

glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth.”¹

This miracle of the God-man is of primary importance in the system of Christian truth. It is the foundation of the doctrines of grace. Denying this miracle, Christianity is, at best, a moral system, opening up by precept the way of duty. But, admitting this miracle, Christianity is more than the best system of morals. It does what no mere system of morals can possibly do. It provides for man, in the vicarious and propitiatory sacrifice of the God-man upon the cross, supernatural help by which he may be delivered from the love of sin, and assisted to do the will of God with joyful heart. It offers to renew his nature by a spiritual regeneration, and by supernatural gifts and endowments—his own will consenting—to lift him up “unto a full grown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”²

(3.) Miracles are pledges of the fulfilment of revelation respecting special manifestations of Divine power which are yet to be made in the history of redemption.

The conflict between good and evil, at present raging in the world, will not always continue. It is to be terminated, according to revelation, in the everlasting victory of the good, and the subjugation and separation of the evil. This probationary life is to be succeeded by an eternal state of rewards and penalties, meted out by Him whose omniscience is a guarantee of infallible rectitude. The corruptible bodies of unnumbered generations, mouldering into dust, are to be raised up, preparatory to the final judgment-scenes. The bodies of the just, reanimated and glorified, are to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and to be forever with Him. The highest Christian hopes are centred in a complete deliverance from the influences of evil, and the vision of God, in a new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Upon what foundation do these hopes rest? What is the guarantee of their fulfilment? They rest upon the word of God,

¹ John i. 1, 2, 14.

² Ephesians iv. 14, Revised Version.