

THE Teachers' Preparation Leaflet

LESSON 11.

JUNE 10th, 1894.

2nd QUARTER.

Passage of the Red Sea. Ex. 14: 19-29.

GOLDEN TEXT: "By faith they passed through the Red Sea." Heb. 11: 29.

COMMIT TO MEMORY verses 27-29. CHILDREN'S HYMNAL, 145, 225, 97, 91.

PROVE THAT—God's presence means deliverance. Isa. 43: 2.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Quest. 106. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association.)

MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	SATURDAY.	SABBATH.
Ex. 14: 19-31	Ex. 14: 5-12	Ex. 14: 13-18	Ex. 15: 1-10	Ex. 15: 11-19	Ps. 106: 1-12	Isa. 51: 9-16

IS THE RED SEA RED?

1. By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land (Heb. 11: 29). Moses brought them out, after he had showed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years (Acts 7: 36). The Hebrew name of the Arabian gulf is *Yam-Soph*, that is, abounding either in reeds or in tangle (in new Latin, *sargassum*); the Authorized Version throughout uses as the translation of this Hebrew name the term "Red Sea." What is the meaning of this name? Is the water of the Arabian Gulf, and especially of the tongue of the Egyptian sea (Isa. 11: 15),—that is, the Bay of Suez (*sinus Heropolitanus*),—of red color, as young Raphael painted it, or purple-colored, as it is represented in the so-called red window of St. Lorenz Church in Nuremberg? By no means; it is bluish-green. Whence, then, is the name derived? There are several explanations for the name, but none of them are satisfactory. The true explanation seems to me to be that the Red Sea was originally the name of the Indian Ocean with its two bights, the Persian and the Arabian; and Red Sea, as the name of the Indian Ocean, took its rise from a misunderstanding. The name, in the language of the people bordering on it, was *Bahr Himjar*; that is, the sea which washes the land of the Himjarites (South Arabia). This was wrongly understood in the sense of *Bahr ahmar* (Red Sea),—wrongly, for in respect to the color of the water the Indian Ocean is named *Bahr akhdar* (Green Sea).

2. It cannot be definitely determined at what part of the Red Sea the passage of Israel took place. Although usually the thought turns to the northern head where Suez is now situated, near the Ataqah Mountain. But it is probable that the Red Sea extended farther north at that time, and that the basins of the Bitter Lakes and of Lake Timsah were then overflowed by the sea; for we nowhere read that in the Mosaic or pre-Mosaic time a way went out of, and into, Egypt which was situated below that passage of the isthmus separating Egypt and the desert, which is now called *el-gizr* (the bridge). It is therefore possible that the passage was made north from Suez, about where the bed of the Bitter Lakes is today, dried up or still marshy only here and there. At any rate, the passage was made through the sea, not through one of the lakes which interrupt the isthmus between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.—DR. FRANZ DELITZSCH, in *The Sunday School Times*, July 14th 1887.

INTRODUCTORY.—While the Hebrews in their homes celebrated the first harvest, the Angel of death passed through the land of Egypt and smote all

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