

justify the transaction? Nor does it tell us the deep reason for this command, so unusual; nor does it give us any hint as to why the story is so prominently recorded in God's Word. There must have been some great reason, lying back of all this, for allowing such a transaction as the attempted offering of a son in human sacrifice by the hand of a father who was the most righteous of all men in his day.

Now, what if we have here *God's object-lesson in redemption*—the "preaching of the gospel"? What if the full justification of the transaction, not only to the patriarch's moral sense, but to that of the whole world, is to be found in that which it was intended to teach men of God's love in its method of saving them by the sacrifice of the only-begotten Son? Put it thus: There had come to Adam, in the garden, the primal promise, hard after the primal sin. It was no general declaration of a redemption, but the special promise of a Redeemer. This promised Redeemer was the one object of all the ancient faith. The belief in his coming was the one article in the creed of the "youthful world's grey fathers." Further on in history, the mass of the race had lost out the belief in the promise, and so were doing "only evil."