, the first son of Adam, full of jealousy and  
pride,

Fiercely kill'd his brother Abel, and was wretched till  
he died.

**DANIEL**, faithful, brave, and pious, was shut in  
the lions' den

By the heathen King Darius, but came safely out  
again;

For God, who made the Lions, watches over righteous  
men.





A



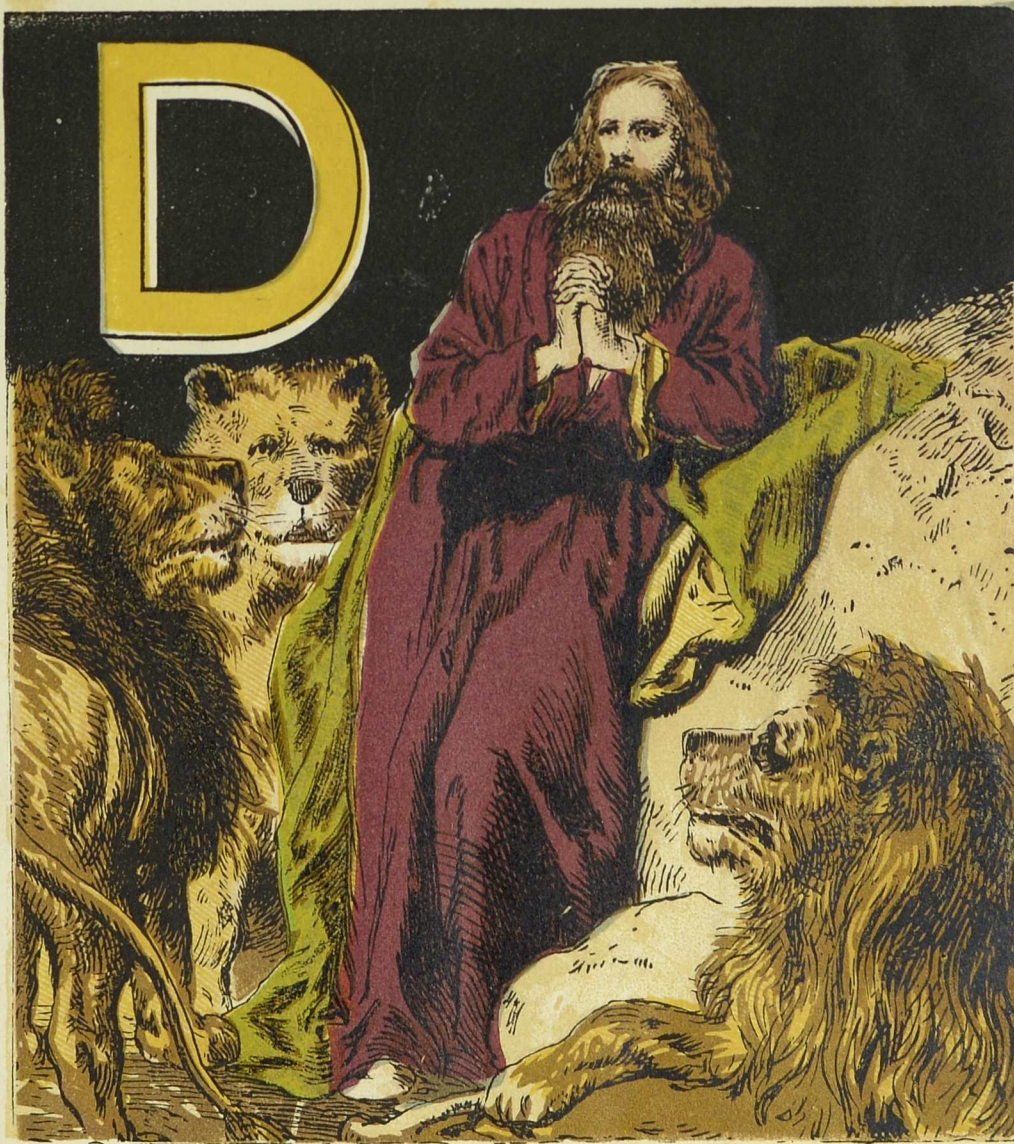
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C



D







**ELIJAH**, when he hid himself, had nothing left  
to eat,

But the Lord's ravens daily brought the Prophet bread  
and meat.

**FINDING** the infant Moses: who, left at the river's  
side,

Was lying in a little ark, with fresh bulrushes tied;—  
Great Pharaoh's daughter pitied as the child look'd up  
and cried.

**GOLIATH**, of the Philistines the leader and the  
pride,

Came forth and laugh'd, while all the host of Israel he  
defied;

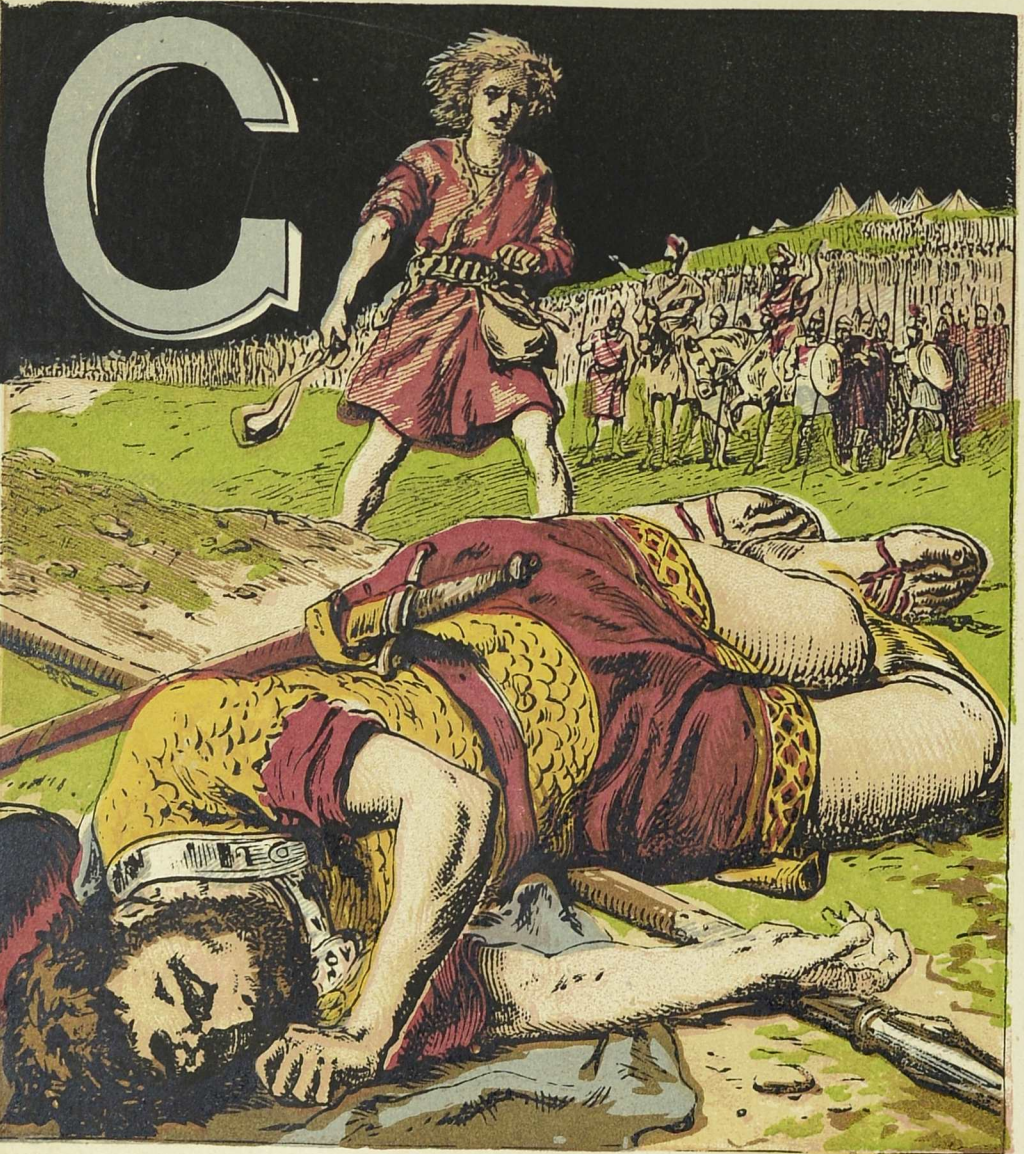
But David with a sling and stone so smote him that  
he died.

**HAGAR** and **ISHMAEL** her son, out to  
the Desert fled,

With water in a bottle, and a little loaf of bread.

But, when they both had call'd to God, in safety they  
were led.











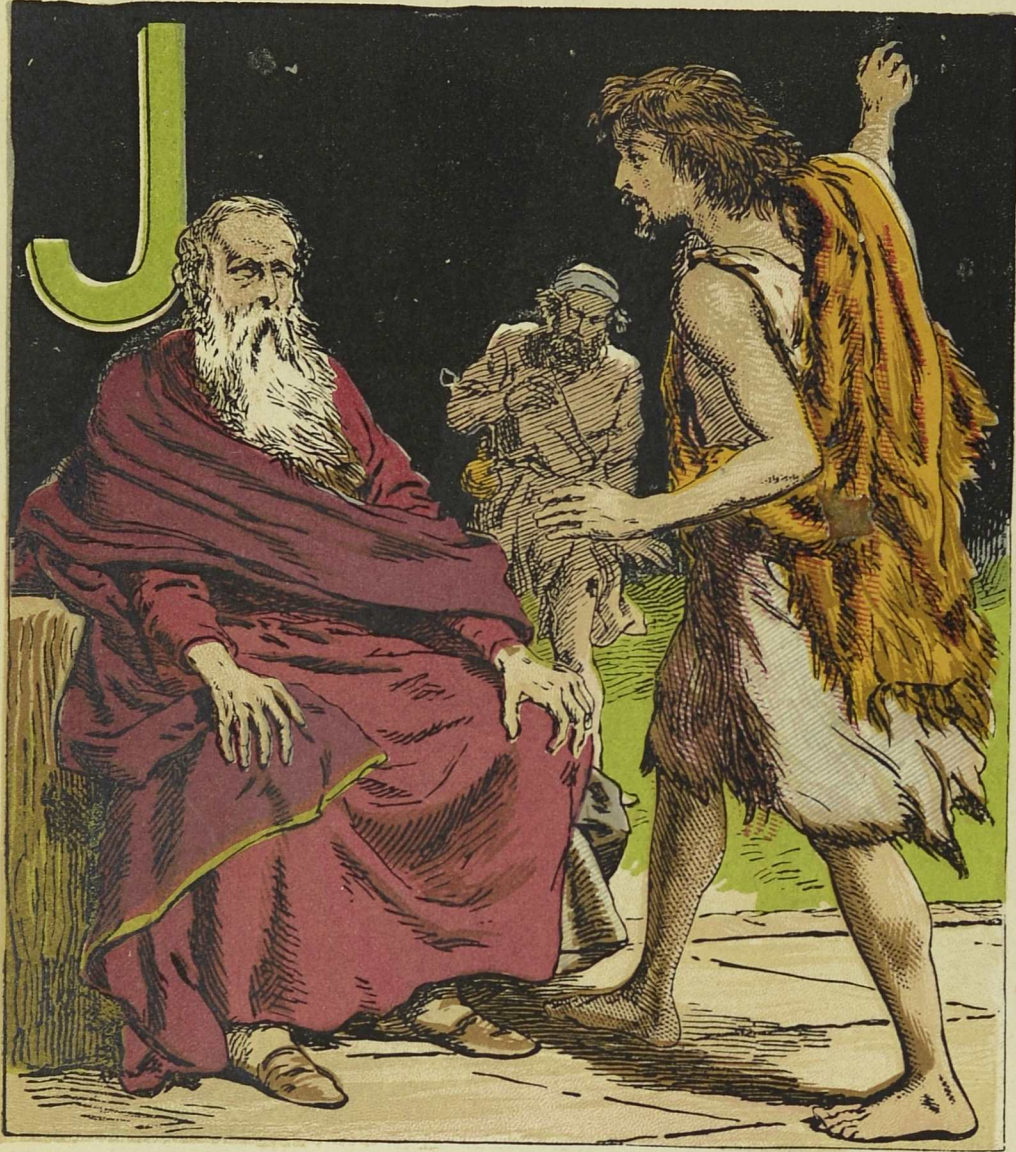
**JOB** suffer'd many sorrows, but was patient to the end,  
Knowing in all his troubles that the Lord was still his  
friend.

