

“SEEN OF ANGELS.”

In earlier days the angels had desired to look into the things of Christ, (1 Peter i. 12). When these things themselves were manifested and accomplished, this desire was answered; for in the history, as we find it in the Evangelists, the angels are set to be eye-witnesses of that which they had long desired to look into. They are privileged to find their place and their enjoyment in the history of Christ in ‘the mystery of godliness;’ and to find it, just as of old they had found it, in the sanctuary of God. In that sanctuary all, it is true, was for the use and blessing of sinners. The altars, and the laver, and the mercy-seat, and all else, were provided for us. The action and the grace of the house of God were for sinners; but the cherubim gazed. They were set in that house to look at its deepest mysteries. And so, in the same condition shall we find them in the day of the great originals, or of the heavenly things themselves, when ‘God was manifest in the flesh.’ For then, it is equally true, all was for the service and salvation of us sinners, or that God, so manifested, might be ‘preached unto the Gentiles,’ and ‘believed on in the world;’ but still all was as surely for this end, that He might be ‘seen of angels.’

Thus they took the same place in the sanctuary of old, and in the great mystery itself. They gazed—they looked—they were eye-witnesses. And