

valuable manuscripts of the New Testament have been discovered. The whole region is a dry and desert land. Yet there are "occa-

sional spots of verdure," where may be found herbage, acacias, palms, and even cultivated gardens with rich, tropical fruits.

### THE LESSON APPLIED

In this lesson we learn that *God does his work in the world through human leaders*. He did not miraculously lift the Hebrew people out of Egypt and transport them through the air to the land of Canaan. No, the only method open to God was the one adopted: He used Moses as the leader and guide of his people. Evidently God expects us to make use of the means at our hand for the destruction of evil. There were some people who said that it was wrong to resist the German army, wrong to strike the enemy. What would such persons have done? They would simply have prayed that God would miraculously disarm the enemy, or cause him to change his mind suddenly. But why did they ask God to do all the combating of evil? Why did they expect God alone to defeat the oppressor? The real meaning of Christianity is this: God says to us as he faces the onrush of sinful forces: "I want your cooperation: we are fellow workers in the great task of making the world clean and just and good."

We can all hear this voice of God addressed directly to us if we wish. He does not speak to us as one man does to another, but through the needs of the world, our own noblest feelings, and the situation in which we find ourselves. If a lame soldier home from the War is hobbling along the road and I pass with an automobile, the soldier's weakness is God's voice to me to extend help and give him a ride. If I can make anybody's life brighter by a smile, the divine voice calls on me to do it. And so also with larger tasks. We must learn to listen for the whisperings of his voice all the time.

A second lesson is this: *that we can hear this voice and behold the divine glory at unexpected places and in unexpected times*. Moses was busy at his humble duties of a shepherd, but when suddenly the common bush appeared to glow with fire,—and yet it was not consumed. That was the wonder of it. God used this strange sight to convince Moses that he himself would play a marvelous part in Israel's emancipation. The divine glory

would shine in that enterprise, an enterprise that seemed so forlorn and helpless at first sight. Let Moses but set his eyes on his enslaved kinsmen, let him bravely undertake their redemption in the face of the formidable opposition of Pharaoh, and lo, he would feel the pressure of the divine companion at his side, v. 12. Amos heard the call to preach while he was tending his vineyard; Paul when he was on the road to Damascus on an errand of persecution; others while they were children in the Sunday School or students at college.

A third lesson is this: *even a bush of the field is much more than a bush when we understand it*. The bush, the flower, the stalk of wheat, draw their life from the soil, the clouds, the sun; and so a little flower has connections with the whole universe and is a part of God's beautiful world. Tennyson says that if he knew a flower through and through, root and all, he would know both God and man. So here is a meaning, a right scientific meaning that the writer of Exodus did not think about. His words are truer than he dreamed.

A fourth lesson: *The noblest leadership is the one that comes out of our experience of God*. How can we lead men if we ourselves have received no orders? The disciples preached with fervor because they had been with Jesus for three years. Paul was a great leader of the new movement because Jesus had spoken with him. So in this devastating War our lads are brave unto death because they are sure of the right. This is the way John Oxenham puts it:

"There's a mighty force behind you, boys,  
That's stronger, stronger far  
Than all the hosts the enemy can muster  
in this war.  
The God of Right, in all his Might  
Is fighting on your side."

A fifth lesson: *God champions the cause of the weak*. How very human sound the words in verses 7 and 8. Sometimes his deliverance tarries, and wonder and perplexity fill the