

Romans : " Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not *sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression.*" Adam sinned by transgressing a positive commandment of God ; and thereby incurred the penalty of death. Others were liable to the same penalty who had never sinned by transgressing a positive commandment of God ; therefore, there may be sin where there is not such transgression. And the Holy Ghost announces this oracle, according to the usual order of the awakening of conscience. In most cases, it is awakened to a sense of positive acts of sin against the known commandments of God. And so the apostle, in the first chapter of the Epistle to the Romans, adduces proof of the practical ungodliness and immorality of both Gentile and Jew, before he opens the source from whence it all proceeds : original and indwelling sin. Man may draw out a theory of christian doctrine ; but the divine way is, not to teach a theory, but to grapple with the conscience, and to make man sensible of his wretched condition as in the presence of God, and that nothing short of God's own provision of Christ can meet his necessity. " Every man that hath heard and learned of the Father cometh to Me," says Christ. The oracle before us regards man as he is, " an enemy to God in his mind by wicked works." Repentance and remission of sins were to be preached in the name of Christ among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. " Beginning at Jerusalem " shews