

courages Abram in the pathway of faith, by identifying Himself with the blessing. He engages him to trust in Him ; "those who bless thee shall be blessed."

Thus Balaam cannot curse ; and in Jesus we are blessed. God Himself conducts us, and identifies us with the blessing of Christ. The church may be tried, may encounter difficulties ; but the blessing resulting from them is assured in Christ.

God then brings Abram into Canaan ; what is there for him there ? Nothing as yet to be possessed. The Canaanites are there—enemies all around in this land of promise. He has only his faith for his pains—not a place whereon to set his foot as properly belonging to him. Stephen tells us so in Acts vii. 5 : "And He gave him none inheritance, no, not so much as to set his foot on ; yet He promised that He would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child."

This also happens to the church ; in the land of promise we find the wicked spirits, and we are *pilgrims* here below. Abram also was a stranger and a pilgrim. He had not where to set his foot. It is a little hard to the flesh to have forsaken all and to have found nothing. But he cannot yet possess the country. This happens to us as well as to the Jewish people : they go up into the wilderness, and find but a *wilderness*. Man must sacrifice all he loves, and rise to the height of the