

man in the moral system of the universe beyond the possibility of a doubt, and demonstrates our true dignity.

The birth of Jesus was an event that shall never be forgotten in the history of our world, or in the history of the wide universe. The child born was no ordinary child: the Son given was no ordinary Son. It was impossible that such an event as this, so inconceivably mysterious, so magnifying of man, so full of God, his good-will to men, his condescension, his grace, his compassion and his glory, should fail to attract the admiration, wonder and delight of the heavenly hosts, and cause them to sing a sweeter anthem of praise than they had ever sung before, or heaven itself had ever heard. "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 3, 8-14.) O how sublimely simple, and how truly sublime, the story of Emmanuel's birth. "The word was made flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth." Were an earthly potentate to leave his throne, lay aside his robes of royalty, be clothed in rags, and live a life of poverty, shame and suffering for the benefit of an insignificant, ungrateful and lawless portion of his kingdom, this would be great condescension; but it would fall infinitely short of the condescension of the Son of God. Dear reader, let us remember that it was for our sake that Jesus left the bosom of his Father to be born in Bethlehem. Let us remember that he who was rich in infinite resources of power, honour and glory became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. Let us never forget that it was with a view to *our salvation* from sin, and sinning, and suffering, that he became man. He was made sin for us, that we might become the sons of God, and be made the righteousness of God in him. He became a partaker of our nature, that we might be made partakers of the Divine nature. Is it possible for us to look at what God has done for us in giving himself an offering