

Their obedience will be notable for the following particulars:—1. It will be reverential—be performed according to the will of God—from a regard to his divine authority. It will not lie open to the severe rebuke, “In vain do they worship me teaching for doctrines the commandments of men,” verses 2—8. 2. It will be vital, cordial, and sincere. It will proceed from a quickened, regenerated nature. “And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine *heart*, and the heart of thy seed.” They will be “Jews inwardly,” and “circumcision will be that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter,” and their “praise will not be of men, but of God.” Thus their obedience will be strikingly contra-distinguished from external and hypocritical worship, which was all the body of their nation rendered, and which, in order to the full enjoyment of all the privileges of their ecclesiastico-political constitution, was all that was required. Once more, it will be unconstrained and entire. It will originate in love—hence it must be easy and natural. It will be entire, both as to its subject and its object—it will be “with all the heart and with all the soul.” It will be rendered to *all* which the Lord their God hath commanded them; there will be no omission, no selection, no preference.

III. The completion of this glorious restoration will be the fulfilment of many great and precious promises. 1. The great Father of Mercy will return to meet and compassionate his repenting child, verse 3. Hear his voice: “Is Ephraim my dear son; is he a pleasant child? For since I spake against him I do earnestly remember him still; therefore my bowels are troubled for him, I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the Lord.” 2. He will, by his providence and grace, influence and gather together his scattered family from under the whole heavens, and

from all the nations of the earth:—“From thence,” says the shepherd of Israel, “will I gather thee, and from thence will I fetch thee”—verses 3, 4. 3. Jehovah will bring them to the land of their fathers, and give them there a quiet and settled dwelling place. 4. He will bless, and prosper, and enrich, and multiply them exceedingly, even above their fathers. “He will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers. And the Lord thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hands, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good, for the Lord will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers.” “Return unto the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope, for even to-day do I declare that I will render double unto thee.”

To conclude. It appears that the accomplishment of these promises to Israel will be attended with the infliction of judicial punishment on their enemies, who, it is probable, will attempt, like Egypt of old, to prevent those merciful intentions in their favour: “And the Lord will put all these curses on thine enemies, and upon them that hate thee, which persecuted thee.” “O Israel, hope in the Lord, for with him there is mercy, and with him there is plenteous redemption.”

I had not intended to confine myself to these two portions of Scripture, especially as there are so many others relating to the same subject; but I have no more room at present. May I be allowed to request some one of your correspondents, who has more time and ability, to furnish you with another letter on some of those parts of divine truth relating to the restoration of the Jews contained in the prophecies?

In the mean time, wishing you success in your good work, I remain,

Your's cordially,

PHILOJUDEUS.