**KING DAVID**, once a shepherd boy, to  
Israel's throne was raised,  
And, singing to his harp, in sweetest Psalms he pray'd  
and praised.

**LOT**, with his wife and daughters, left the Cities of  
the Plain,  
Which for their wickedness God smote with storms of  
fiery rain ;  
But Lot's wife was destroy'd, because she would look back  
again.

**MIRIAM** the Prophetess was Aaron's sister :  
she  
Led forth the Jewish women who escaped from the Red  
Sea,  
And danced and sang for joy that all her nation was set  
free.









**N**OAH alone of all the people hated evil and loved  
good,  
And when the earth was drown'd by rain from heaven  
in a flood,  
God taught him how to build a ship, or ark, of gopher  
wood.

**O**BADIAH sought from wicked men Elijah's  
life to save,  
It was he who fed and hid a hundred prophets in a cave.

**P**HARAOH the King of Egypt would not let  
God's people go,  
But made them slaves, till Moses wrought strange miracles,  
to show  
That even Kings who disobey will suffer pain and woe.

**Q**UEEN OF SHEBA. You have heard  
how she from her own country came,  
And brought rich gifts to Solomon, whose wisdom, skill, and  
fame  
Caused Kings and Princes to bow down in homage to his  
name.











**RUTH** was the youthful Widow, of the tender,  
loving heart,

Who refused, in spite of poverty, from Naomi to part.

**SAMSON**, the man of mighty strength, who blind  
and captive lay

Within a house, in which his foes had come to drink and  
play,

Pull'd down the pillars, and the house fell on them all  
that day.

**TUBAL CAIN** was first of workmen who  
for useful metals sought,

And brass and iron into shape at the smith's anvil wrought.

**VASHTI**, the Queen, refused to go at her proud  
King's command,

And so was sent away, while Esther sat at his right hand.











**WIDOWED** and poor and hungry, the woman  
was who fed  
Elijah, Prophet of the Lord, with a small cake of  
bread,  
But God return'd a hundredfold, and kept her table  
spread.

**X** is the letter which is used to show the number  
Ten.  
And Ten Commandments Moses gave from God to sinful  
men.

**YOUNG JOASH**, when a little child, was  
hidden from the sight  
Of those who sought to slay him, and was kept both day  
and night,  
Till priests and captains claim'd for him his own true  
kingly right.

**ZEDEKIAH**, King of Judah, lived to see his  
sons both slain,  
Then blind and captive went away, never to see again.  
For he led an evil life, which brings both misery and pain.





**AGABUS** took Paul's girdle, and bound both his  
hands and feet,

And said, "Thus will the Jews the owner of this girdle treat,  
If to Jerusalem he goes, the brethren to meet."

**BLIND BARTIMÆUS** sat and begged,  
beside the great highway ;

But when he heard that Christ was come, he cried aloud  
to say,

"Thou son of David hear me !" The Lord gave him sight  
that day.

**CORNELIUS**, the Centurion, was in a vision  
told

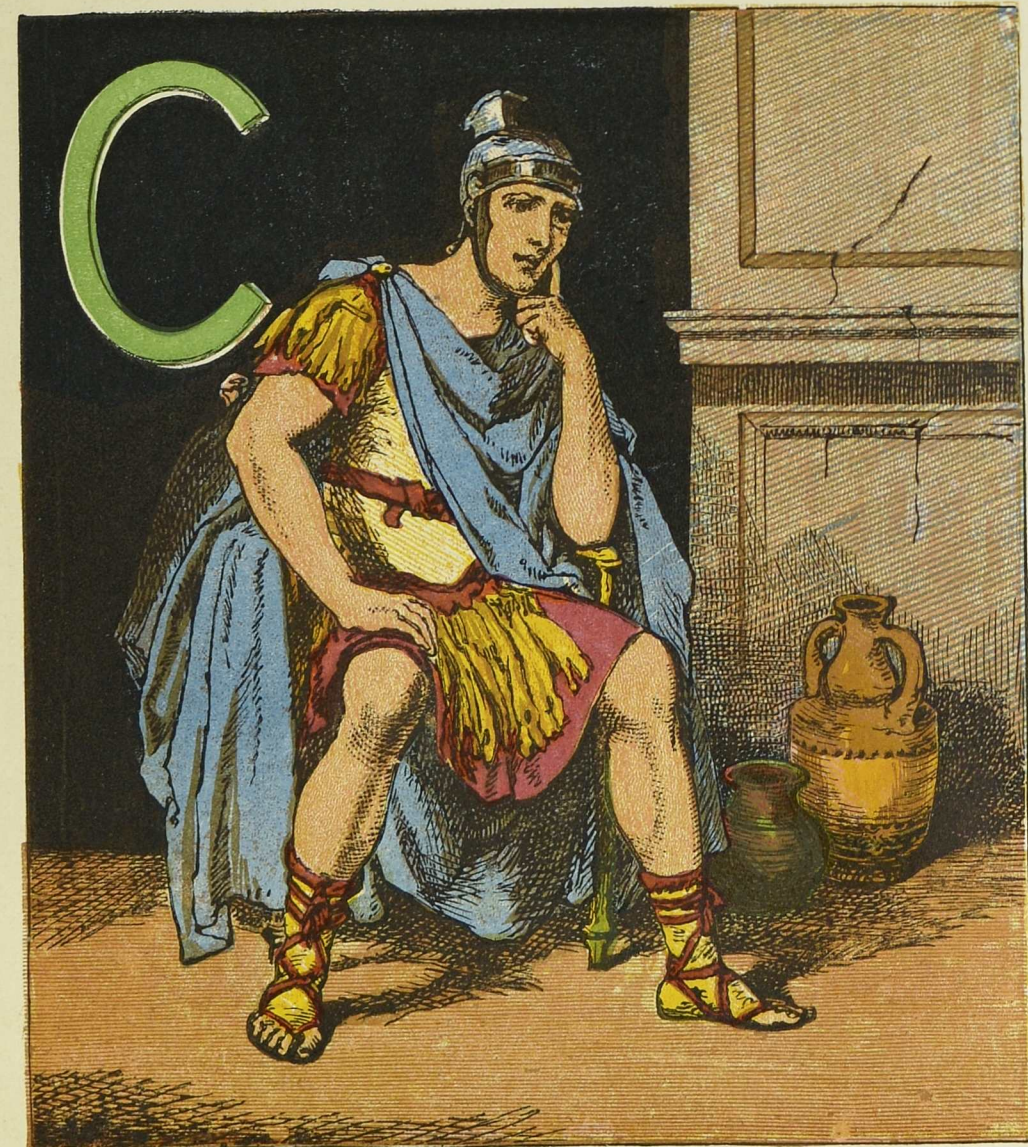
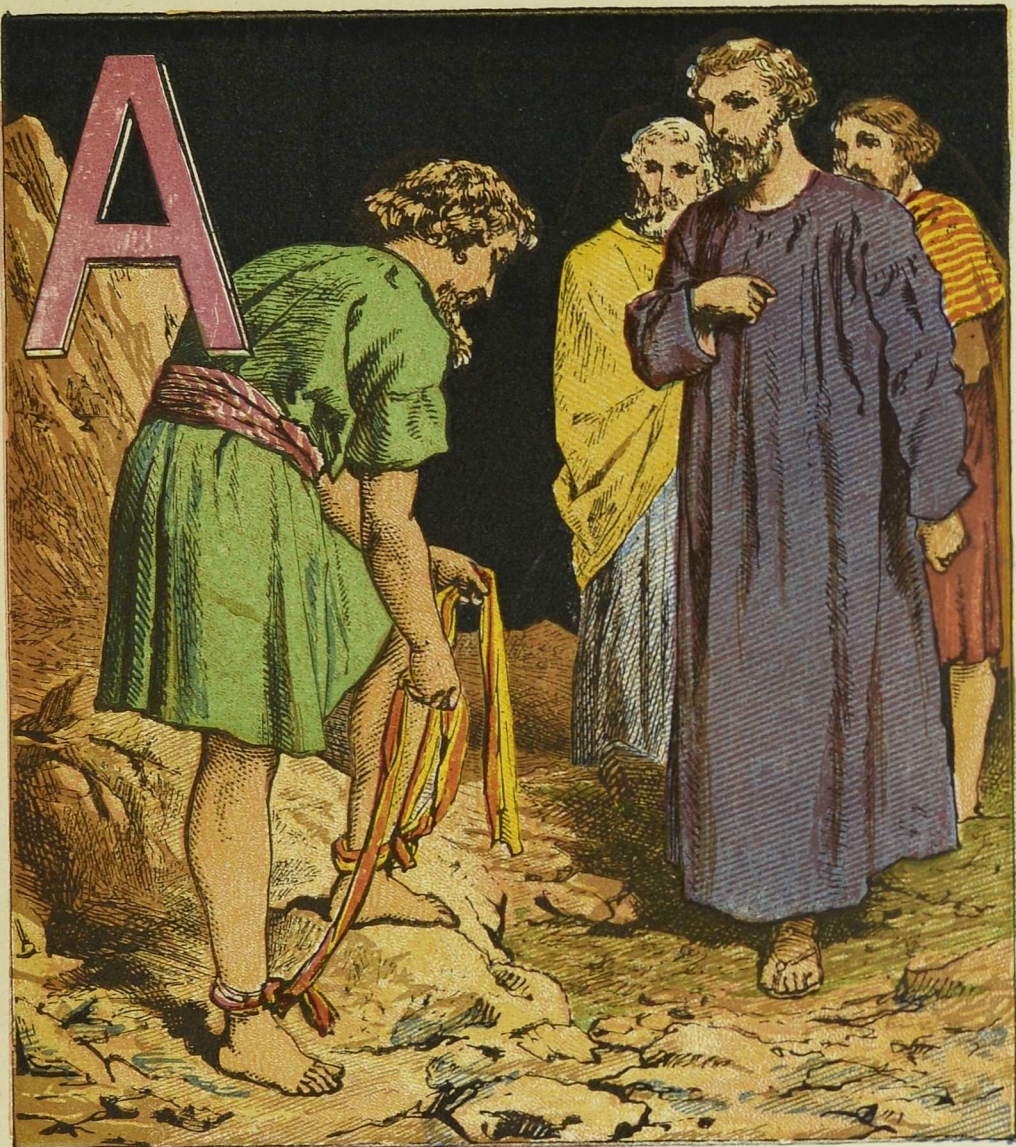
To send for Peter, who would all the truth of God unfold.

