

many mansions mentioned afterwards in the gospel as the courts of Europe were of America when they stoutly refused to encourage Columbus to sail in search of a western hemisphere. The many mansions were newly revealed facts defined and fixed when Jesus said, "I came out from the Father," and "I go to prepare a place for you." Among newly *discovered* facts we may mention the increase in knowledge which Christ's apostles made concerning Him after His ascension and the outpouring of His spirit. They left off looking at Him as a mystery, a man, or merely as their master, because their enlarged science discovered Him to them as supremely God's sacrifice, offered for the sins of the world. Hence the Epistles do not contain a sentence or a syllable in laudation of the beautiful life of Jesus, nor a mention of His abundant labors in behalf of the bodies of men. But the Epistles do abound in declarations and discussions of redemption by His blood and doxologies of praise for His suffering for man's sake. The authors of the Epistles knew from their Hebrew training that the Messiah would be a suffering prince; and when Christ was among men some of them had occasional transports of faith that He was the Messiah. But when John lay on His bosom, and when Peter confessed his faith, "Thou art the Christ . . . who should come into the world," neither of them had discovered clearly in Him "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world." Astronomers first felt the unseen and unknown planet Neptune in the disturbed motions of another orb; but it was many years before what they felt was found. And when, in the progress of twenty years' study and search, at last "observations of the planet as a star were actually made," it was months before the full discovery was reported, because the famous and favored scholar who made the first clear find of the star was so slow of heart to believe he had it that he waited for months as one who should have a "diamond actually in his possession without being able to recognize it."

It was a prodigious step in theological discovery when the apostles passed from wondering at the might of their master's word over winds and seas and Satan's imps, and when they forgot His miracles of bread and fish, in their fervent rapture of faith that "the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin." Because we now know He was "the Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world," we rejoice in believing that the efficacy of His sacrifice was in operation ages before His incarnation, and while He walked with men. But His disciples knew it not, even after they had listened to Him and lived with Him for three years. They had more than a diamond actually in their possession, and were unable to recognize it. It was a long while before they clearly discovered that this newly arisen Light of the world was actually the Sun of Righteousness. But ultimately they did, and that attainment in sacred knowledge marks a case of progress by newly discovered facts of theological science.