

racter of the Virgin Mother of whom the Emmanuel was to be born; by another He foretold the miraculous acts by which His life was to be distinguished. In the predictions relating to the Messiah He is generally described under the characters which designate Him both as God and man. The humiliations and sufferings of His death on the cross, and His glorious resurrection from the dead, were distinctly foretold. In short, the prophecies relating to the promised Messiah are but the anticipated history of the birth, the life, the miracles, the death and the resurrection of Jesus.

“The same inspired men, to whom God had communicated the foreknowledge of His merciful designs, predicted the establishment, the propagation, the extent and duration of the religion and Church which the Messiah was to establish on earth. They frequently ascribed to Him the characters of priest and king, and described His Church as His spiritual kingdom. They announced that His law should go forth from Sion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem; that He should rule to the utmost boundaries of the earth, and that of His kingdom there should be no end.” *

Under the Mosaic dispensation God was known, but within the narrow limits of Judea only; His name was great in Israel alone, while the chosen people formed the whole body of true believers. At the coming of the Messiah the spiritual kingdom of Christ, the Church of God upon earth, was to burst these bonds; she was to extend her sway to the confines of the world, and all nations were to do her reverence. Isaiah thus rapturously acclaims the Church appearing in all her strength and splendour at the new dawn of the Sun of Justice, and welcoming the Gentiles to her fold: “Arise, be enlightened, O Jerusalem: for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For behold the darkness shall cover the earth, and a mist the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon

* Bishop Poynter, V. c. Apost. London. *Evidences of the Christian Religion*, pp. 89, 93.