**DORCAS** spent time in charity, the poor and  
hungry fed,

Made clothing for the orphans, and gave the widows bread.











**E**LYMAS, who with wicked words the Apostles  
would withstand,

Was struck with blindness, and ask'd who would lead him  
by the hand.

**F**ELIX, the Roman Governor, before whom Paul  
was brought,

Trembled to hear the holy truth that the Apostle taught.

**G**OOD SAMARITAN indeed was he, who  
stopped upon his way,

To help the wounded traveller, who bruised and senseless  
lay ;

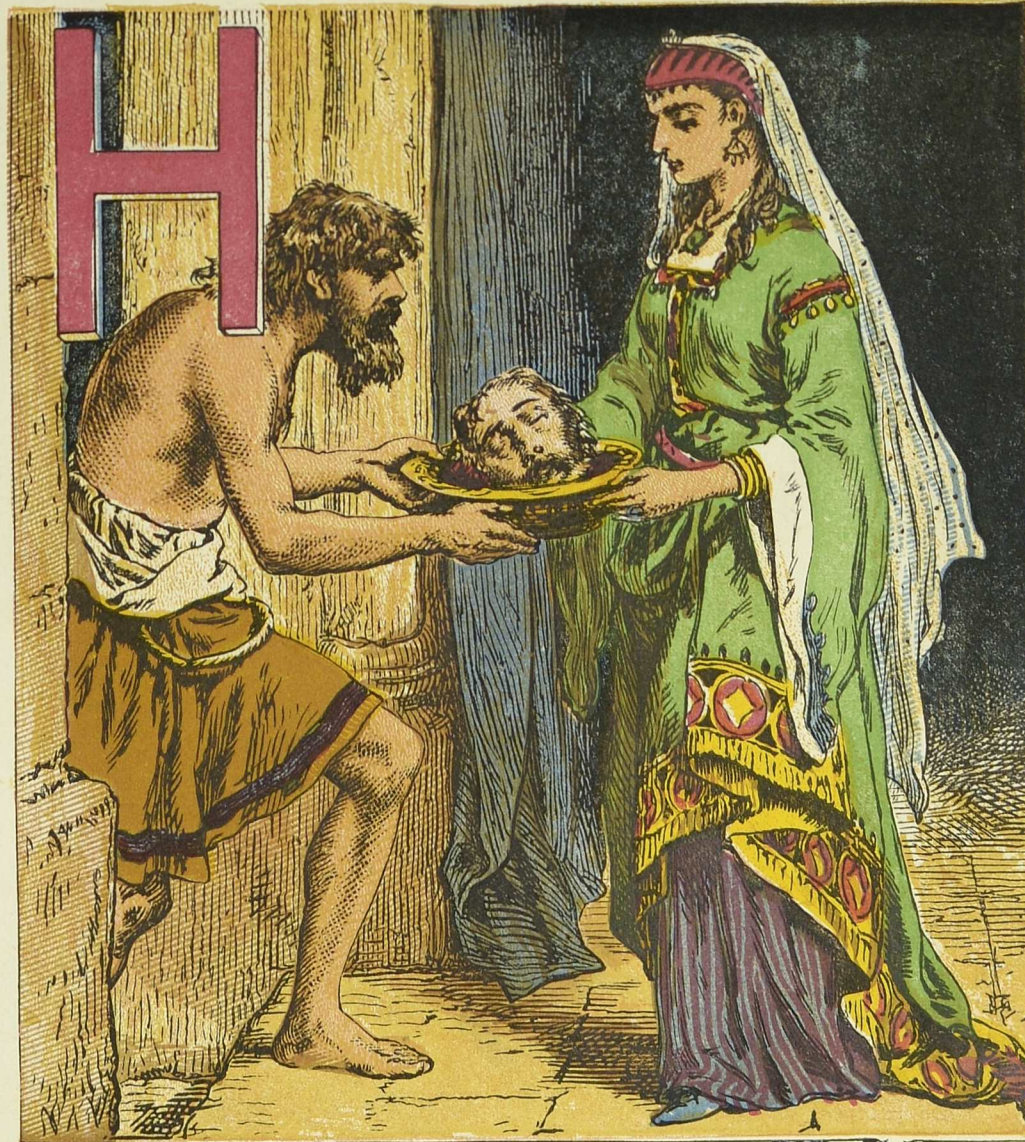
Then gently took him to an inn, and his account would  
pay.

**H**ERODIAS, whose DAUGHTER danced before  
that evil King,

Herod the Tetrarch, who had sworn to grant her anything,  
Demanded that John Baptist's head they in a dish should  
bring.











**JUDAS**, who for the money, which the priests agreed  
to pay,

With a false kiss betray'd his Lord, and kill'd himself next  
day.

**KING HEROD**, when he heard that Christ  
was born on earth to reign

In Bethlehem, sent forth, and had the little children slain.

**LAZARUS** sat and begged for bread before the  
rich man's door ;

And there the dogs came round and lick'd his limbs so  
weak and sore.

But when he died, he found that God would heal him  
evermore.

**MARY MAGDALENE** stoop'd and  
pour'd upon the Saviour's feet,

From a box of alabaster, precious ointment fresh and  
sweet.











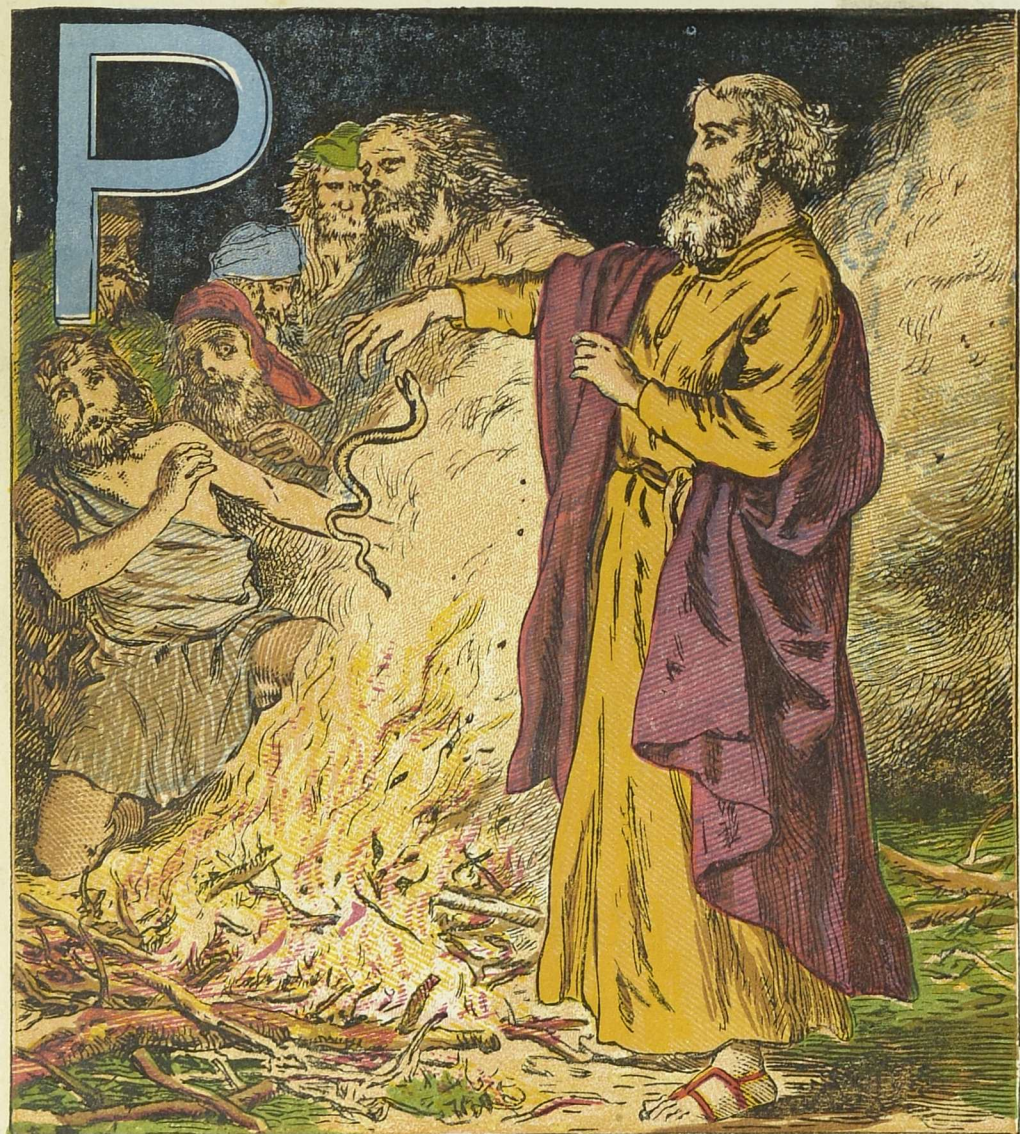
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Q







**NICODEMUS**, Ruler of the Jews, to Jesus came  
by night,

To listen to the blessed words that fill'd his soul with light.

**ONESIMUS** was he who came from Paul to  
Philemon ;

The great Apostle wrote to say he loved him as a son.

**PAUL**, wreck'd upon a foreign coast and in a savage  
land,

Lighted a fire, when suddenly there fasten'd on his hand

A viper ; yet the people there unhurt did see him stand.

**QUEEN BERNICE** with King Agrippa  
came to Cæsarea,

And there, within the judgment hall, they sent for Paul,  
to hear

The things which that Apostle taught without a sign  
of fear.











**RHODA**, who stood and listen'd to the knocking  
at the gate,

Knew the Apostle Peter's voice ; but left him there to wait,  
While joyfully she told, that he'd escaped from Herod's  
hate.

**SIMEON**, a holy man, who pray'd and waited for  
God's grace,

Was told that he should live to see the Saviour of his race :  
How joyfully he look'd upon the infant Jesus' face.

