

yet it is true in a gospel sense to every believer, and no doubt it will prove true to him too, but what he intended to convey was that, when we examine the subject, there is a darkness such as the best light from the analogies of nature does not dispel.

I need not speak of the opinions of either ancient or modern heathen, where the faint relic of a once full, bright truth in the soul is all that we now find in their mythologies; but even the old Jews had it not fully, and held it not clearly as we. It was not to them a well proven fact, in actual history. They had heard of Enoch, whom God "took" in a happy translation, but he was the solitary instance in the antediluvian world, and taken to represent in heaven humanity before the flood. They had heard of Elijah, who finished his splendid prophetic career in a glorious ascension; but he was the only one in the long line of all their great and godly ones, and taken to represent the Jewish church in the church triumphant. They had not yet heard of a burial and then a resurrection. They went to the sepulchre, and saw a great stone with an unbroken seal at the door of it. The fulness of time had not yet come when they should behold it rolled away, and when there should be heard the cheering invitation to "come see the place where the Lord lay." Life and immortality, from the grave, had not yet a living representative of a dead or a dying humanity in either earth or heaven. The grand evidence was wanting until given by the Son of Mary as the real Man, and the Son of God as very Divinity, uniting both natures in one; giving His life, and taking it again; yielding to death in His humanity, and going down among His kindred of the flesh; and then conquering death by His divinity, and rising again, and bidding us enter His empty tomb, to have a misty faith illuminated with the clearest of evidence, and then to follow Him in the crowd of witnesses, and to be assured that the Lord was risen indeed. The resurrection of Jesus is the culminating testimony. The first fruit of the harvest of immortality was taken from the borrowed tomb of the good man of Arimathea; and it is a token and assurance that there shall be yet a harvest home, when the reapers shall be the angels, and have gathered into the kingdom of glory all the redeemed from