

tament, no supposition was more offensive to the pride and prejudices of the Jews, than that the Gentiles should be admitted as fellow-heirs with themselves of the Kingdom of God.

This was indeed one of the "things" which even the favoured Disciples of Christ were at first * "unable to bear;" and which, at last, they were not without difficulty brought † to receive. And yet, as occasion offered, their Divine Master gave frequent and strong intimations of this important truth. It is plainly to be traced in some of his ‡ Parables. It is not obscurely involved in his declaration to the Jews, vainly boasting their descent from Abraham, that God was able, § "even of the stones around them, to raise up children unto Abraham." It is openly affirmed, when he assures them that || "many shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the Kingdom of God." The universal extension and prevalence of his

* John xvi. 12. Mark. iv. 33.

† Acts x. 14. xi. 3. 8. 18.

‡ Matthew xxi. 43. xxii. 8.
Luke xiii. 19. xiv. 23.

Mark. xii. 9. 12.

§ Luke iii. 8.

|| Matthew viii. 11. Luke
xiii. 29.