

pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night ; but soon they found themselves in a "pocket," with the Red Sea on one side, the desert on the other, and an impassable mountain range in front. Then follows the story of Pharaoh's pursuit, the people's terror, and bitter complaints, Moses' appeal to God and God's answer. Ch. 13 : 19 to 14 : 18.

I. Israel's Defender, 19, 20.

V. 19. *The angel of God* ; God Himself in some form of self-revealing (see Gen. 31 : 11, 13 ; Ex. 3 : 2, 6). The temporary appearances of God in Old Testament times, often in human form, pointed to His permanent manifestation in Jesus Christ. *Camp of Israel* ; a vast multitude of 600,000 fighting men, besides women and children and a "mixed multitude,"—probably 2,000,000 in all (see ch. 12 : 37, 38). *Went behind* ; having previously been in front as a guide. *Pillar of cloud* (Rev. Ver.). See ch. 13 : 21. This was the symbol of God's presence.

V. 20. *Camp of Egypt* (Rev. Ver.) ; made up of Pharaoh's chariots and horsemen (vs. 6-9), now close on the rear of Israel's hosts, so that these were hemmed in on every side. *Darkness* ; to the Egyptians. None of them would dare plunge into that gloom which the eye could not pierce and which filled them with dread. *Light* ; to the Israelites, who could then move as freely by night as by day, with no fear of their foe.

II. Israel's Deliverance, 21-25.

Vs. 21, 22. *Moses* ; at God's command, vs. 15, 16. *Stretched out his hand* ; holding the rod which was the symbol of God's power (see chs. 4 : 2 ; 7 : 17). *The Lord*. Moses, with his rod, was the instrument ; the power was God's. *Caused the sea to go back* ; laying the bed bare. *By a strong east wind*. Probably a northeast wind is meant. This, with an ebb tide, would make a clear passage. The miracle lay in all this happening at the bidding of Moses in God's name. *Waters . . a wall*. The picture is of a broad causeway, guarded by water on either side, along which the great host advanced under the brilliant light of the fiery pillar.

23-25. *Egyptians pursued* ; eager for revenge and hoping to get back their slaves. *Chariots* ; two-wheeled vehicles open behind, drawn by a pair of horses and carrying two

men, one to drive and one to fight. *Morning watch* ; two to six a.m. ; the Hebrews divided the night, from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., into three equal periods or watches. *The Lord looked forth* (Rev. Ver.) ; perhaps "with fiery flashes, startling the Egyptians and throwing them into a panic." *Took off . . wheels*. Perhaps the meaning is "clogged" in the soft sand and ooze of the sea bed. *Let us flee* ; literally "Let me flee." The whole host, as one man, was moved with an overmastering impulse of terror. *The Lord fighteth for them* ; and no earthly power could prevail against Him.

III. Egypt's Doom, 26-31.

Vs. 26-28. *The Lord said*. He was the great general of Israel's host. *Stretch out thine hand* ; into which God would put His own resistless power. *Sea returned to his strength* ; Rev. Ver. Margin, "its wonted flow," covering the bed as before. *Egyptians fled against it* ; raced for life with the advancing waters, but these were swifter than they. *Remained not . . one*. All perished in a few dreadful moments. It is not said that Merenptah, the Pharaoh of the Exodus, perished in the Red Sea. His body has been found close to the burial place of his father Rameses II. Egyptian monuments represent Merenptah as not much of a warrior, but one who would prefer to send his generals to war rather than go himself.

Vs. 29-31. *The Lord saved Israel*. Behind the great deliverance was God's power and love. *Saw that great work* ; so full of terror and ruin for the Egyptians, so full of blessing and hope for Israel. *Feared* ; with reverent awe. *Believed the Lord, and . . Moses* ; trusted in the Lord, and were convinced that He had sent Moses.

Light from the East

STRONG WIND—Indicates the agency of nature in the deliverance of Israel. The Red Sea and the Mediterranean were once connected by an arm of water along the course of the present Suez Canal. The land had risen and formed the present isthmus long before Exodus, but as the course of the canal is still marked by a chain of lakes connected by low marshy ground, it is probable there was much more water there