

While Jesus was a speaker among the inhabitants of Judea's hills and vales, he frequently adverted to what he would afterwards do, employing language clearly referring to the future, such as, "On this rock I *will* build my church." My friend argues that this church *had* been built—that it had been constructed nearly 2000 years at the time that the Lord's lips uttered the promise that he would afterwards build it !!

At the Saviour's parting interview with the apostles, he still uses the style that refers to the future, "You SHALL BE witnesses unto me." In due time we have an apostle (speaking for himself and brethren) declaring, "We *are* witnesses." What now, friend Scott?—where is your same good news or same witnessing before as after the Lord's death and resurrection? Please mend your pen ere you try again.

But you stand on a popular eminence while contending that the same gospel has been preached ever since God began announcing good news to man. Pulpits, filled with the ordained, east, west, north, south, will sustain you. The gospel was preached to Abraham, the gospel was preached to Israel in the wilderness, the gospel was preached to John the son of Zacharia and Elizabeth, the gospel was preached by Jesus, the twelve, and the seventy, and the gospel was preached by the apostles after they were "endued with power from on high;" and it is the same gospel—you say and others say. Now as the same kind of seed has the same nature and always produces the same sort of fruit, so the same gospel message, if it have any effect, will produce the same effect in all places and cases. With this before you, let your comparison be set to work as follows, comparing—

The gospel preached to Abraham :

The gospel preached to all nations.

In preaching the same message, be it observed, there is the authority—the preacher—the things he utters—the audience—the object. Are you prepared to apply this test in the comparison before us? Willing or unwilling, you have assumed premises that compel you to abide by this decisive induction. It sometimes happened, in days of old, that the sword that was taken to slay the Philistines only slew the man who drew it; and, friend Scott, if you have laid down a principle that strikes against yourself when fairly drawn out, whose fault is it? Well then let us look away yonder to Abraham and