**TERTULLUS** was the orator, who before  
Felix sought

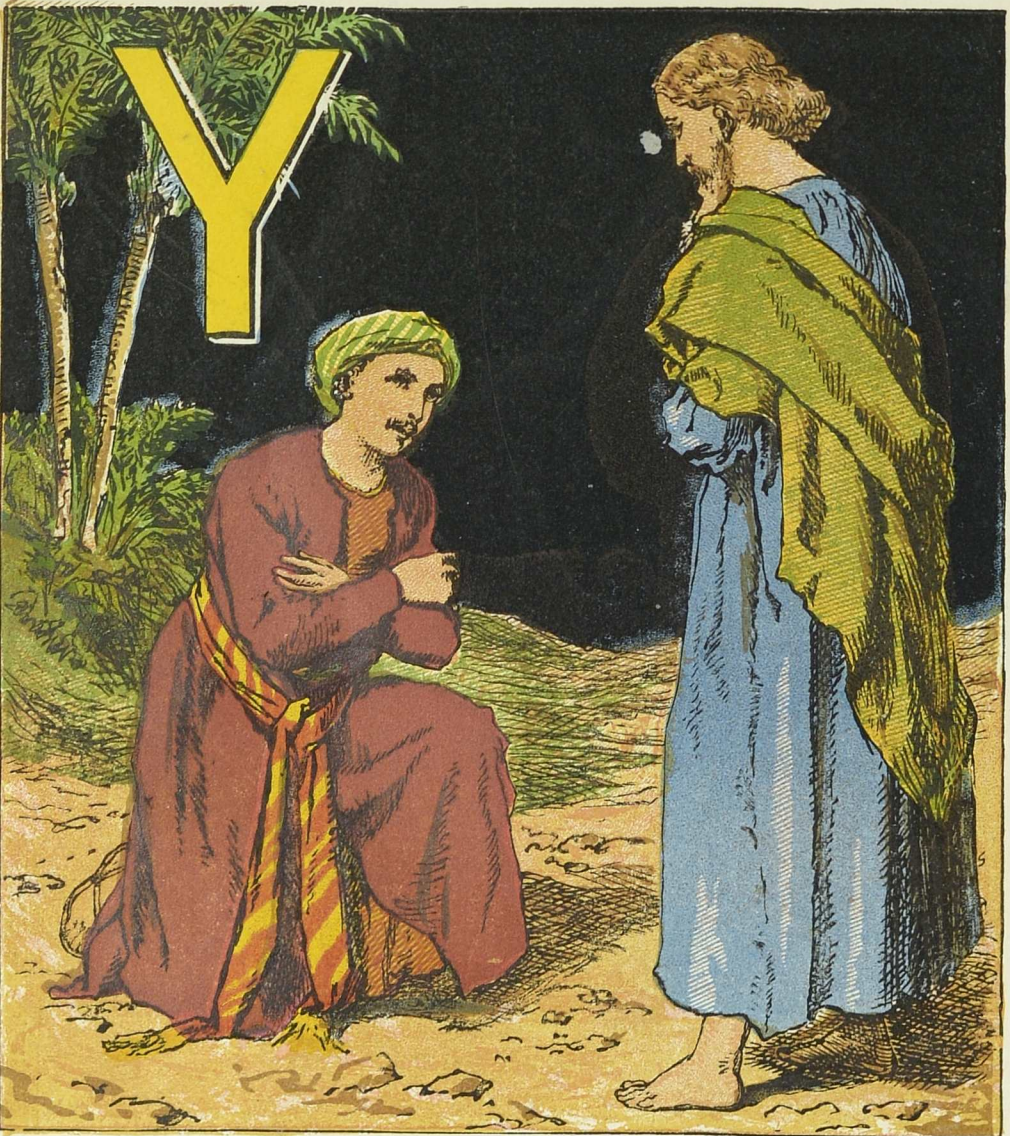
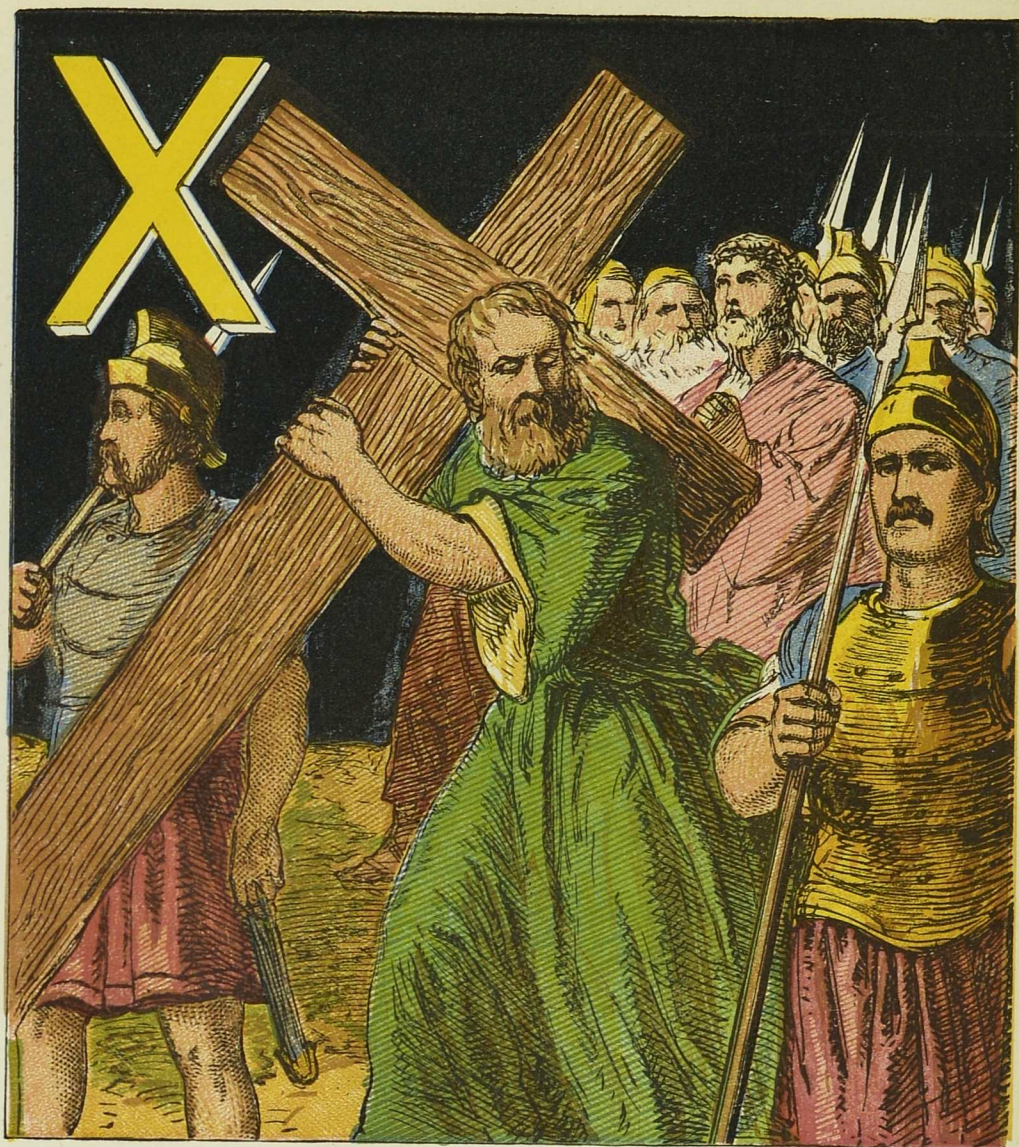
The life of Paul, and urged that he should be to judgment  
brought.

**VIRGIN** most pure and holy was the mother of  
our Lord,

And in that manger lowly Kings and Wise Men adored  
The Christ, who came that sinful man to God should be  
restored.











**W**OMAN OF SAMARIA was she who  
at the well

Listen'd with wonder to the things that Jesus had to tell.

**X** is a cross, and by the cross our blessed Saviour  
died.

That we might come to God and live, our life He sanctified.

**Y**OUNG, good, and wealthy was a man who came  
the Lord to see,

And asked, "What shall I do that I in Heaven may live  
with Thee?"

Then Christ, who loved him, said:—"Leave all, and come  
and follow me."

**Z**ACCCHÆUS was the publican who, running on  
before

That he might look on Jesus, climb'd up a sycamore.



HISTORY OF JOSEPH.





# THE HISTORY OF JOSEPH.

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AFTER the death of Rachel, the mother of Joseph and Benjamin, Jacob went to live in the land of Canaan, where he had fields and flocks of sheep, and his sons were shepherds and husbandmen, living together in one family.

At this time Joseph was a lad of seventeen years old, and much younger than any of his eleven brethren except Benjamin. Jacob loved Joseph more than all the rest of his children; and the brothers of Joseph were jealous, so that when Jacob one day gave Joseph a new coat of many colours and better than the coats which they were wearing, they were quite angry that he should be their father's favourite.

But they were still more angry because Joseph dreamed that he should be a greater man than they; AND HE CAME AND TOLD HIS DREAMS TO HIS FATHER, and his father and his brethren were angry.

Some time after this, the other sons of Jacob went with their flocks to a place called Dothan, and as their father wished to know if they were well and safe, he sent Joseph to seek them. They saw him coming, and some of them said that this would be the time to get rid of the dreamer, who was to be a great man, and that they could easily kill him and tell their father that he had been eaten by some wild beasts; but the eldest brother, REUBEN, WOULD NOT HEAR OF IT, AND PERSUADED THEM NOT TO KILL JOSEPH, but to put him down into some deep cavern, or pit, in the wilderness and there leave him. Reuben said this because he meant to go back and take him out when the rest had left the place. So THEY CAST JOSEPH INTO A PIT, and then sat down to eat their food.

But, while they were eating, there came in sight a company of Ishmaelites with their camels, who were taking spices and perfumes to Egypt, and Judah said to the other brothers, "Let us sell Joseph to these Ishmaelites, for he is our brother after all;" and they drew Joseph up out of the pit and SOLD HIM FOR THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER to these people, who took him off with them to Egypt as a slave.









## *The History of Joseph.*

REUBEN COULD NOT FIND JOSEPH IN THE PIT when he returned, and after calling and seeking for him, he grew very sorry for his younger brother, and went back to the others and asked what should be done, now that Joseph was nowhere to be found, for Reuben loved Joseph more than some of the others did, and he was afraid that when poor old Jacob heard of his young son's death, he would also die of grief.

Then the brethren of Joseph, who had sold him to the Ishmaelites, had to consider what they should say to their father, for a wicked act almost always ends in a wicked lie, by which people try to deny or excuse their sin. The coat of many colours with which poor Joseph had been so pleased, had been taken from him before he was cast into the pit, and now his cruel brothers thought that they could make that help to deceive their father, so they killed a young goat and sprinkled the coat with its blood, and then TOOK THE COAT TO JACOB and said, "We have found this coat, you will know perhaps whether it is Joseph's coat or not." This did not look like a lie, but it was a lie all the same, because it was intended to deceive poor Jacob, who when he looked at the coat that he had made for his beloved son and saw the blood upon it, said, "It is Joseph's coat, and doubtless some evil beast has devoured him." This was just what the brothers had expected, for they had sprinkled the coat with blood on purpose that their father might think Joseph had been killed by a wild beast; and they dared not confess that they had sold him for a slave. Then Jacob mourned for many days, and his sons and daughters could not comfort him, because he thought Joseph was dead.

He was not dead, but had been taken to Egypt where THE MIDIANITES SOLD HIM TO POTIPHAR, who was an Officer and a Captain of the Guard to Pharaoh the King; and he became a servant in the house of this great man. Now Joseph in all his trouble, and even when he was sold into slavery, did not forget that he could pray to God, and that God would help him at the proper time, and it was just when he seemed to be worst off that the help came, for all that he did was done so honestly and so well, and the Lord made his work so prosperous, that the Egyptian soon found out what a valuable servant he had bought, and trusted everything to him, so that Joseph was no longer a poor slave, but the ruler of his master's house, and POTIPHAR GAVE HIM AUTHORITY OVER ALL THAT HE HAD, and he was the chief of all the servants while his master was away.

The wife of Potiphar was a bad and deceitful woman, and whenever her husband was away from home she wished for Joseph's company, but Joseph would never stay in the part of the house that she lived in, and he knew that it was his duty not to visit her, so he refused. She was angry at this, and one day when Joseph was passing her door she caught him by the coat, and tried to stop him; but he went on his way, and his loose coat or mantle came off in her hand. When her

The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem of the origin of life. It is shown that the problem is one of the most important and interesting in the history of science. The author discusses the various theories of the origin of life, and shows that the most probable one is the theory of spontaneous generation.

