

spised all warnings and now the blow of judgment must descend upon them. Long afterwards, Israel itself was rejected. John tells us in his gospel (12 : 36-40), of a time when Jesus, having failed to convince the Jews by miracle and discussion, withdrew from them into the companionship of His own disciples. The God who once judged the Egyptians afterwards judged Israel. There is no caprice or favoritism in God's judgments.

*The Lord doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel*, v. 7. Yes, and the Lord it is who puts a difference between us who live in Canada and the heathen in China. It has been pointed out that, if Paul had turned eastward instead of westward, from Troas (Acts 16 : 9-13) the Eastern nations might have been the Christians, and the Western, the heathen nations of to-day. It was the Lord who directed the feet of Paul westward instead of eastward. To Him we owe all the blessings of our Christian civilization.

*And he went out from Pharaoh in a great anger*, v. 8. Moses was angry and sinned

not (Eph. 4 : 26). Pharaoh had besought him with the most abject entreaties to remove plague after plague and he had yielded. In spite of these deliverances the king had been guilty of the basest treacheries. Then he had just before, as a crowning insult, ordered Moses out of his presence (Exod. 10 : 28). It was right for Moses, as it is for us, to be angry at such cowardice and falseness and tyranny. There is such a thing as hating nobly.

*And the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart*, v. 10. But the Lord only chose for Pharaoh what Pharaoh had chosen for himself. It is a law that evil acts harden into evil habits. The gambler who first hesitatingly puts down a small stake, in the end risks his fortune. The drunkard who only intends at first to take a glass or two ends by sacrificing everything to his appetite. So Pharaoh hardened his own heart by his own acts of cruelty and deceit, according to a law of God. Is there so much difference, after all, in saying that a thing is done according to a law of God and saying that God does the thing?

#### POINTS AND PARAGRAPHS

Some time the last hour of opportunity will strike. v. 1.

In God's plans delay spells, not failure, but preparation. v. 1.

What God commands, man can accomplish. v. 2.

Meekness honors God, pride honors self. v. 3.

Jehovah never strikes without warning. v. 4.

God is no respecter of persons. v. 5.

Timely repentance will save from bitter sorrow. v. 6.

The Lord knows His own. v. 7.

The grace of God changed the shrinking shepherd of Midian into the fearless ambassador to Pharaoh. v. 8.

Whether foes or friends, we contribute to the glory of God. v. 9.

To know the hardening effect of sin should

be to be warned against sin. v. 10.

"The Lord does not visit the first act of disobedience with His severest punishment, but marks His displeasure by a comparatively light affliction; yet if that be disregarded, a heavier is sure to follow; and so, on and on, until at length 'he, that being often reprov'd, hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.' It is a serious thing, therefore, for a man, or for a community, to disregard even the slightest affliction from Jehovah's hand; for each arrow that is taken from His quiver is more destructive than that which went before it, and hardened resistance to His will brings down upon itself accumulated and accelerated wrath. It was bad enough to have the blessing of pure water changed into a curse, but that was as nothing to the death of the first-born; and if the first had been heeded, the last had not been inflicted."—Dr. W. M. Taylor.