

filament of all, "sent forth His son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons;"* of which gracious purposes, the heralds, under the New Testament, were the angelic choir, hymning among the stars of Heaven that joyful song, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace; good-will towards men;"† and the Elijah-like Baptist, exclaiming in the rapture of inspiration, while his heart was glowing with love and gratitude to the LORD for His mercy, "Behold, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."‡

We here arrive at the great point. All men were "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel;"§ "strangers from the covenants of promise;"|| "enemies in their mind by wicked works;"¶ all men must have remained so; but "GOD was in CHRIST, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them."*

These "good tidings of great joy,"† promised from the beginning by the direct assurances of the Almighty himself; foretold by the Prophets He from time to time raised up, and filled with His spirit, to publish peace; announced by the Heavenly Ministers of His high behests; confirmed by His Evangelists, and illuminated by His Apostles;—"these good tidings of great joy" thus authorised and sanctioned, we, who are "Ambassadors for CHRIST"‡ now deliver unto you. We tell you, we tell every sinner, of a Saviour, with whom is abundant mercy,—"with whom is plenteous redemption;"§ and, as "stewards of the manifold grace of GOD,"|| we proffer to all freely of that grace, which He hath, with the utmost condescension, pledged Himself to give, and which He will give to every soul that seeketh it aright, "in faith, nothing wavering,"¶ and upon the merits of His crucified son, JESUS CHRIST!

* Gal. iv., 4. † Luke ii., 14. ‡ John i., 29.

§ Eph. ii., 12. || Ibid. ¶ Col. i., 21.

* 2 Cor. v. 19. † Luke ii., 10.

‡ 2 Cor. v., 20. § Ps. cxxx., 7.

|| 1 Pet. iv., 10. ¶ James ii., 6.