

Luke 1. chap: N<sup>o</sup> 64-45- And his father

considering the Devils of Humiliation to ~~the~~ of  
son of G<sup>d</sup> was about to submit, in looking upon  
born our nature, and appearing in our form  
it was necessary that his birth should be attended  
with such circumstances as should in proper minds  
of men with a correction of his real character -  
Accordingly we find of precedents to his birth, there  
was a ample testimony given to him as an  
extraordinary Personage such as I had  
never seen before - A person was sent to pre-  
pare a way before him according to the  
voice of Prophecy behold I send thee and this very  
forerunner was himself distinguished by  
a preternatural birth the Father of the  
messenger was informed by an Angel from  
Heaven of his aged and hitherto barren wife  
should conceive and bear a son, who should be  
called John - on his expressing some doubts  
of the Angels veracity, he was struck dumb



for his service, and continued in that state until the birth and naming of the promised Child - and then in his performing the appointment of his wife, respecting of naming of the Child his Tongue was loosed again, and he broke forth into this

Prophetic Hymn of Praise - In 104 he blesses God for the Advent of the Messiah as he now clearly saw the glorious designs of God in giving his Son for the redemption of a ruined &c.

He praises God. 1<sup>st</sup> for the fulfillment of Prophecy - As God had spoken by the mouth of ~~but~~ all his Prophets since the & began to send man kind a Saviour -

2. As a means of spiritual blessings -

1<sup>st</sup> The incarnation of the Son of God had been told by beginning of time

It was announced to Adam immediately after the fall - The seed of the woman &c

By Abraham &c had been promised to him &c &c by myself have I sworn with the Lord, & become sure that I have done this thing, and have not withheld the same Promise was confirmed to David by an everlasting Covenant, from where Jesus Messiah was to spring - I have made a Covenant to my chosen I have sworn unto David my servant saying, thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy Throne to all generations - my Covenant will I not break nor alter of thing if both gone out of my mouth - his seed shall endure for ever & his Throne before me in a more particular manner it had been foretold of Christ Jesus Christ and redeem his People - The state of Israelites in Egypt and their redemption by Moses had been foretold by the beginning in order to typify the wonderful event - Abraham was warned of the afflictions of his posterity that endure there, and of the wonderful deliverance they w<sup>d</sup> experience



at a remote Period, after they had been in  
Monday two years - Joseph also foretold the  
miseries that the sons of Jacob would have  
to suffer when he was dead from the Egy-  
ptians. And on his dying bed he aspired his  
brethren if God would visit them, and bring  
out thence - And Moses was in due time  
sent upon this errand, when the time drew  
near for God to fulfill his Promise to  
Abraham - Moses was commissioned to  
visit his wretched Countrymen, of the  
L. of their Brethren was come at last to  
visit and to deliver ye. For said God to Moses  
into Egypt, and gather ye Elders of Israel to  
gather and say unto them, if L. of your  
Brethren, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of  
Jacob appeared unto me, I have surely visited  
you, and seen what is done to you in Egypt  
and I have said I will surely bring you  
out of the L. of the Egyptians which you suffer  
in Egypt and will give you the land of

of Canaan, a land flowing with milk & Honey -  
now in the text there is a reference, not to the  
event merely, but to the very terms in which  
that event was predicted, from which event of  
typical Application of that History to the Incarna-  
tion of Christ is clearly warranted and corroborated -  
that as the Israelites were delivered by the infinite  
mercy of God from the oppressions of the Egyptians  
so should mankind be delivered from the bondage  
of Sin, and as God brought the Israelites after  
wounds into the Land of Canaan, so would he  
thru the Messiah bring his Spiritual Israel  
into the Heavenly Canaan - From the  
accomplishment of this glorious event this  
holy man blessed and adored God - The  
Prospect of this had excited a lively joy in  
the Heart of Abraham two thousand years  
before - when he saw the advent of the  
Messiah by Faith and all the People of  
God in the intermediate space who had  
unfeignedly believed the Promises, had



lived and died in the pleasing expectation  
that the Happiness denied to them should  
be granted to their Posterity: for many  
Kings and Prophets our Lord tells us desired  
to see his Advent who had not that pleasure  
but they died all in the faith they all believed  
he would come, and were fully persuaded  
that if by w. fulfil His promises & confessed  
when the time of the Saviour's Advent  
actually drew nigh, the expectation of him  
became more general more joyful, more  
expressed - many there were at that time in  
Jerusalem who were looking for Redeem-  
tion in Israel. what wonder then that Zacharias  
in the light of his Veneration sh. burst forth  
in the triumphant strains contained in our  
Text. what wonder then that he in the confidence  
and full assurance of Faith he should speak  
of the Messiah as at ready arrival - Men  
and of the work of Redemption as at ready

