

answers. Heaven-sent child! He was attending to his Father's business. So he told his mother, when she and her husband sought him sorrowing.

We hear nothing more of him, save that he "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man," until he was about thirty years of age. Then he came forth to preach, and submitted to baptism of John in the Jordan. At his baptism special testimony was borne to his person. From the heavens the Spirit of God descended upon him visibly, and from on high came a divine utterance, pronouncing him the "beloved Son" of God. Now we know that he is the Messiah—the long promised Messiah—publicly designated by God himself. Now he enters on his mission, and scatters broadcast that precious seed of truth which was to redeem and sanctify humanity, and change the face of the world. Never man spake as he did. Never man lived as he did. Never man died as he did. Never man rose as he did. He stood on the earth peculiar and alone. Tempted like those around him, yet without sin. Clothed in flesh, yet arrayed in heavenly glory. He stood before God as his well-beloved Son and Messenger. He stood before man as his Saviour and Redeemer.

He stood before man as his Saviour, I say. We have an indication of this in the name which was given to him. His name should be called Jesus, it was said, because he should save his people from their sins. And so was his name called. Jesus was not an uncommon name among the Hebrews. It has an equivalent in the term Joshua, and signifies Saviour. But, in the case of Jesus our Lord, it had a peculiar and exalted meaning. Having direct reference to man's sins, it took a more comprehensive sweep, and touched a far higher range of relations, than were ever indicated in any other case. In the case of the Lord Christ it reached into the spiritual realm, and embraced those relations which the soul sustains to God.

"Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins."—Salvation from sin; this is Christian salvation. It is not from a single passage merely that we learn this, but from the current language of the New Testament. "Behold the Lamb of God," said the Baptist, "who taketh away the sin of the world." "God having raised up his Son, Jesus," said the Apostle Peter, "sent him to bless you in turning every one of you from his iniquities."