

to gain possession of the country which joined it by seizing its capital, which was Babylon. This he accomplished and so released the captive Jews.

God does all things, and His promises are sure. It came to pass that Cyrus sent these Jewish captives back to their homes with money in their hands to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem, just as Isaiah had prophesied long before. God founded the Persian empire and raised up Cyrus to accomplish His purpose; and Cyrus knew God, and that He had given him the kingdoms which he united into one. Even amidst the surrounding idolatry, and the heathen worship of the sun and moon and stars, there were in that distant age, many in Persia who knew that there was one God, the Maker of all things. There came a time when this knowledge of God bore fruit, after many generations of men had passed away.

A little babe lay in a manger in Bethlehem; a poor and lowly place where cattle were stalled, and where it sometimes happened that travellers, overcrowding the adjoining inn, found refuge in the stable. No kingly palace was this, no attendant armies, no crowd of courtiers, no splendor of state; only a little babe lying in a manger in a stable. And yet He was a King, more glorious than any monarch who ever sat upon a throne; for He was our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! From Persia, the empire of Cyrus, came the first worshippers to do homage to this newborn King. "Behold there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and are come to worship Him.'" They laid their gifts before Him then. "gold and frankincense and myrrh." Persia, in her wise men, first bowed before the King to whom was given "dominion, and glory, and a kingdom that all people and nations and languages should serve Him;" a sceptre that should rule the universe; a kingdom without end. Does God still link Persia with the history of His people, the coming of Christ, and the establishment of His everlasting king-

dom?

In the royal palace in Tcheran, the capital of Persia, a few months since, a little child of three years lay sick and nigh unto death. Grieving hearts and tearful eyes hung over him, watching the young life as it ebbed away. Many a follower of the false prophet in that city offered prayers to the "one God and Mohammed his prophet," that the child's life might be spared. All grew dark and hopeless; the skill of physicians was powerless, and the little boy was given over to die. The prophet, whose worship they added so long ago to that of the God of their first king, Cyrus, gave back no answer to their prayers, that the precious life in which so many hopes were centred, might be given back to his parents and his country. This sick child was the eldest son of the Shah of Persia, and the heir to the throne. At last, just in the darkest hour, the king said, "Send to the Christian mission for one of their physicians; perhaps something may yet be done." The doctor, thus hastily summoned, came at once to the palace, and ministered to the sick child. God blessed the means he used, and the little crown prince was restored to health. Nothing could exceed the joyful gratitude of the parents, as their devotion to him who was the means of their child's restoration. Dr. Holmes was made court physician, and the entire direction of the little prince's life has been given to his superintendence.

In God's great plan, what may this mean for Persia? A Christian physician has gained the ear and the heart of its sovereign; the child who is heir to the throne has been committed to his care. Oh, the opportunities a wise and faithful physician may have to implant truth in his young heart and tender mind! How gently he can lead him to Him who has said, "Suffer little children to come unto me," and thus train a Christian monarch for the empire. God does nothing without a purpose, and what a wonderful chain of events is here! Cyrus, the king of Persia, appointed from his birth to deliver Israel from captivity; the Persian wise men sent by revelation