

to the prevailing Sun symbols. Chemosh, the God of the Moabites, with whom it will be remembered Moses was buried, is one with Apollo, the Glorious God of the Sun. His sign Aries, the Ram, is of course the origin of the ram's horns found on the head of Moses. Solomon's worship of the host of heaven was doubtless tempered with the wisdom and understanding for which he prayed and had been endowed. His quiet reign of forty years according to the record shows that the Gods he respected must have been powerful enough to "keep him in perfect peace," though the Jews, anxious for the honour of their own tribal deity, attribute this (verses 11-13), to the forbearance of Saturn, whose Sabbaths they kept holy, as at present, on Saturday.

December 13. Proverbs xxiii : 15-25.

The Revised Version gives a marginal reading of the 13th verse which ought to be adopted in several other passages. "Be in the fear of the Lord all the day long for surely there is a sequel." Did we but understand the sequences of life and their importance we should be on a fair way to an understanding of all mysteries. It cannot be too widely known that wine-bibbing especially, and other fleshly habits in their own degree, are a barrier, while continued, to any development of the organs of the higher faculties. The denial of these faculties will most frequently be found to proceed from those who encourage the lower nature.

December 20. Matthew ii : 1-12.

The Gospels of Mark and John omit all reference to the birth story of Jesus, commencing their narrations with His appearance at Jordan for baptism. Matthew and Luke repeat the ancient legends found in the Scriptures of all religions of the birth of the sacred avatars. The sign of the star and crescent, which is familiar to students of Egyptian lore in connection with the virgin-birth of Horus, is, as has been said, reproduced in the star on the forehead of Mary and "the moon her feet rest on;" the same star guides the wise men to the east "where the young child was." "Jesus was born in

Bethlehem," we read, and Micah tells us (v : 2), that His goings forth are from of old, from everlasting. "This is the same Word that was in the beginning with God," as John tells us. Moreover, "as many as received Him, to them gave He the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on His Name; which were born, not of bloods, nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." "The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us," he adds. This is surely the birth of the spiritual man that is taught, the new birth in which the psychic is raised, from the flesh in which it has been sown, spiritual and immortal. Of such Paul was "in travail until Christ was formed" in them. The wonder of a virgin-birth presents no essential impossibility to the mind of the scientist, but since it is so, there is no more reason for rejecting the numerous stories of virgin-born and divine Saviours in other ages and nations than in the case of Jesus of Bethlehem. The sign Virgo in the Zodiac, carrying us back indisputably 75,000 years, at least, in Egypt, testifies to the antiquity of the teaching. The Virgo nature in every man must "bring forth the Son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel; which is, being interpreted, God is with us." Until God is actually, and not metaphysically, or as an article of faith merely, manifested in the heart, there has been no birth of the Christ for him who lacks that experience. Without this new birth men are "dead in their sins." The connection of the Birth of the Christ with the ascent of the Sun from its Southern declination in the sign Capricorn or Makara is universal. Makara means a pentagon, the five pointed star being the sign of Man. The pentagon represents the faces of the Universe, whose figure is the Dodecahedron of twelve foundations. Within this is conceived the Icosahedron, the throne of the Lamb, or Initiate, or Christos. "That which is born of flesh is flesh; and that which is born of Spirit is Spirit," John iii : 6. "Ye know that everyone also that doeth righteousness is born of Him." 1 John ii : 29.