

We have no account that Abraham had any word sent to him by God through his messengers, that on a certain day, and at a certain hour of the day, he should go to a certain place, and that he would there have the gospel preached to him. From all that we can learn in regard to Abraham's pedigree, it is quite certain that his ancestors were idolators, and that he was reared under idolatrous influences, and consequently he knew nothing of the one living and true God, and therefore also nothing about the rewards the one living and true God purposed to bestow upon man for being obedient to him. I believe there is not an exception to general expectation among all the idolatrous nations of the earth, at least so far as I can learn, but that they have all been taught by their priests that if they were faithful to their gods, they would be conveyed at death, off to some far away and happy region disconnected from this earth, and called by the more polished pagan nations, such as the Greeks, and Romans, "The Elysium," or the Elysian Fields of pleasure, where they expected to enjoy all the pleasures possible for man to enjoy in his most perfect state. Abraham being a son of idolatrous parents, no doubt had been taught this same general and prevailing idea that has existed among all the pagan nations of the earth. Keeping this fact before our eyes we can imagine something of his astonishment when for the first time he listened to a gospel sermon from the lips of one of the messengers sent by God from the courts of heaven, to find no-

thing said in that sermon about going to the Elysian fields at death, as he had been taught by his parents, as well as by the pagan priests who had the shaping of his religious expectations; but that the messenger of God that preached the gospel to him made promises to him of a political nature, and which would necessitate that he should remain here on this earth, and not to go away to the Elysian Fields of the pagan gods, called now by the more polished name of Heaven by all the Catholic and Protestant churches;—but it is the same old place the heathen nations expected to go to, only it is called now by this more refined name, hence no one would suspect that there was any relation between the two places, but history shows us that it is nothing but the old Elysian Fields of the pagan world called by this modern Catholic and Protestant name.

With an entirely pagan trend of religious thought, and without the least notice of any kind that we have any knowledge of, all at once the angel or messenger of the God of heaven appeared unto Abraham, and commenced to preach to him this first gospel sermon, which I will give now in full as it was delivered to him.

Gospel Sermon No. 1. "Now the Lord saith unto Abram, get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land I will shew thee: and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him