

moved and went behind them; to protect them from the fierce attack of the Egyptians. God stood between His people and danger.

V. 20. *It was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light to these.* On the side next the Egyptians there was dense darkness, preventing them from seeing the movements of the Israelites or moving forward themselves. On the side of the Israelites there was light, enabling them to go forward.

V. 21. *Moses stretched out his hand.* The uplifted rod in the hand of Moses (v. 16), the rod by which he had already wrought such wonders, simply indicated that God was at work on behalf of Israel. *The Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind.* (Ex. 15: 8.) God gave supernatural power to a natural agency, a strong wind operating upon the narrow gulf at the northern end of the Red Sea. (For a note on the locality of the crossing, see "Light from the East.") It was the same divine power that was manifested in Mark. 4: 39.

V. 22. *The waters were a wall; a fine poetic touch, like the "wooden walls" of Britain.* They prevented the Egyptians from attacking the Israelites on either flank.

III. His Enemies are Destroyed, 23-27.

V. 23. *The Egyptians pursued.* No doubt they thought that a route safe for the Israelites would be safe for them. The Israelites went forward in faith, the Egyptians in presumption. *All Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.* Horsemen may mean charioteers. It is worth noting that Pharaoh himself is not mentioned here.

V. 24. *In the morning watch; from 2 A.M.*

APPLICATION

And Moses said unto . . . who were murmuring against him . . . the people, Fear ye not, v. 13. Learn from Moses how to meet the thanklessness of those whom we try to serve. Imitate his refusal to defend himself, his unwearying love to his assailants, and his unchanging faith in God. Prove yourself, like him, a true child of your Father in heaven by being "kind unto the unthankful and to the evil." (Luke 6: 35.)

The Egyptians . . . ye shall see them again no more forever, v. 13. Duke George of Saxony

to sunrise, according to the Hebrew mode of reckoning time at that period, which divided the night into three watches of four hours each. It would probably require two watches to effect the passage. *The Lord looked; perhaps in some appearance indicating anger, possibly by a terrific lightning flash.* *Troubled; discomfited by a furious storm* (Ps. 77: 16-20).

V. 25. *He took off their chariot wheels.* The great Hebrew scholar, Professor Green, inclined to take this literally. *That they drove them heavily.* With bare axles or wheels sunk in the sand, progress was quite impossible. *Let us flee.* Their boastful pride gave way to panic. *The Lord fighteth for them.* They experienced the fulfilment of the promise to Israel (v. 14). They had encountered the God of Israel before. The attempt to flee would throw them into hopeless confusion amid the reflux waves.

Vs. 26, 27. *Stretch out thine hand over the sea; to indicate the exercise of divine power interposing a barrier to the escape of the Egyptians.* *That the waters may come again.* The Israelites were safe on the Arabian shore. *The sea returned to his strength; "to its wonted flow,"* over the struggling mass of men and chariots. *The Egyptians fled against it.* The returning waters met them, cutting off their retreat. *The Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.* "The Lord shook them off," as leaves are stricken from the forest by an autumn storm. This was the final stroke. The conflict of Pharaoh with Jehovah was ended, and Israel was freed from all peril on that side.

was one of Luther's bitterest enemies. Leipzig lay in the dominions of this prince. "Dare not go to Leipzig?" said the reformer, once. "If I had business there, I would go, though it rained Duke Georges nine days running!" If we are in the path of God's choosing, all obstacles to our progress will disappear, as the Egyptian army vanished in the depths of the sea.

Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward, v. 14. Paul and Barnabas went forward from Antioch to conquer Europe in