

That nation was called Israel. The purpose of the Israel nation was three-fold: 1st, To preserve the light that men were losing. The light has never been less, it has never shone less brightly, but men were losing of it through the blindness of their eyes. The first purpose was to preserve the light from being lost utterly; the second purpose was to take the light to all men of all the race; the third purpose was to provide a doorway through which He Himself could come in among men as their King and Friend.

Then one day He came to His nation, and, tragedy of tragedies, —the saddest event in human history!—He was rejected by the nation which He had made!

Something more must be done to fulfil His purpose of getting close to man. When he was rejected as King, he quietly yielded, and by giving his life-blood became a Saviour for all the race of man. And, of course, He knew from the beginning how man would fail, and how He would yield to the necessities of the case and give His life as an atonement for sin.

Now, something more must be done. So as the old Light-holder failed, a new Light-holder was provided; a new body was formed which was called the Church. The purpose of this new body was identical with that of the Israel nation. The first direct purpose, of course, was to win men to a personal acceptance of the Saviour. That would always stand out as the first immediate objective, but in addition to that there was the three-fold purpose as with the nation, namely, it was to preserve the light that was being lost; it was to carry that light to all the race of men; and it was to prepare a way for the coming back of Him Who had been rejected.

This is the true objective of the Church's life; the main purpose being to bring the Lord Jesus Christ back again. How far the Church has failed in that we need not speak of here. The dominant thing that stands out is that our Lord Jesus Christ's great purpose is to come in among men and live in their midst and dominate their whole life with His presence.

The word commonly used in the Scripture for this new order of things is "The Kingdom." To-day we don't hear very much about the coming back of our Lord Jesus Christ; it used to be that men who thought about it divided themselves up into pre-millenarians and post-millenarians. To-day a new group has arisen, which proves to be the largest group of all,—those who believe that He is not coming personally, but is coming all the time in higher ideals and