

“preaching the word,” and these remain in Jerusalem ! Samaria is smitten with the Sword of the Spirit—the believing Ethiopian officer is immersed, and goes on his way rejoicing, to proclaim to the tawny sons of Ethiopia, the salvation of God—Saul of Tarsus, the bloody persecutor, is arrested in his career—believes, repents—bows to Jesus the Nazarine, and is baptised, and washes away his sins, calling on the name of the Lord. He preaches Christ, that he is the Son of God—is persecuted—goes into Arabia, and spends several years, making known to its inhabitants the way of salvation. Peter, holding the keys of the kingdom, is sent for, to make known to the Gentiles, words by which they may be saved. Cornelius and his friends hear and become obedient to the faith ; and thus the truth rolls forward, so that there was a literal fulfilment of the Lord’s prediction ; Matt. xxiv.—“ This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end [of Jerusalem] come.” Jerusalem was destroyed about thirty five years after the setting up of the kingdom ; and during that time the gospel was announced by these heralds of the cross, in all parts of the then known world.

The truth thus conquered the world without a sword or spear being drawn in its defence. Kings, potentates, nor princes, smiled on the cause of the Lord, until it had fairly subdued the world !

Has Father, Son, or Holy Spirit, changed since then ? Are not the promises of Jehovah as immutable now as formerly ? Has man changed ? Is he worse than the idolatrous Gentile or the self-righteous Jew ? Or has his nature become more or less defiled ? Has God’s purposes changed ? Did he then prepare men’s hearts for the reception of the gospel, and has he now ceased thus to act ? To all such questions, with the bible in our hands, we are constrained to answer—“ He is the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness neither shadow of turning.” The commission is still in force—“ Preach the gospel to every creature ; he that believeth and is baptised shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be damned.”

Notwithstanding all that has been said relative to special influences and special calls, we are yet fully persuaded, that were christians united, (and when we speak of christians we mean those who belong to the body of Christ, who have the one spirit, the one hope, and the one Lord, one faith, and one baptism), as were the primitive followers of the Lord, we should see the same glorious effects following. The Lord prayed for the conversion of the world through the influence of his word, proclaimed by his followers united in one body.

What could withstand the moral machinery, even in those countries, where the English language is spoken, were it all thrown into the scale of truth. Nothing would be able to resist the light and truth which would beam upon the world, were only the disciples of the Lamb, who now dwell on the earth, to live and act as did the ancient christians. Their property—their talents—yes, their lives, were all ready to be sacrificed for the progress of the truth, and the salvation of men. The Lord would not withhold his blessing. He is now beseeching unreconciled men to be reconciled to him.