

before them? Water! a sea! Surely God has led them the wrong way! No bridge! no boats! How can they ever get across the water? And their enemies chasing close after them! They need not have got into such a state of worry. God's PROMISES ARE SURE. Picture very vividly the scene, as Moses' rod is stretched over the waters. It is night time. The east wind begins to rise. Listen to the splashing of the waves as the wind dashes the water this way and that way! See! A path of dry land is formed with the water a wall on either side! The command is still "Forward." They hear the tramp of horses and the noise of a multitude of chariots and people behind them. Who is following them?

How will God protect them now? See! the pillar of fire moves slowly back till it is behind the Israelites and sheds light on the path through the waters, but to the Egyptians following it is a dark cloud hiding all before them.

Freedom—By daybreak the Israelites are safely over. The Egyptians try to follow. Tell the rest of the story.

Golden Text—Part of the song of Thanksgiving. (Explain words.) Picture Miriam with her timbrel leading the procession of women, singing, dancing and waving their timbrels.

"Sound the loud timbrel
O'er Egypt's dark sea,
Jehovah has triumphed;
His people are free."

BLACKBOARD REVIEW

NIGHT and MORNING

The nights seem short because we are asleep, and we forget the darkness outside in the glow of the lamps and the firelight. But stay awake and out of doors one whole night. Oh, how dismal and dreary and fearsome the night is! Morning! We are so accustomed to the glory and the joy of the days as they come one by one, that we forget what a great blessing light is. And we forget that the night comes before the morning, and the morning is born out of the darkness. So much by way of illustration. In the Lesson just taught, there was a night, as black as night could be, and blacker still because the foe threatened and God had apparently forgotten. Then, there was a morning as glad and bright as could be, because God's face in the pillar was turned to His people, and God's sun rose upon their enemies destroyed and themselves set free.

A CHRISTMAS LESSON

[May be used as an alternative].

Isaiah 9: 1-7. Commit to memory vs. 6, 7. Read Matt. 2: 1-23.

EXPOSITION

The lesson is from the later history of God's people. The prophet foretells the troubles through which they will pass because of their sins. They must endure the oppression of the Assyrian, who will crush and lay them low. After a season of gloom and darkness, a great light will arise. The day of their emancipation will come through a marvelous child, who will rule over the house of

David forever.

V. 1. *Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such.* "There shall be no gloom to her that was in anguish." (Rev. Ver.) The present calamity shall not be perpetual. The darkness shall pass away. There will be a strong contrast with former things. In the former time, as the Revised Version reads, *he brought into contempt the land.* Zebulun and