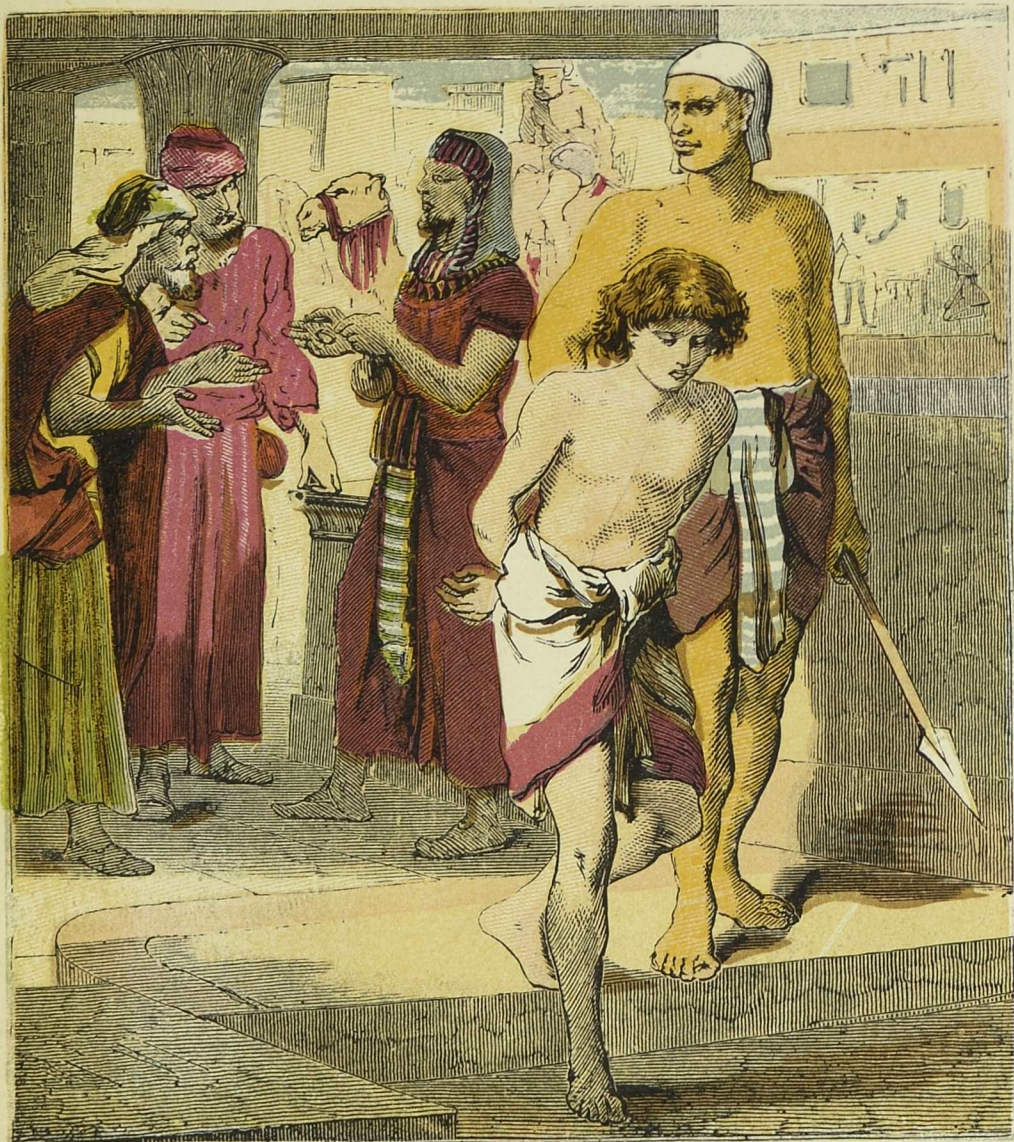
The second part of the paper is devoted to a detailed discussion of the theory of spontaneous generation. It is shown that this theory is based on the fact that life is a complex phenomenon, and that it is not possible to explain the origin of life by the action of a single cause. The author discusses the various factors which are necessary for the origin of life, and shows that the most probable one is the theory of spontaneous generation. It is shown that the theory of spontaneous generation is based on the fact that life is a complex phenomenon, and that it is not possible to explain the origin of life by the action of a single cause.

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## *The History of Joseph.*

husband Potiphar came home SHE SHOWED HIM THE COAT, and said that Joseph had insisted on visiting her.

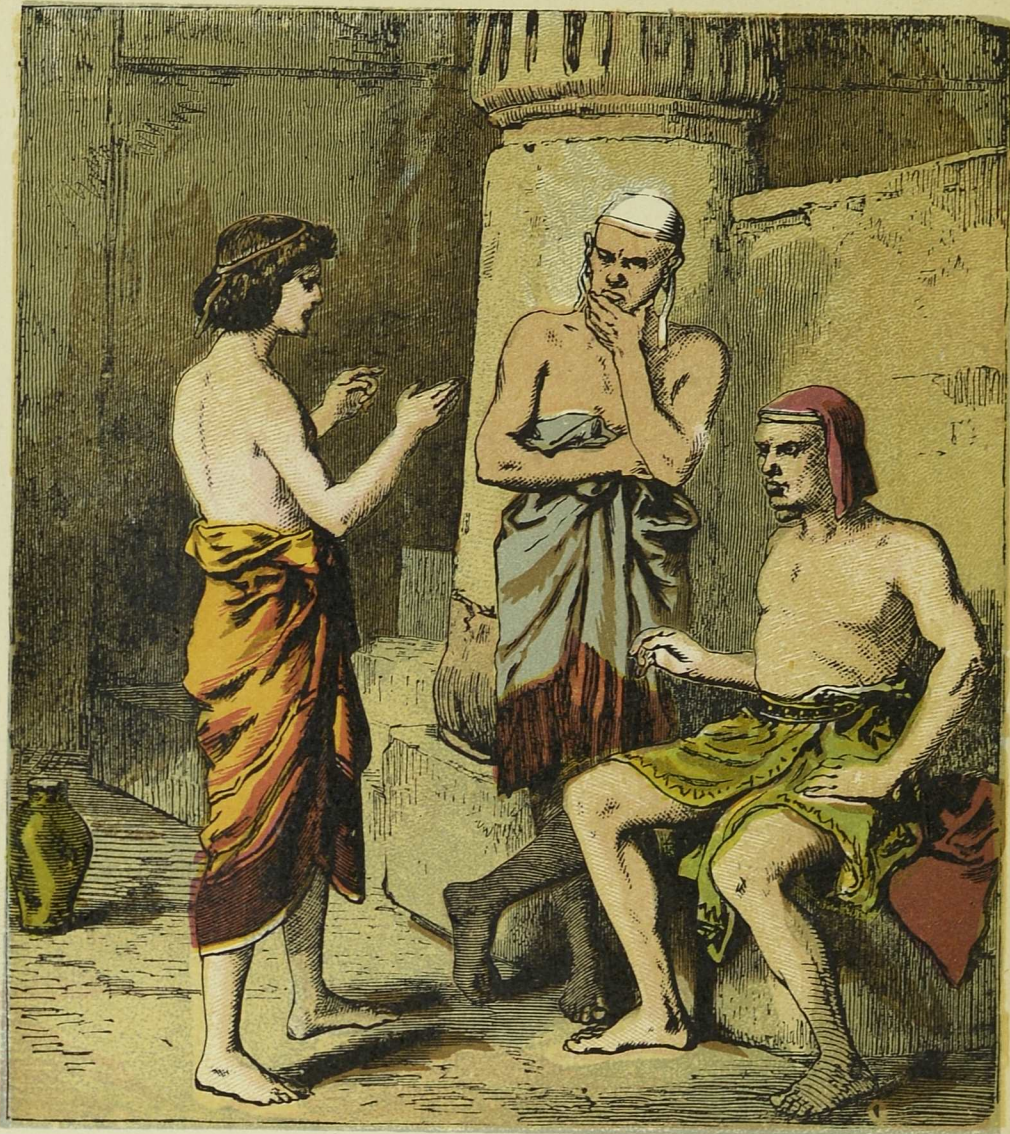
Potiphar was very angry at this, and shut up Joseph in prison; but even in prison his conduct was so good that the gaoler left him to take care of the other prisoners. Amongst these prisoners were the chief baker and the chief butler of Pharaoh the King, who had offended their royal master, and had been sent to gaol. Joseph became very friendly with these men, and one morning when he went to visit them and saw that they both looked very sad, he asked them what was the matter, and they told him that they had each dreamed a strange dream and were troubled, because they did not know what the dreams meant.

It seems that in those early days God sometimes made known in dreams what would happen, and Joseph, who had been called "a dreamer of dreams" by his brethren, was taught by God so that HE EXPLAINED THE MEANING OF THEIR DREAMS TO THE CHIEF BAKER AND THE CHIEF BUTLER OF PHARAOH.

The meaning of them was that the Butler should be taken into the King's service and favour again, but that the Baker should be hanged upon a tree, and it happened just as Joseph told them, for in three days the Baker was dead, while the Butler was handing the wine cups to Pharaoh at a great feast. Two years after this, while Joseph was still in prison, Pharaoh himself dreamed two dreams, which made him very uneasy, for he felt that they had some hidden meaning, and could not find out what it was. He sent for all the wise men and soothsayers in Egypt, and told them his dreams; but they could not understand them. Then the butler who had forgotten poor Joseph all this time, remembered how he had interpreted his dream in prison, and he told Pharaoh all about it, and THE KING IMMEDIATELY SENT TO THE PRISON AND HAD JOSEPH BROUGHT BEFORE HIM. Pharaoh told Joseph how he dreamed first that he had seen seven lean kine eat up seven fat kine, and afterwards that seven thin ears of corn had eaten up seven full ears. When Joseph heard this he told Pharaoh that there would be seven years of great plenty in Egypt, when the meadows should be full of cattle and the granaries full of corn; but that afterwards there should be seven years of famine, when there would be few cattle and little corn. And Joseph advised the King to choose some wise and honest man among his officers to lay up a great store of food in the years of plenty that there might be enough for the people in the years of famine.

Now King Pharaoh was wise himself, and seeing that Joseph also was wise and that God was with him to teach him what to say and to do, he set Joseph over his household, and placed a ring on his hand and a chain on his neck, and clothed him in fine linen, and MADE HIM RIDE IN HIS SECOND CHARIOT. And Joseph became the Ruler of Egypt.













*The History of Joseph.*

He lost no time in gathering the food into the storehouses ready for the days of famine ; and when there was no corn anywhere else in the countries round about, there was plenty in Egypt, so that people went there to buy of Pharaoh, and Pharaoh sent them to Joseph.

All this time Jacob had heard nothing of Joseph, whom he believed to be dead ; but there was little corn in the place where Jacob lived, for the famine had reached it, so that they were likely to be in want, and when he heard that there was corn in Egypt he sent his sons there to buy food. Ten of Joseph's brethren went down to Egypt ; but Benjamin, who was the youngest of all—and younger than Joseph—stayed behind with his father.