11  
Who there were as yet several months to elapse  
before he ~~could~~ be born into of A. no  
doubt. but Elizabeth had communicated to  
Zacharias what had passed between her and  
the Virgin Mary when they had their last  
joyful meeting, and the Virgin was to be  
honoured mother of the Redeemer of lost man.  
He might well praise and bless G. for the  
infinite mercies of had been bestowed upon  
him, as been the Father of that messenger  
who sh. go before the face of the Lord to  
prepare away before him - Having now  
shown of the Incarnation of the Son of G.  
had been foretold from the foundation of  
A. and that his Advent was an Accomplish-  
ment of the Prophecies, we come in  
the 2. place to show that his Incarnation  
excited the Prayers of Zacharias as a means of  
spiritual blessings to him, and the Church  
of God. Hence the reference to the Deliverance  
of Israel is more manifest than before



The Requisition made by Moses to Pharaoh  
was that of Israelites sh<sup>d</sup>. go into the wilderness  
to serve the Lord. This was the ground of the  
Contest between them. Pharaoh objected to comply  
with the Request of Moses, and said who is  
the Lord? At length G<sup>d</sup>. by his terrible Judgments  
decided the Point. When that of Israelites  
were brought forth to the Promises of the Red  
Sea they were ~~menaced~~ menaced with utter  
destruction by Pharaoh and his Hosts.  
The overwhelming Pharaoh and his Army  
in the Sea completed their deliverance  
so that they could from that moment serve  
the Lord without any fear of their ancient  
Oppressors. The great Redemption wrought  
by G<sup>d</sup>. is in perfect Correspondence to this.  
My last Advent we obtain 1<sup>st</sup> Deliverance from  
our Spiritual enemies. We are in of Hand of  
Enemies more cruel, more tyrannical  
and oppressive than those of Egypt. We are  
in bondage to Sin & Satan, to Death & Hell

5  
from there our blessed Redeemer us, by the  
Blood of his Cross, he expiates Sin, & removes later  
Deliverance us from the Power of  
Death & Hell. He is our Lord of Salvation to  
his People; a mighty and irresistible Law  
who will push down all his Enemies. none  
can detain us any longer in bondage when  
he comes to set us free. If he makes us free, then  
we are free indeed. we are then said to be brought  
out into the glorious Liberty of the Sons of God.  
This is one of the greatest Blessings we can enjoy in  
this world. To be freed from the Power &  
Domination of Sin, is a work it<sup>h</sup>. none but G<sup>d</sup>  
can accomplish. My last Advent we obtain  
Liberty to serve G<sup>d</sup>. Deliverance from the  
Punishment of Sin would hardly be worthy  
of a Deliverance, if it were not accompanied  
with a Restoration to the Divine Favor  
and a thorough Renovation of Heart and Life.  
In this the Happiness of the Believer consists.  
For as long as we are destitute of Holiness  
we must be of necessity Strangers to Happiness.



Heaven itself w<sup>th</sup> no Heaven to our unholy  
Soul - but yes, we can be all iniquity & he  
He comes us to delight in him as our God and to  
serve him about hear. when we are in this  
state we find the service of God to be perfect  
freedom - His will is our will - his law is our  
delight and we are ready to sleep & go  
at all times, and to have his praise con-  
tinually on our lips - we then say it of  
Psalmist my lips shall be full when I sing &  
The Privileges we enjoy under the Gospel  
far exceed all that the old Testament saints  
enjoyed who lived under the Jewish Dispensation  
for they were kept at a distance by the  
sacred Levitical laws rendered to him tender  
to generate in them a servile fear - St.  
Paul when writing to the Hebrews the  
superior ~~the~~ Privileges they knew enjoyed  
and the curbing of the Mosaic Law  
themselves, we are not ~~unhappy~~ come unto

mount that might be touched <sup>and</sup> that burned  
with fire; nor unto the blackness, and Dark-  
ness, and shadow, and to the sound of a trumpet  
and to the voice of words, which they that  
heard intreated if it would sh<sup>d</sup> not be spoken <sup>to</sup>  
any more - The Ap<sup>l</sup> alludes to the delivery of  
the law upon mount Sinai, which awful  
light filled the trembling Israelites with the  
utmost fear - but the Gospel Dispensation is  
free from all these, and fills the soul with  
many different sensations - we have not says  
the Ap<sup>l</sup>. received the Sp<sup>l</sup> of bondage -  
Can it be doubted whether these things deserve  
our grateful acknowledgments? ought  
we <sup>to</sup> not bless and praise our God in consequence  
of the unspeakable gift of his Son -  
who at this time became incarnate for  
us now and for our liberation -  
Let us now apply what has been said -  
Let us bless God for the incarnation of our  
Lord & only Saviour - His birth was proclaimed



