

gave utterance to it—Jesus Christ—knew whereof He affirmed. Again, if we consider the nature and extent of John's influence over his generation, we have something that cannot easily be set aside.

John the Baptist does not receive the attention he is entitled to as a biblical character. We take notice of Moses, the "meekest of men"; of Elijah, the spirit-filled man; of David, the spiritually-minded singer; of Isaiah, the seraphic evangelist, and of Daniel, the stalwart, godly statesman, while we pass over the forerunner of Christ, of whom our Lord said with emphasis, there is none greater among them that are born of women.

This person came upon the scene at a time when the world stood in need of a galaxy of great and good men. A Moses was needed to purify society and give laws for the lifting up of a very degraded people: a David was needed to bring the people back to the spirituality of the law, long since lost sight of: an Elijah was called for to thunder forth the judgments of God: a Daniel was needed to set political matters on a firmer and more permanent basis, and an Isaiah would have been useful to lift the people up from their carnal and worldly position to an appreciation of the sublime. At such a very critical time, God fills up the gap with John the Baptist, who seems to have united in himself nearly all the qualities that stand out in relief in Old Testament personages.

As the greatest of a line of distinguished men under the Old Dispensation, we would expect to find in John a more or less complete array of those qualities that make for greatness in any age, but especially in the present, that is noted for advance along material lines, but, not at all characterized by progress in those things that indicate the last stage of human development, viz., the formation of such parts as go to build up a god-likeness in the race. We shall notice the specific points in his character brought out in the record and see their degree of applicability to the men of to-day.

1.—John the Baptist was accounted the greatest of a line of