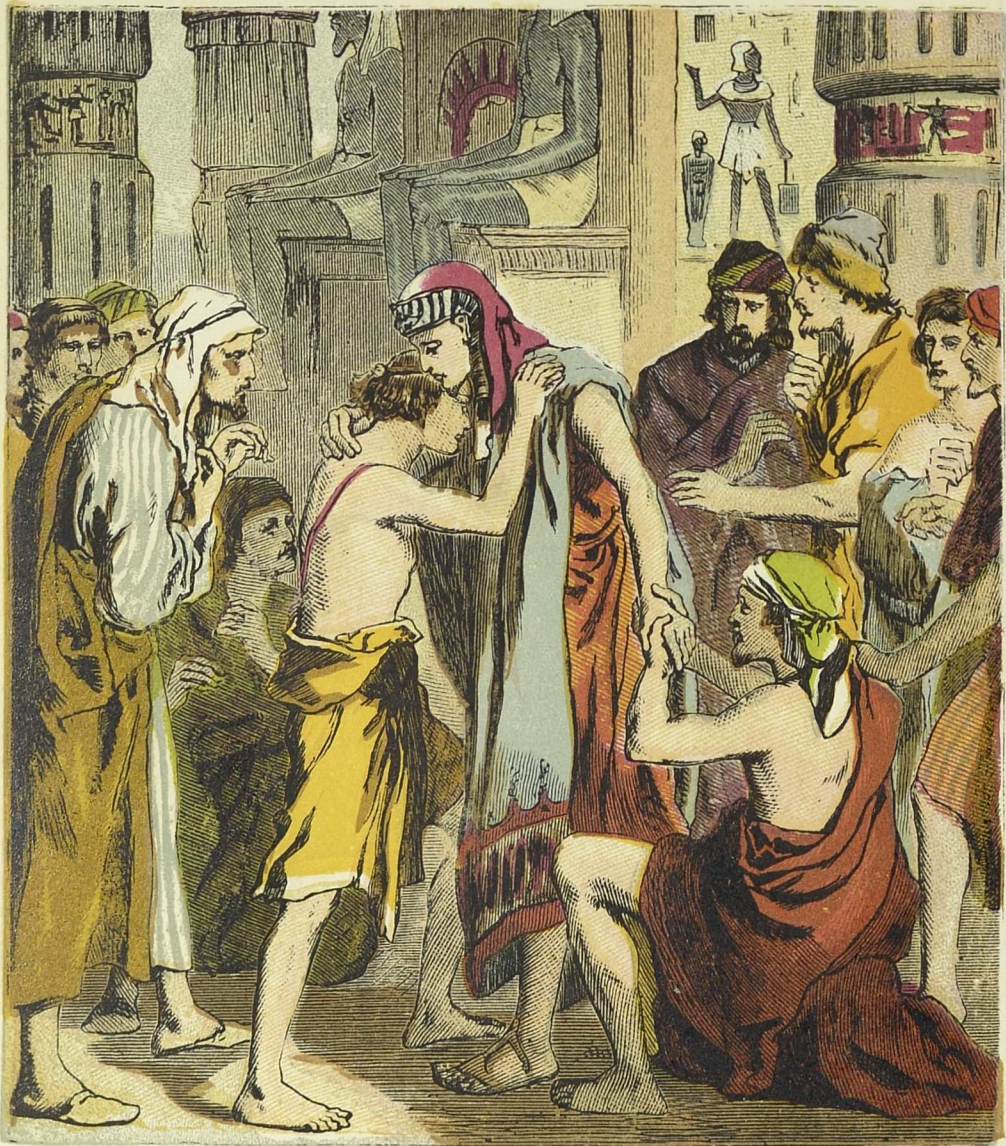
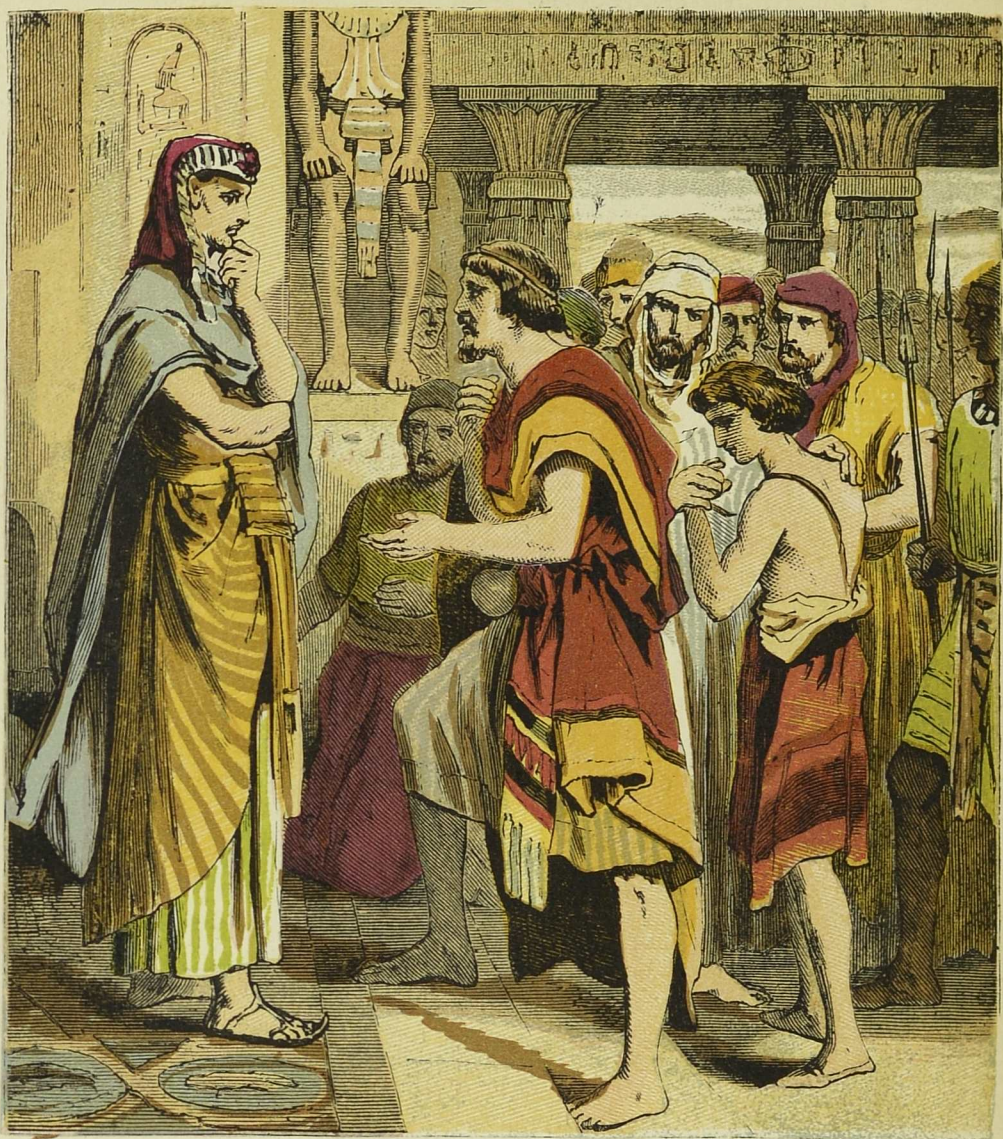
When the ten brothers came from Canaan to Egypt they were sent to Joseph, who knew at once who they were though they did not know him, AND THEY BOWED DOWN BEFORE HIM. But he spoke roughly to them, and pretended to think that they were spies ; and when they declared that they were not, and told him who they were, he would not let them go unless they sent for their younger brother Benjamin ; but at last he consented that they should take back their sacks full of corn ; and ONE OF THEM REMAINED AS A PRISONER until the rest should bring back Benjamin with them. Then they were all uneasy, and said one to another that this had come upon them because of their cruelty to Joseph ; but they did not know that Joseph was standing there before them, and could understand all that they talked about. When they had gone some distance on their journey, one of the brothers had to open his sack of corn to give some food to the ass which carried it, and, tied in the mouth of the sack, he found all the money which he had paid for the corn. Then the others were afraid, and opened their sacks, and each of them FOUND MONEY IN THE MOUTH OF THE SACK tied up exactly in the same way.

When Jacob saw this, and they told him what had been done by the man who was the ruler of Egypt, and how he had sent them back for Benjamin, he was very much afraid, saying that he should lose Benjamin as he had lost Joseph, and that for all he knew he had lost Simeon, who had been left behind in prison. At last, however, they wanted more corn, and Jacob agreed that Benjamin should go. So they all set out once more, taking with them the money for the corn that they wanted, as well as the money which had been found in the sacks.

And when Joseph saw them coming and Benjamin with them, he had a feast prepared for them, and when they told him of the money they had found, he said that it was a gift. Then he asked them about their father, and they told him, and brought Benjamin to him ; and when Joseph saw Benjamin—his own younger brother, and the child of the same mother—HE WENT INTO AN INNER CHAMBER AND WEPT.













*The History of Joseph.*

When the time came for the brethren of Joseph to go home, he called to his steward and told him to put the money in their sacks again, as he had done on their first visit; and to put his silver cup in Benjamin's sack along with the money. This was done, and when they had started on their journey and were some distance off, he sent a messenger after them who accused them of having his lord's cup with them. They were ashamed that they should be thought guilty of stealing the cup, and said that if the cup was found upon one of them he should die, and they would become the bondsmen or slaves of the ruler of Egypt. Then the messenger said that whoever among them had the cup should be his master's bondsman; and they all emptied their sacks, and THE CUP WAS FOUND IN BENJAMIN'S SACK, where Joseph had had it placed, on purpose that he might keep his younger brother near him.

When the brethren saw the cup in Benjamin's sack they rent their clothes and wept, and went back to the city and entreated Joseph to believe their innocence, and told him all about their father, and how he had feared to let Benjamin go; and JUDAH ASKED HIM TO LET HIM REMAIN AS A SLAVE IN THE PLACE OF BENJAMIN, lest their father should die of grief when he saw them go back without his youngest son. It was this very brother, Judah, who had advised the others to take Joseph out of the pit and sell him to the Midianites so many years before; and he remembered the grief and pain of poor Jacob when he saw his dear son's coat all stained with blood. He knew, too, that Jacob still grieved for the death of Joseph, and that the loss of Benjamin would kill him, and so he begged very hard that he might remain instead of Benjamin, even though he might never return to see his father again.

Then Joseph could refrain no longer, but MADE HIMSELF KNOWN TO HIS BRETHREN, and they wept together for joy; and Joseph gave his brothers changes of clothes, and waggons, and money, and other things, and sent them away that they might bring his father back to him into Egypt. Jacob, when he heard that the ruler of Egypt was his own dear son, rose up and prepared for the journey, and when all was ready he and all his household and his sons and their wives and children, about seventy people, set out with all their flocks, and herds, and provisions. Joseph, when he heard that they were coming, made ready his chariot and WENT OUT TO MEET HIS FATHER; and when he saw his father coming he forgot all the long years that he had been away from him, and cared very little for all the honour and riches that had been his in the land of Egypt, and he leaped down from the chariot in which he sat, and ran to meet his father, and to take him in his arms; and Jacob, who was now an old man, rejoiced that he had seen his son again.

Then Joseph prepared to return, and would not hear of his father or his brethren leaving him, for he was able to provide for them, and to give them land.









*The History of Joseph.*

and a place to dwell in, and room for all their flocks and herds. So HE TOOK HIS FATHER TO PHARAOH the King, and the King was kind to Joseph's kindred, and gave them possessions in the land of Egypt, and they prospered very greatly.

