

penitent prodigal knew when his father kissed him, and when his trembling feet crossed the threshold of that father's house.

God made a covenant with Abraham, and with his seed, and with nobody else. This covenant was simple. The seal was definite. The conditions were explicit. All who received the seal were thereby made parties to the covenant. All who were in the covenant were in the Church, and all who were out of the covenant were out of the Church. From Abraham to Christ, no person could mistake the Church of God. No intelligent man could be at a loss where to find this divinely-ordained society.

From Moses to John, it was equally plain who were the administrators of this Kingdom : by whom appointed — their authority and their functions.

God chose the tribe of Levi as the ministerial tribe. Of them, He took the family of Aaron, as the priestly family ; of these, He selected one for the high priesthood. Thus was the Church of Jehovah furnished with a ministry, whose authority came with the great seal of heaven. And although this