

14 And the Lord said unto Moses, Pharaoh's heart is hardened, he refuseth to let the people go.

15 Get thee unto Pharaoh in the morning; so, he goeth out unto the water, and thou shalt stand by the river's brink against he come; and the rod which was turned to a serpent shalt thou take in thy hand.

16 And thou shalt say unto him, The Lord God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee, saying, Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness; and behold, hitherto, thou wouldst not hear.

17 Thus saith the Lord, In this thou shalt know that I am the Lord: behold I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.

Rev. 16. 4-6: And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters: and they became blood....Thou art righteous, O Lord...for they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink.

forewarned of it. Vers. 3. 4. **Is hardened.** Literally, "is heavy," a word employed five times to represent Pharaoh's condition.

15. **Unto the water.** The king's visit to the river was probably for worship, since the river was regarded as a god by the Egyptians. **Stand by the river's brink.** As he might not find admission to the palace, he was to await the king's coming by the river. **The rod.** The instrument of the former miracle, which Pharaoh had falsely ascribed to magical arts, was again to be employed, and this time in a work which must be recognized as supernatural.

16. **The Lord God of the Hebrews.** "Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews." Jehovah is the personal name of Deity, meaning, "He who lives," a living God, as distinct from the dead, stony gods of Egypt. **My people.** The Israelites were God's people, not because they were better than other nations, nor because God arbitrarily chose them as the objects of his grace; but because it was necessary that some one nation should be made the depository of divine truth, and this nation was chosen both on account of the faith of its ancestors, and its characteristics of endurance and strength, fitting it to keep its mighty trust until the world should be ready to receive it. **Serve me.** Worshipping in their own way outside the jurisdiction of Egypt.

17. **Thus saith the Lord.** Moses speaks, by the mouth of Aaron, as a true messenger of God, not in his own name, but in his Master's. 5. So every Christian preacher and worker should deliver his message under the authority of God's word. **Thou shalt know.** Pharaoh had said, "I know not the Lord;" now he is to know, by experience of his power, who is the Lord, and what is his power. **I will smite.** So that the event may show itself connected with the act of the messenger, and not as an accident. **The waters.** The Nile water is fresh, and though clayey, when allowed to settle becomes better for drinking than that of other rivers. Travellers have said that it is the finest in the world. **Turned to blood.** The river which brought life to the whole land was to become polluted and deadly: worshipped as a god, it was to be shown powerless under the mighty hand of Jehovah. 6. So God turns the wisdom of man to folly, and the majesty of earth into helplessness. During the inundation (when perhaps this miracle took place) the Nile is of a reddish hue, but is wholesome. It now turns blood-red and putrid, causing the fish to decay, and becoming nauseous to the taste.

GOLDEN TEXT.

They showed his signs among them, and wonders in the land of Ham. Ps. 105. 27.

Time.—B. C. 1491.

Place.—Egypt, probably near Zoan or Tanis.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Moses and the magicians. Exod. 7. 8-17.
- Tu. Pharaoh's heart hardened. Exod. 5. 8-23.
- W. The first plague. Exod. 7. 19-25.
- Th. The second plague. Exod. 8. 1-15.
- F. The third and fourth plagues. Exod. 8. 16-32.
- S. The fifth and sixth plagues. Exod. 9. 1-12.
- S. The seventh plague. Exod. 9. 23-25.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 818, *New Hymn Book*.

C. M.

Come, Christian children, come, and raise
Your voice with one accord;
Come sing in joyful songs of praise
The glories of your Lord.
Sing of the wonders of his truth,
And read in every page
The promise made to earliest youth
Fulfilled to latest age.

Sing of the wonders of his power,
Who with his own right arm
Upholds and keeps you hour by hour,
And shields from every harm.

No. 781, *New Hymn Book*.

G. G. G.

I need thee every hour,
Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like thine
Can peace afford.
I need thee, O I need thee;
Every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Saviour,
I come to thee!

I need thee every hour,
Stay thou near by;
Temptations lose their power
When thou art nigh.
I need thee, etc.

H. M.

Through all his mighty works
Amazing wisdom shines;
Confounds the powers of hell,
And all their dark designs;
Strong is his arm, and shall fulfil
His great decrees and sovereign will.