

who hath visited and redeemed his people, and hath raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of *his servant David*, as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets." And thus, too, in the passage before us, our Lord Himself sets His seal, as it were, to the truth of what had been spoken concerning Him, and declares, "I am the root and offspring of David."

Having now explained these words, I pass on to the latter part of the text, which I wish to dwell upon more particularly. Jesus adds, "I am the bright and morning star."

We all know that there is a star in the sky which is commonly called the Morning Star, because it ushers in the dawn of day, and is seen just as the morning breaks. And is not this star a welcome object to the eye, after a long and dreary night? Do we not behold it with pleasure and delight?

Now, for four thousand years the world existed without a Saviour. Men were saved *then* as they are *now*, by faith in Christ: they looked forward to the Saviour who was to come. But He had not yet appeared. These four thousand years may well be called the night of the world's history. It was a time of darkness. Men saw but dimly; but the coming Light was often spoken of. Balaam, for instance, called attention to it, 1400 years before it shone forth. "I shall see Him (he says) but not now: I shall behold Him, but not nigh: there shall come a star