

## First Quarter : The Patriarchs and Early Leaders of Israel

LESSON FOREWORD—There was a great cry throughout Egypt over the slaying of the firstborn. The Israelites are thrust out of Egypt. No sooner are they gone than Pharaoh repents and hurries after them. Israel's position is desperate—an angry king behind, a barring sea in front. "The Lord shall fight for you. Keep quiet," says Moses.

### Lesson IV.

### ISRAEL CROSSING THE RED SEA January 26, 1919

#### THE LESSON PASSAGE—Exodus 14 : 21 to 15 : 2.

21 And Mo'ses stretched out his hand over the sea ; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

22 And the children of Is'rael went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground : and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

23 And the Egv'ptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Phar'ah's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the Lord looked unto the host of the Egv'ptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egv'ptians,

25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily : so that the Egv'ptians said, Let us flee from the face of Is'rael ; for the Lord fighteth for them against the Egv'ptians.

26 And the Lord said unto Mo'ses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egv'ptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

27 And Mo'ses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning

**GOLDEN TEXT**—The Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians.—Exodus 14 : 30.

SENIOR AND HOME DEPARTMENT TOPIC—The Challenge of a Great Deliverance. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—Deut. 4 : 32-40 ; Ps. 78 : 1-14, 106 : 7-12 ; Heb. 11 : 29.

### THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. ISRAEL'S RESCUE.—21, 22. *Moses stretched out his hand* ; having the rod with which he had wrought such wonders. Moreover the angel of the Lord and the pillar of cloud stood between the Israelites and Pharaoh. *Strong east wind*. The power of a steady, strong wind on water is remarkable. The wind is a natural agent, but the miracle is none the less. *Dry shod . . . waters . . . a wall* ; a vivid way of telling how perfect the way of escape was.

23-25. *Egyptians pursued* ; desperate because their victims are escaping. *Morning watch* ; the last of the three parts into which Israel divided

appeared ; and the Egv'ptians fled against it ; and the Lord overthrew the Egv'ptians in the midst of the sea.

28 And the waters returned, and covered the chariots and the horsemen, and all the host of Phar'ah that came into the sea after them ; there remained not so much as one of them.

29 But the children of Is'rael walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea ; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

30 Thus the Lord saved Is'rael that day out of the hand of the Egv'ptians ; and Is'rael saw the Egv'ptians dead upon the sea shore.

31 And Is'rael saw that great work which the Lord did upon the Egv'ptians : and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord, and his servant Mo'ses.

Ch. 15 : 1 Then sang Mo'ses and the children of Is'rael this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously : the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

2 The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation : he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation : my father's God, and I will exalt him.

the night. *Lord looked through the pillar* ; possibly a description of a terrible electrical storm of which Ps. 77 : 18 makes mention. *Discomfited* ; threw into a panic. *Took off chariot wheels* ; rather clogged with sand. *Drove heavily* ; drove them with great difficulty. *Let us flee* ; panic ends in flight. Disorder in an army is always a disaster.

II. EGYPT'S RUIN.—26-31. *Stretched forth his hand*. The hour of supreme punishment has come. *Returned to its strength* ; to its usual level and condition. *Remained not so much as one*. Israel's escape is complete. Egypt's de-



AN EGYPTIAN CHARIOT AND HORSES