

urrection from the dead, by which he is declared to be the son of God with power; Rom. 1. 4. and his being appointed the Judge of quick and dead at the last day.

This is the person concerning whom we have the glad tidings of his having come in the flesh; John 1. 13. 14. and it is his character as the great God that makes his coming joyful news. It would be no joyful news to hear that a mere man---yea even an Angel, had taken upon him to save sinners, as neither the one nor the other could accomplish the work---but to hear that the Great God---the Mighty God---the Everlasting Father---that Eternal Being who sees, knows, and can accomplish all things---who upholds all things, Heb. 1. 3, 10.---to hear, from the best authority, that he came to save sinners, cannot fail to excite joy, as every one must conclude at once that he could accomplish the work. All that is necessary is a full conviction that this is the character of the Saviour, and that he has in reality engaged in, or even undertaken, the work, and the mind is set at solid rest as to the result. "To you is born in the City of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord," was the good tidings of great joy to all mankind brought by the angels to the shepherds of Bethlehem.

2. We are to consider the appointment of Jesus of Nazareth to the important office of saving sinners. The term Christ signifies anointed. Psal. 2. 2. Acts 4. 27. and 10. 38. John 1. 41. Isai. 61. 1. Comp. Luke 4. 18. From these passages, together with Christ's own declarations, John 10. 36. and 17. 19. Heb. 10. 29. it is evident that Jesus of Nazareth was appointed for the purpose of saving sinners; yea that it was for this very purpose the Mighty God veiled his glory and was made in the likeness of man. In the 40th psalm the Messiah is represented as pressing the Father thus---"Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sacrifices thou hast not required." (i. e. to take away sin.) "Then said I, lo, I come: in the volume of the book (the Old Testament), it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God."

It is not for us to pry into the hidden council of Jehovah, as many have done, to find out when this appointment took place in the Divine mind---secret things belong to God, and the things that are revealed to us and to our children. We know of the appointment, and of the fulfillment. In these we rejoice; The development of the sacred purpose is to us glad tidings, or gospel.

3. We come now to consider the appearance of this great personage in the flesh---the coming of the true light into the world. The manifestation was just such as Jehovah had previously declared it should be---he appears, "meek and lowly, without form or comeliness, why we should desire him;" but manifested his character in all his works. For the certainty of Jesus of Nazareth's being what he declared himself to be, we have the testimony of the Angels, of the Father, of the baptist, of the Apostles, of his works, of his sufferings, and of his resurrection.