

Jan. 11, 1924.

47th Ch. Book of Genesis, beginning with 13th verse. This is a lesson in government.

I have read in your hearing this morning a passage of scripture that is really very illuminating to those who are interested in studying the organization of people, the social units and the relationship of the individual to his government. It also gives us an outline of the kind of government in part the Hebrews had after they established their own government in Canaan. The Jews you remember paid a tenth, the tithe, but that was for the use of the land for what they could make on it. We see the establishment of that principal of government in Egypt under Joseph during this famine. The people in Egypt and the surrounding country went to Pharaoh- Joseph represented Pharaoh- for food that Pharaoh had stored up all over Egypt. In the years when Egypt had abundant crops they stored the grain, and they put it up in such large quantities that they even stopped keeping account of it. They had more than they could keep a record of, they had very large store houses. Then came the seven years of famine, the seven years without a crop, and during those seven years the people consumed the grain that had been stored up during the seven years of plenty, and after they had spent all the money they had for corn, then they came to Joseph and told him the situation. He said all right we will take all the cattle you have, take the live stock and give you corn this year for your live stock. The next year they came and wanted bread, of course, and so they sold themselves and their land for corn. Pharaoh didn't take possession of that land. He let them keep it. He said to them from now on I am the landlord and you the tenant; your rent will be 1 bushel out of every five. Bring to our one fifth of all you make, 20 per cent to turn over to the government, and from that time on the government of Egypt had all the money and means they needed to conduct the government with, and I think taxes are high. I don't know whether you do or not but your Father does. The taxes are high, but we don't pay anything like the taxes the Egyptians paid to Pharaoh. 20 per cent of their whole income from the rich lands of the Nile valley went to the ruler of the Government, and from time on of course Pharaoh had all that he wanted and more, so you can understand why Old King Tut had such a wonderful tomb made for himself. They had an abundance of means. I can't tell you for I do not know just when this form of land tax was changed in Egypt, but it is an interesting study. You know Egypt is one of the most interesting countries in the world any way when we begin to study it. It isn't one of the most ancient, so far as history is concerned because thousands of years before Egypt came into prominence the Chaldeans had the order of civilization and these Jews brought ideas of the Chaldeans with them into Egypt, and added to Egypt's civilization the ideas they brought out from Ur of the Chaldeans, but the study of Egypt is one of the most interesting studies that we have in history. You who are very proud of Geometry, and that's 99½% of the student body, of course know it originated in Egypt, at least they told me that when I was studying it. It means land measure, and when the floods of the Nile came and deposited that coat of fertilizer it obliterated the land marks, and those people had to have some way of re-establishing their land line so they developed Geometry. That beautiful

passage of scripture in the Bible telling us to cast your bread upon the waters and it shall return to you in due season, etc. that comes from Egypt. When the water was spread over the land the Egyptians went out and sowed the grain, as the water was settling down, sowing the grain on the top and the grain settled to the bottom, and in that way they planted their crops, and as the water receded the grain sprouted, and in due season it came back in many folds to those who cast their bread upon the waters. That is where the figure of speech came from. There are any number of things that we refer back to as coming out of Egypt. Their civilization was far advanced and in some respects they knew things that we do not know to-day. They knew how to embalm a body and it stays embalmed, and they can get and almost get the exact features of the living human being. We don't know how to do that. Whether it is the climate or not we do not know. Any number of interesting things come to us from Egypt. Here we get a lesson in government in that 47th chapter of the Book of Genesis read all the story of Joseph, it is just as interesting as a novel.