At length a message came to tell Joseph that his father was sick, and Joseph took his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, and went to see Jacob to ask him to bless the two boys before he died. Now Jacob's eyes were dim, so that he could not see; but when Joseph brought Manasseh to his right hand and Ephraim to his left hand, Jacob crossed his hands so that he might LAY HIS RIGHT HAND ON THE HEAD OF EPHRAIM, for he knew that Ephraim would be the greatest. Soon after this JACOB CALLED ALL HIS SONS TO HIS BEDSIDE, and spoke to them, and told them of some things that should happen to them and to their children; and when he had prayed for them he died, and was taken to his fathers, and his sons buried him in a sepulchre which had been dug for him in the land of Canaan, so that Israel lay with his fathers in the grave which had been made for them in the country that the Lord afterwards gave to the people of their children's children.

And when Joseph's brethren returned from burying their father they thought that Joseph would hate them for what they had done to him years before; but Joseph sent for them, and when THEY KNELT BEFORE HIM he raised them up and forgave them, and spoke kindly to them; and while he lived he took care not only of them, but of their children, and they dwelt with him in Egypt.



HISTORY OF MOSES.





# THE HISTORY OF MOSES,

## THE LAW GIVER.

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JOSEPH, when he became governor in the land of Egypt, where he was a friend of King Pharaoh, sent for his brothers and their children to dwell with him.

After Joseph's death these people grew in numbers and prosperity, and when another King Pharaoh, who knew nothing about Joseph, came to the throne, he was afraid that the children of Israel would grow too powerful, and so he made slaves of them, and set them to work in brickfields, and to build his cities, and put taskmasters over them, who treated them very cruelly. But the worse they were treated the greater became their numbers, so that this King Pharaoh ordered his servants to kill every male child that was born among them.

Now there was a woman of the family of Levi who, when she heard of this cruel order, hid her little baby son, and she made a little ARK OR CRADLE OF BULRUSHES, and smeared it outside with clay and pitch, so that it would keep dry; she then placed the boy in it, and left him on the bank of the river amongst the tall cool grass and reeds.

It happened on that very day that the daughter of King Pharaoh came down to the river to bathe, and as she and her maidens walked along the bank she saw this little cradle among the flags and grass, and sent one of the maidens to fetch it. When THE ARK WAS BROUGHT TO PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER and was opened, the babe began to cry, and she pitied the poor little fellow, though she knew that it was one of the Hebrews' children.

And Pharaoh's daughter called the little boy her son, and when he had grown bigger, she took him to live at the palace and named him Moses. But when Moses grew to be a young man he knew that he was one of the Children of Israel, and he pitied his people; and one day when he saw an Egyptian beating one of these his brethren, HE STRUCK THE EGYPTIAN AND KILLED HIM. Then he was afraid, and hid the body in the sand and went home. The next day he saw two Hebrews fighting together, and when he tried to part them one of them said, "Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" And Moses was still more afraid now that this was known, and he fled into the land of Midian, where he sat down by a well to rest. Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came down to this well to draw water; but some rude shepherds who came hither at the same time would not let them come near. MOSES HELPED THE DAUGHTERS OF THE PRIEST AND DREW WATER FOR THEM, and filled the troughs for their sheep.









*The History of Moses, the Lawgiver.*

And the young women went home and told their father, and he invited Moses to his house, and gave him food and drink; and Moses stayed with him and married one of the daughters, who was named Zipporah, and she had two sons.

Then Moses became a shepherd, and kept the flocks of his father-in-law, and one day, when he had led the flock to the farther side of the great plain, he came to Mount Horeb, and while he was there he saw a bush near him break out in flames; but THOUGH THE FIRE WAS IN THE MIDST OF THE BUSH, YET THE BUSH WAS NOT BURNED. While he was looking at this wonderful sight the voice of THE LORD came out of the bush calling to him by his name, "Moses, Moses." And he said, "Here am I." And when Moses knew that it was the Lord God of his fathers who called to him he hid his face and was afraid; but the Lord told him that the wrongs of the people of Israel should cease, and that he must go at once to Pharaoh; for he should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt.

But Moses was still afraid, and said that the people would not believe him when he told them that the Lord God had sent him. Then the voice of the Lord said, "What is that in thine hand?" And Moses said, "A rod." The Lord told him to cast the rod on the ground, and he did so: and when he had cast it on the ground it turned into a serpent, and Moses ran away from it; but the Lord told him to take it up again, and WHEN HE TOOK HOLD OF THE SERPENT IT BECAME A ROD IN HIS HAND AS IT WAS AT FIRST.

This and other miracles were to be shown by Moses to the people if they should doubt his word; but still Moses was afraid, and said that he was unfit to be the Lord's messenger, because he was slow of speech. Then the Lord said that Aaron the Levite, the brother of Moses, should meet him, and should be a mouth to him, and speak to the people, and that they should both be taught what to say.

For some time Moses could not believe that he had been chosen to do this great work of leading all his people out of the cruel bondage of the Egyptian taskmasters. When he had seen his rod changed into a serpent, he began to see that God could give him power to do all that he had to do; but he still feared that he was not a fit person for such a great duty. The Lord told him that he should be able to perform other miracles to convince the people, and to show Pharaoh that he had power to lead the people; and he was comforted when he heard that Aaron should be by his side to speak for him.

Then Moses went back to Jethro, his father-in-law, and prepared to depart from Midian into Egypt, that he might obey the word of the Lord, who had told him that his life should be safe; and HE TOOK HIS WIFE AND HIS SONS AND PLACED THEM ON AN ASS, AND SET OUT UPON HIS JOURNEY. In the open country called the Wilderness, between Midian and Egypt, AARON, who had also been instructed by God, MET HIS BROTHER MOSES AND KISSED HIM. And they went together to the people of Israel, who after they had heard their words, believed that the Lord would deliver them from their afflictions and lead them out of the land of Egypt.









But when Moses and Aaron went before Pharaoh, he would not believe, and refused to let the people go, but put them to harder work, and under more cruel taskmasters than before.

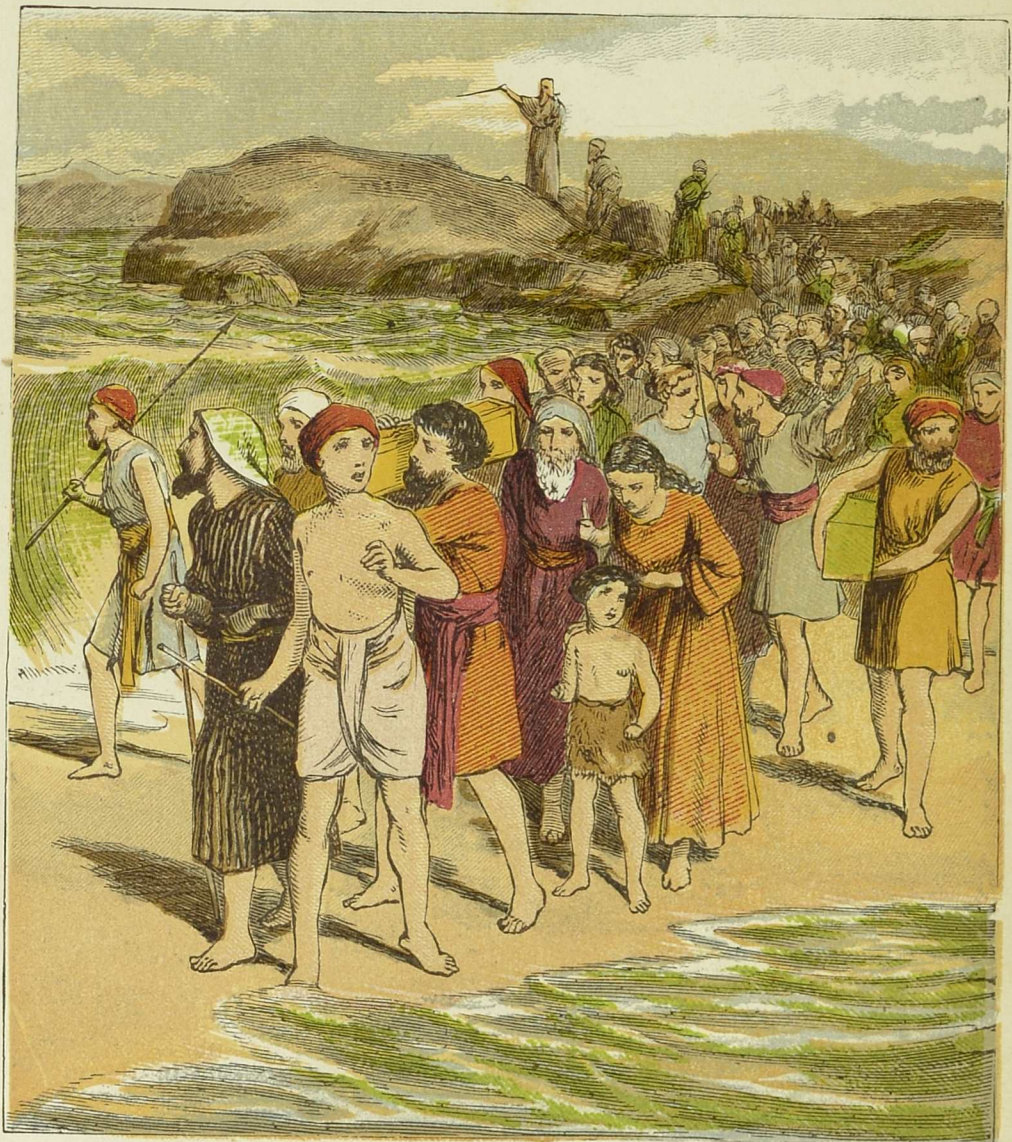
Then the people reproached Moses and Aaron because they had brought fresh sorrow upon them; and Moses cried to God for help, when the Lord said that He would deliver them with great judgments upon Pharaoh, and would make the children of Israel His own people.

And Moses and Aaron were told by the Lord to go again to Pharaoh, and that when Aaron cast down his rod it should become a serpent; so they went, and when the King asked for a miracle that he might know that they spake truly, the rod was cast down and at once turned into a serpent. Still Pharaoh would not believe, and he called his wise men and sorcerers, or conjurors, together, and they, when they had heard what Aaron had done, contrived to show that they could do the same, for they brought rods and cast them down, and they appeared to turn into serpents; but AARON'S SERPENT SWALLOWED UP THEIR SERPENTS.

Still Pharaoh grew more cruel; and Moses prayed him time after time to let the people go; but he would not, though every time he refused a fresh judgment came upon the land. He had refused to believe in a simple sign, and so he was made to feel the power and anger of the Lord. The very conjurors and sorcerers, who had till that time been against Moses and Aaron, implored the King to let the people go, for they could not imitate such miracles, which were wrought not by man, but by God. At last the Lord spoke again to Moses, and sent word to the children of Israel that they should be ready to go out of Egypt, and on the seventh day each family killed a lamb and roasted it for food, and they took the blood and sprinkled it upon their door-posts, as Moses told them, and that same night ALL THE FIRSTBORN CHILDREN OF THE PEOPLE OF EGYPT DIED, and every house which was sprinkled with blood as a sign that it belonged to the people of Israel was passed over, so that none died there. And this solemn season was called the Feast of the Passover.

