

adjuncts to the gospel they are engaged in proclaiming.

We must not lose sight of the fact that the patriarch had been reared under the religious training, prejudices, and influences, of heathen or pagan ancestors, priests, and institutions; and that animal as well as human sacrifices were offered by them, whose literal blood was thought to be sufficiently vicarious to appease the wrath of their offended gods, and to be able to purchase for them an admittance into the Elysian Fields of Pleasure; and that all this was regarded as the Orthodox Theology and Gospel by the patriarch and his ancestors. But though it was not the same gospel he was now having proclaimed to him, yet when we consider how hard it is for mankind to give up the religion taught them by their parents, sabbath-school teachers, and the clergy, and cut entirely loose from all connection with the religious institutions with which they have so long been connected, and start out to embrace a religion more in harmony with the teachings of the inspired word of God when stripped and purged from the great mass of pagan accretions that have like a veil, hid from view the plans and purposes of God:—I say when we take into consideration that it is contrary to Adamic human nature to be willing to abandon the religion, and the religious institutions in which we have been reared, we can perhaps realize the strong attachment that Abraham must have had to overcome, when, hearing the first gospel sermon, he found himself and household called upon to give

up his cherished religion received from his pious parents, for though they were idolators, they were no doubt as devout and pious as any person can be that professes the Christian religion,) and which they had so honestly held for so many years, and in the faith of which their pious ancestors had died so happily and gone, as was supposed to heaven or to the Elysian Fields of Pleasure. But this was not all he was required to do. In addition, he found the gospel he had now for the first time heard proclaimed, called upon him not only to abandon the religion and religious institutions with which he had been connected, but it called upon him also to sever other ties, even those that tenderly bound him to his neighbors, friends, and his own blood relations, for in the first gospel message came the command: "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy Father's House, into the land I will shew thee."

According to the record, he at once departed, as the Lord had commanded him. Such faith, and obedience, especially at his age is wonderful: for he was then 75 years old:—a period in life when it is not easy to change ones religious views and sever those social and domestic relations that bind mankind together:—all of which he was ready to abandon for the new religion disclosed to him in the new gospel. He did not stop to ask the angelic messenger if they were any others that had heard this new gospel? and the number that had believed it? He did not try to find out first if any of the great, the influential, about him, had heard, and