

Naomi nourishes Obed in her bosom ; he goes forth, like the Messiah, from a barren people. The *neighbours* then strike up their prophetic notes of praise : "There is a son born to Naomi !" The sphere becomes closer and with it the measure of intelligence. The nearer we are to the people of God, the more we appreciate Christ and His grace. If we are satisfied with the nearness which "the people and the elders" possess, we shall not be able to get beyond their level of spiritual intelligence ; whilst the heart bound to the church will have a more intimate and personal knowledge of the Lord. "A son is born to Naomi !" It is thus that the future Israel will rejoice before him as the joy of harvest as they are transported with joy who divide the spoil, and they will say : "Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given ; and the government shall be upon His shoulder ; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace"

"And they called his name Obed." Obed, "He who serves ;" above all His marvellous titles, behold His title of glory ! It is the Servant who is the Heir and from whom David springs, the Bearer of royal grace. All our hearts beat with joy when we call Him by this name ; for He, the Counsellor, the mighty God, has served, He still serves, and will remain a Servant forever for those whom He loves ! His devotedness to God and His love for us, His entire work even to the laying down of His life, the grace which leads Him to stoop to wash our feet, His eternal servitude of love when we shall be with Him in the glory of the Father's house—all these, our greatest blessings, are connected with this title of Servant !