

out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel." Isaiah, too, 700 years later, speaks of that same glorious Light which was to illuminate a dark world. In chapter ix he writes, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light. They that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." And again, in chapter lx, he calls upon the Jews to rejoice in the prospect of this great Lightshedding its rays upon them; "Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee."

At length the promised Saviour appeared. One morning in December, some shepherds were seen hurrying into the town of Bethlehem, and making their way to a small inn in the place. They were serious men, on a serious errand. In the stable of that inn lay the mighty Saviour of the world—God, in the likeness of man, yea, of a little child, in all the weakness and lowliness of our nature. These shepherds had been directed there by some angels who had appeared to them, and who had just brought them the good news of the Saviour's birth.

Then indeed was the dawn of a bright and glorious day to the Church of God. Well might those angels sing aloud, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will towards men." Well might Zacharias exclaim with holy