

**THE CHILDREN'S
PICTURE-BOOK OF
THE LIFE OF JOSEPH**

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The Children's Picture-Book of the Life of Joseph by Henry Warren

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HENRY WARREN

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CHILDREN'S PICTURE-BOOK
OF
THE LIFE OF JOSEPH.

WRITTEN IN SIMPLE LANGUAGE.

With Sixteen Large Illustrations by Henry Warren.



LONDON:
BELL AND DALDY, 186 FLEET STREET.
1861.

P R E F A C E.

OF all the examples set forth in the Old Testament for the guidance of "them that come after," not one is so well fitted for the instruction of Children as that of Joseph. Of him alone can it be said that no great sin is recorded against him throughout his whole history, whilst the Scripture narrative of his life abounds with points of conduct well worthy of the imitation of the young in every age. His obedience, his patience in trouble, his wisdom in prosperity, his dutiful behaviour to those

whom he served, his forgiveness of the injuries done him by his brothers, his tender kindness to his aged father,—all constrain us, as we read the story of his life, to wish to “go and do likewise.”

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THE LIFE OF JOSEPH.

CHAPTER I.

JACOB AND HIS SONS.

HAVE you ever heard of Jacob, who was also called Israel? He was the son of Isaac, and he had an elder brother named Esau. We read in the Bible that Jacob bought his brother Esau's birthright for a mess of pottage, and that he deceived his father Isaac, who was blind, by putting on Esau's clothes, so that his father blessed him instead of blessing Esau. But Jacob became a very good man afterwards, and tried to please God by doing what was right.

I am now going to tell you about Joseph, who was one of the sons of Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons. I will not tell you the names of all of them, because you would find them hard to remember. But you must try to learn that Reuben was the eldest son, and Simeon and

Judah a little younger ; that Benjamin was the youngest, and that Joseph was only a little older than Benjamin.

Jacob was married more than once, and although he was the father of these twelve sons, they did not all have the same mother. The wife that Jacob loved best was named Rachel, and she was the mother of the two youngest sons, Joseph and Benjamin.

Joseph and Benjamin loved each other very dearly, but their ten elder brothers did not like them much ; and I am sorry to say they did not set Joseph and Benjamin a good example. This grieved their father, and made him love his two youngest sons the more because they were good and did not vex him.

Now Jacob had a great many sheep, and his elder sons used to take care of them, and to lead them to places where they could find enough grass to eat. Very often they had to go a long way from home, because the country was very hot, and the sun withered much of the grass and dried up the springs of water. Joseph sometimes went with his brothers, and sometimes he stayed at home with his father ; and now and then his father would send him with a message to his brothers, who were taking care of the sheep. Benjamin was too young ever to help his brothers, so he always remained at home.

In the country where Jacob lived, the people did not live in houses like ours, but in tents. Tents are made by fixing long poles in the ground, and spreading over them canvas or coarse linen cloth, which falls to the ground on every side, so as to make a room with canvas roof and sides. Sometimes these rooms are square, and sometimes round, with one tall pole in the middle.

It was a custom in Eastern countries for a husband and wife to have separate tents.

Can you guess why the people in that country lived in tents instead of houses? It was because they had to move about very often to find food for their flocks, and they wished to take these tents with them. They could not well pull down a house made of brick or stone and take it from place to place with them, but they could very easily take the tent-poles out of the ground and roll the canvas up, and carry them wherever they liked. Even now the people who live in many parts of the country where Jacob lived, and in some other countries, have tents instead of houses because they find them better suited to their wants.

I have told you about Jacob and his sons, and how they lived, because it will help you to understand better what I shall now tell you about Joseph.