

God sent Noah, who, in the very form of deliverance granted his household, preached the gospel in a figure—the ark being not only a type of salvation, but of its method by special divine interference for those who believe and obey. Years go by. The faith in the promise is again almost lost. There is needed once more—this time for all the centuries—a *great palpable object-lesson* that shall stand up and out and take the eye of the world. But who should give this lesson if not this man Abraham, “the father of the faithful”? He was to set the world a lesson of human faith in obeying a divine command. Why not also a lesson as to the Divine Fatherhood, as it was to show itself in making sacrifice for human redemption? Can any other way be imagined so awful, so tender, so impressive, as that of a father giving up his only son? Now, what if God, the atoning idea ever present in his thought and ever craving expression, took this man Abraham, as it were, at his word? What if he appoints to him such a lofty proclamation of this fact as was allotted to no other “preacher of righteousness”? Abraham shall, in a sense, represent God. He shall show what God’s love is like. He shall help prepare the world for the Calvary scene. Through this father’s devotion of his son to death, and through