

JEHOVAH, A STRONGHOLD.

Psalm ix.

Where shall I find my strength, O God ?
Save as I turn to Thee,
Where in all things above, below,
Save as I look to Thee.

Who here below can feel my pain,
Or reach my every woe ?
Who is it that can ease my smart,
And silence every foe ?

To Thee, and Thee alone, most High,
My grateful song I raise,
Thou hast maintained my right, my cause,
To Thee be all the praise.

My enemies Thou hast turned back,
To stumble and to fall,
Thou sittest on the throne to judge,
Thou hearest when I call.

All the oppressed, afflicted ones,
Who put their trust in Thee,
Shall sing Thy worth and tell Thy deeds,
That those who hate may see.

Jehovah, the abiding One,
A stronghold, sure and free,
In times of strait, will not forsake,
But all afflictions see.

The needy ones whose cry ascends
To Thee, the gracious One,
Thou'lt not forget those who expect
Thy help and Thine alone.

Arise, Jehovah, then, I plead,
And let not man prevail,
No more to lord with pompous might,
Or Thy great power assail.

Then shall I praise with my whole heart,
Declare Thy mighty deeds,
Those who rejoice, exult in Thee,
Whose love has met their needs.
Brooklyn, 1899. A. J. R.

THE INCARNATION.

The incarnation brings God nigh to us in a way such as could not have been done by any other means—we have One who became a Man, that

we might commune with, love, and lean upon.

In that day when we shall be "with the Lord," we shall know to the full the design of God in the incarnation of His Son, and taste the blessedness of seeing Him as He is.

The time of this meeting is His coming again ; not till then. Before that there is distance and imperfection. I know that in the disembodied state there is greater nearness and fuller enjoyment than now. And this the apostle longed for when he had the "desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better."

Even before the resurrection there is a "being with Christ," more satisfying than what we can enjoy here; a "being with Christ" which is truly "far better." Nor would I disparage this blessedness. But this is not to be compared with resurrection nearness, and resurrection fellowship, when, in a way up to that time unknown, we shall be introduced into the very presence of the King, all distance annihilated, all fellowship completed, all joy consummated, all coldness done away, all shadows dissipated, and "so shall we ever be with the Lord."

"Ever with the Lord!" This soothes all sorrow and sums up all joy. If even here we can say so gladly and so surely, "I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord," how much more gladly and surely shall we be able to say it then !