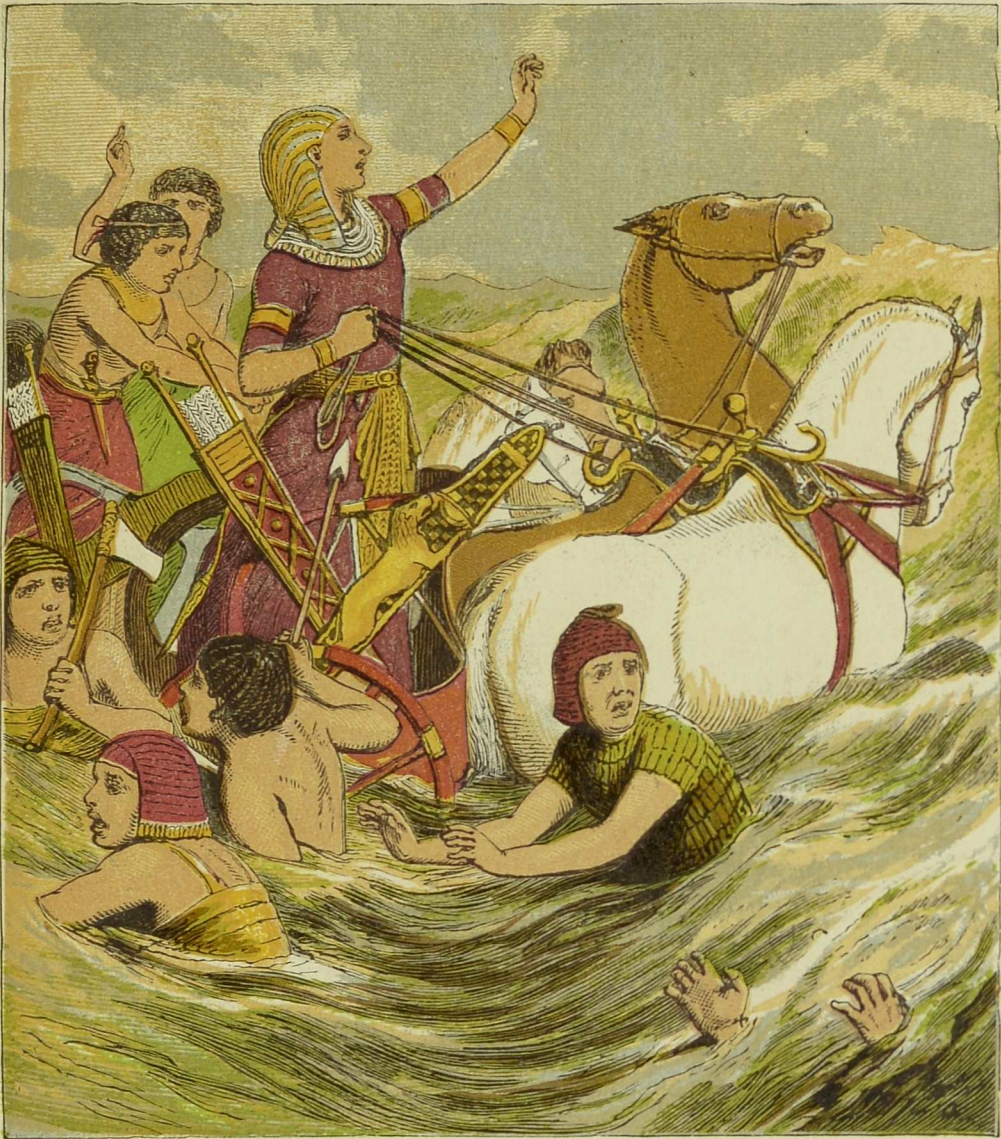
Then the Israelites BEGGED OF THE EGYPTIANS JEWELS OF GOLD AND SILVER ORNAMENTS, and clothing, and other things that they needed; and the Egyptians lent to them, glad that they were suffered at last to go. And they went out, a great host following Moses and Aaron, until they came through the wilderness to the shores of the Red Sea, where they rested; for the Lord had shown them the way by causing a cloud to go before them by day and a bright light by night. Now Pharaoh was angry when he heard that the people had gone; so, calling for all his chariots and horses, and a great part of his army, he pursued the Israelites, and overtook them on the very border of the sea. Moses then cried to the Lord, who told him to stretch out his hand over the sea, and he did so, and THE LORD CAUSED THE WATERS OF THE SEA TO DIVIDE, SO THAT THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL PASSED OVER ON DRY LAND, with a wall of water on each side. The Egyptians, with













their chariots and horses, pursued them; but their whole host was in confusion, and when the morning came and they were yet in the midst of the sea, the waters returned and overtook them, and THEIR CHARIOTS AND HORSEMEN WERE OVERTHROWN IN THE WAVES, where they were all destroyed.

Then the people of Israel rejoiced at their deliverance, and sang a song of praise to the Lord, and MIRIAM THE PROPHETESS, AARON'S SISTER, TOOK A TIMBREL IN HER HAND, AND, FOLLOWED BY THE WOMEN, SANG AND DANCED FOR JOY.

As they journeyed onward towards the Wilderness they were led and sustained by the Lord, who gave them meat and drink; but when they entered the Wilderness they became afraid that they should die of famine, and so, in spite of all the mercy and goodness that had been shown them, were discontented, and murmured against Moses and Aaron for bringing them out there to starve. But God did not forsake them, for in the evening there came flocks of quails and settled all about the camp, and the people caught and ate them; and in the morning, when the early dew had passed away, THERE LAY UPON THE GROUND ROUND SWEET GRAINS, or seeds, which looked like hoar-frost, but was good for food, and tasted like wafers made with honey, and the people called it manna. Now before they found this manna, which was sent like bread from heaven to satisfy their hunger, the people had complained, and wished that they were back again in Egypt, where they could get something to eat, and where they used to boil their meat every day. But the Lord sent them this manna, and they were told to gather as much of it every morning as they would want to eat during the day; but they were not to take more than enough for the day, that they might learn to look to God for their food every morning, and so learn to trust Him and to believe in His love and goodness. On the day before the Sabbath they were told that they might gather enough for two days, that they might not have to work on the Sabbath; and what they gathered each day they baked into bread, or boiled into a kind of porridge, so that they did not want for food.

Surely this proof of God's kindness and care for them should have taught them to trust Him, and to believe that He would not let them perish, and that He would take them safely through the wilderness as He had promised if they would only obey Him. Yet they were discontented when afterwards they came near Horeb and found no water to drink, and again they reproached Moses; but he rebuked them, and taking some of the older people with him, WENT UP TO THE ROCK HOREB AND SMOTE IT WITH HIS ROD, AND WATER GUSHED OUT, so that they could all drink.

Then there came a new danger, for the children of Israel had reached Rephidim, and the people of Amalek came out and fought with them: so Moses called Joshua and told him to take out men and give battle to Amalek; and Joshua chose his men and went to fight the Amalekites while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went to the top of a hill to watch. Whenever Moses held up his hand the Israelites prevailed













over their enemies; but if he put down his hand they were beaten, so that when his arms grew tired and he could no longer stretch out his hands, HE SAT UPON A STONE WHILE AARON AND HUR HELD UP HIS ARMS ONE ON EITHER SIDE, and so he continued till the sun went down, and Joshua had gained the victory.

After this Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, took Zipporah, Moses's wife, and her two sons, and went to seek Moses in the Wilderness, and when they had found him, Jethro, who was a priest, offered sacrifice to God, AND THEY WENT HOME WITH MOSES, AND JETHRO INQUIRED OF HIM of all that he had done, and how it was that all the people came to him for advice and judgment from morning to evening. And when Jethro heard how much Moses had to do, he advised him to choose able and just men from among the people, and to make laws for their guidance, and to give them power to judge and guide the rest of the people; and Moses heard this, and began to do as his father-in-law had said, so that by the time they came to Mount Sinai they were more orderly. Here Moses was bidden by the Lord to cause the people to purify themselves, and to wash their clothes, and to be ready to keep the third day as a holy day, for that on that day Moses should go up on the mountain and receive from the Lord himself the Commandments which were to be observed by His people; and none of the people were suffered to approach the mountain except Moses and Aaron, for there was fire and smoke upon the top of it; but Moses and Aaron went up and received the Commandments, and the laws which the people of Israel were to observe towards God and towards one another.

Aaron returned, and Moses remained on the mount, and when the people waited for Moses, but found he still stayed, they persuaded Aaron to make them an idol of gold in the shape of a calf, like one of the gods that they had seen in Egypt; for some of them seemed to forget all God's mercies, and to wish to be like the idolators whom they had left behind them. Aaron consented, and to keep them quiet told them to bring their earrings and jewels which they had brought from Egypt, and OF THESE HE MADE A GOLDEN CALF, and they called it their god, and sacrificed and held a feast before it. When Moses came down from the mount carrying in his hands two tables of stone on which the Commandments of the only living and true God were written, he heard the noise of the shouting and saw the dancing and feasting, and grew so angry that HE THREW DOWN THE TABLES OF STONE and broke them. Then he went and destroyed the golden calf, and told the people what wickedness they had committed, and that the Lord would surely punish them for their sin; and those of the people who had given themselves up to wickedness and to the worship of idols, and would not listen to the commandments of God, were slain by the Levites, who stood by Moses, and were determined that these evil doers should die rather than that they should bring their bad example always before the rest of the people. And Aaron tried to excuse himself called for having suffered them to make the golden calf; but Moses rebuked him, and the people together, who promised to be true to the Lord. Then he prayed that the sin of idolatry might be taken away, and entreated forgiveness for the people.









After this the people of Israel set themselves to learn and observe the laws given them by Moses, and BEGAN TO BUILD A TABERNACLE, or great and splendid tent, where they might meet to worship God, and where the priests might offer sacrifices. The wood-work, hangings, and ornaments of this tent were very beautifully wrought, and all its furniture was considered sacred. Here the laws of the nation were made known, and the religious services ordained, and here the people met to praise God and entreat his future mercies.

The people of Israel, in their journey through the wilderness, were compelled to fight their way against those nations who came out to oppose them, and they were often troubled with many dangers, and want of food and drink; but though Aaron was dead, Moses was still with them, and, what was still better, the Lord did not refuse to listen to their prayers, though they often murmured and were unbelieving and ungrateful. Once, after they had been reproaching their leader, a new trouble visited them, for fiery or venomous serpents came amongst them and bit many of the people, so that a number of them died. Then MOSES WAS COMMANDED TO MAKE A SERPENT OF BRASS AND PLACE IT ON A POLE, so that all might see it; and any one who had been bitten by the serpents had but to look at the brazen serpent and he did not die.

But at last the time came when Moses himself must die, for he had ended the great work that had been given him to do, and the Lord was about to take him to Himself. The children of Israel had come near to the land that they were to inherit; but he who had led them was not to enter it: so he went up into Mount Abarim, whence he could look out upon all the beautiful scene before he was taken home to his fathers in that still better country beyond the grave. Before he died, however, Moses besought God to set a ruler over the people who might still lead them, and in answer to his prayer he was told to choose Joshua, who had already led the Israelites to victory against their foes. So JOSHUA WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE PRIESTS, and there Moses gave him his instructions, and named him leader of the people.

When he had done this, MOSES WENT UP THE MOUNTAINS OF NEBO FROM THE PLAINS OF MOAB, and there looked out and saw all the rich country, Naphthali, Ephraim, Gilead, and Dan; there too he beheld the waving palm trees, and after he had seen the "land flowing with milk and honey," his weary eyes closed in the last sleep of death. Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, he was strong and vigorous, and the light of his eyes was not dimmed; but he saw the children of Israel no more on earth, and none knew where his body lay, though the people mourned for him in the plains of Moab for thirty days.







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