

BIBLE STUDY.

GOLDEN TEXTS FOR JULY.

July 5—Ps. xcvi. 1 : "The Lord reigneth ; let the earth rejoice."

EXPOSITION.

The Lord.—Jehovah, Israel's covenant God.

Reigneth, i.e., absolutely, with equal reference to the government of *the world and the church.*

Let the earth rejoice.—A reference to the day of earth's enlargement and final emancipation from evil. (*Chalmers.*)

SERMON OUTLINE.

(*Rev. Chas. Hodge, D.D.*)

I. Who is the Lord ?

II. In what sense does He reign ?

III. How this gives ground for rejoicing.

I. The Lord is *Jehovah*, the infinite, eternal, omniscient, omnipresent, Almighty God.

The Lord is the *Logos*, the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity.

The Lord is *the Theanthropos*, the Redeemer, the risen and ascended Saviour.

II. In what sense does the Lord reign ?

(1) Over the angels ; over the external world ; over the affairs of men, both external and internal. Over the nations and all that concern them.

(2) Over the church, its destiny, the course of each branch of the church, the history of its several individual members. Over the dispensations of His Spirit.

III. How this gives ground for rejoicing to the earth.

(1) Because the events of the world are not ordered by chance, nor by fate, but by infinite wisdom, power, and love. Therefore, the general course of the world is being guided towards the accomplishment of God's ends ; e.g., God's dealings with Israel ; the civil war in England ; the restoration of the Stuarts ; the persecutions of the church in every age.

(2) Because since the Lord, who loved the church and gave Himself for it, reigns, it follows that even the apparent failures and losses of the church will prove to be for her good.

(3) Because He who loves us and gave Himself for us directs everything which pertains to us ; therefore everything shall work together for our good.

Hence the duty of submission and resignation, the duty of cheerful hope and confidence, and of alacrity and diligence in the discharge of all our duties.