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Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.—*Peter*. On this Rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.—*The Lord Messiah*.

[FROM THE CHRISTIAN BAPTIST.]

ESSAYS ON MAN IN HIS PRIMITIVE STATE, AND UNDER THE
PATRIARCHAL, JEWISH, AND CHRISTIAN DISPENSATIONS.—NO. VI

THE PATRIARCHAL AGE.—NO. II.

THE Fall of Adam, the Deluge, the Confusion of Human Speech, and the dispersion of the Family of Man at so early a period, over all the face of the earth, were, under the management and gracious government of the Most High, overruled to the general interests of the world, and made to contribute to the procurement of the greatest possible quantum of human bliss, on a scale which transcends the limits of time and space. The calling of Abraham is the next public and interesting fact in the annals of the Patriarchal Age. The defection of the world from the knowledge, and consequently from the love and fear of God, so essential to temporal felicity, rendered a more clear and full development of the divine character absolutely necessary; and for this, as well as other very interesting purposes, it pleased the possessor of heaven and earth to signalize Abraham, and to make him and his descendants the repository of his gracious purposes, and communication concerning the whole race of men.

The promises made to Abraham concerned his own progeny and the whole world. And because of the remarkable certainty with which Abraham believed or received them, he is distinguished as the most remarkable believer who had as yet lived upon the earth; insomuch that he is called the "Father of all who believe," in all nations and in all ages.

It might be interesting here to inquire what it was in the faith of Abraham that rendered it so illustrious, and made him the Father of so many nations? Something intimately connected with our own enjoyments depends upon our clear apprehension of this matter. Let us therefore take a brief view of the call of Abraham, the promises made to him, and his faith in them. The passage to which Paul alludes (Romans iv.) upon the faith of Abraham, is found in Genesis, chapter xv. "After these things a word of the Lord came to Abraham in a vision, saying, Fear not Abraham; I protect you. Your reward shall