by the Angel as Glorious Tidings - And the Heavenly  
Hosts began a new Song in Heaven, Glory to  
God in y<sup>e</sup> highest. The Virgin who bore him must  
have rejoiced at exceeding Joy when she beheld her  
new born Son, and was informed what Honors  
were paid him by the Angels, and what Glory  
and happiness w<sup>o</sup>ld accrue to man thro' him  
for the Tidings of his Birth were to be Tidings of  
great Joy to all People, and they have been  
Tidings of great Joy to all who have believed on  
him since his Ascension. The old Patriarch  
Simeon who was waiting for him at Shiloh with  
and Hobe, and Hannah the Prophetess who  
spoke of him unto all that looked for redemption  
thro' him. rejoiced exceedingly as his attendant  
Drew near, tho' they <sup>had only</sup> such imperfect views of  
his Character. Shall not we then marvel that  
rejoice, we who have had his Character and office  
so clearly revealed unto us - we know he was born  
in Bethlehem we know if he was a man of  
Sorrow and acquainted with Grief - we know  
that he suffered in Gethsemane - we know that

that he was dead and buried - we know that  
he rose from the dead. This is a fact established  
beyond all Contradiction - we know if he  
ascended up to Heaven - that all these wonderful  
Grants took place <sup>and if you would have strong evidence</sup> to deliver us from <sup>eternal</sup> death.  
These things are so plainly revealed that none  
of you will attempt to question the Facts. Should  
not we to whom so much is given join with  
Zacharias with Heart and voice saying blessed be  
blessed be his name for visiting and redeeming  
our Sins - and blessed be his glorious name for  
ever and ever -  
Lastly let us seek to partake in the blessings  
accruing from his Incarnation.

Tho' we may not be affected with our spiritual  
Povdage, because we are in love with our  
Sins, and invisible fear danger, yet it is far  
more terrible than any to which our  
bodies can be subject. Now we are all well  
assured, that if heavy tasks were daily imposed  
upon us, and we were constantly beaten for  
not performing what it was not in our



Prayer to do, we should not infrequently cry  
unto God, and pour out our Complaints  
unto him to arrange our Cause. This was the Case  
it of Israelites in Egypt, as we have recorded in  
5. 6. of Ex. we are there told of if officers of the  
house of Is. in? What Task masters had set over us, were  
beaters, and demanders, wherefore have ye not fulfilled  
your <sup>Task</sup> in making brick, both yesterday & to day as  
heretofore when the off<sup>r</sup> of the Child of Is. came  
unto them wherefore beateh them thus in thy  
servants. There is no straw given unto thy servants  
and they say unto us make brick, and behold  
thy servants are beater, but the fault is in  
the poor thing our people. This was the state  
of the Israelites before they were delivered from  
their bondage. our bondage in a spiritual  
sense is far more lamentable than their  
were. yet we do not cry for deliverance, nor  
embrace it when it is offered unto us - The  
bondage of the Israelites w<sup>as</sup> and with their lives  
but our spiritual bondage, unless we are  
freed from it, will never terminate through  
all eternity -

Christ came to proclaim liberty to the Captive  
and the opening of Prison to y<sup>e</sup>. if we be bound; or as  
our text expresses it, to deliver us out of the hands  
of our Enemies that we might serve him in our  
near all the days of our lives in Holiness and  
Righteousness. God my brethren has been very  
gracious unto us in giving us such a clear revela-  
tion of his will in showing us our miserable  
state by him as described in his holy word, and  
in directing us where we may fly to for  
eternal safety - We are perished, we perish to life  
in view - our condemnation will <sup>be</sup> irremediably  
great if we still continue in our stubborn  
unbelief after all our heavenly Advantages. Consider  
this all you who have withstood the temptations of  
Devil here to this long time - who have never  
attended to the voice of Conscience - who have  
been armed by the denunciations of the Divine  
Law - but are still living in the same careless  
independent state you always have done. following  
the common course of y<sup>e</sup> world and running to y<sup>e</sup>  
multitude to do evil. we might be lead to  
infer from the general conduct of mankind  
that the more God manifested his love to save



the more they were determined not to be saved  
but to defeat all his gracious Intentions by their  
determined Condemnation in Sin - We approach  
vestibled, which once brought the Angels from Heaven  
to express their Joy to the Inhabitants of the Earth  
and to congratulate man for the birth of the incar-  
nate God - is generally converted into scenes of Riot  
Drunkenness & Reprobation - This is offering the  
greatest Indignity to the Supreme Being of God  
and riveting the Law of death more strongly  
effectually kindle Gods wrath against us than  
by such sinful Conduct - we ought to be during  
this solemn season, to humble ourselves in prayer  
before God, and to ascribed his glory & glory  
to God in the highest - our Hearts out to overflow with  
gratitude for the gift of his Son - we ought to  
renew our Covenant with him in the most  
solemn manner, and <sup>to</sup> dedicate our souls to  
his service. It was for our sakes he became an  
infant of days. That almighty Being who up-  
holdeth all things by the word of his power, and  
inhabited Calvary was laid in a manger - he into  
Bethlehem said the Angel to the shepherds, there  
shall ye see him lying in a manger