

Luke 13. 14 —

The circumstances of our Sav.^{rs} birth
characterize in a measure the dispensation w.^{ch} he
came to introduce. The Gospel exhibits a plain yet
a profound scheme of salvation. while its great-
est series are intelligible to the meanest capa-
city, and the way is laid open to clarity of the
who never may read it: yet it abounds with the
most sublime and unspeakable mysteries. Such
as made even an Apostle exclaim *God!* the
depths of wisdom & knowledge of God how
unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past
finding out. Thus in the incarnation of our Lord there
was an apparent meanness that was seemingly
unsuitable to such an occasion: and at the same
time a glorious majesty it was worthy the
Person and Character of a new born Infant: when
the eastern magi saw his star they immediately
concluded that he must be born in the city of
Jerusalem, either at the High Priests Palace
or at Herods — for we are informed that they
immediately left their own country and repaired
to Jerusalem and when they arrived there

2. they said where is he if is born King of Jews
for we have seen his Star in of East and are
come to worship him. no doubt they expected
to see him in all the Pomp of Royalty, and
persons of the highest Rank paying Homage
to the new born King - How greatly were they
astonished when they found that no tidings of his
Birth had reached the Rulers of the Jewish
Nation, and that even Herod & all Jerusalem
in stead of rejoicing at the news which the
wise men carried, were troubled at those glad
tidings of great joy - They were ^{at not finding the fact} greatly disappointed yet they were not to
be discouraged from seeking after him. when
they found him it was not in a Palace but in a
Stable - no royal cradle nor swaddling bands
were prepared for him, he had only a manger
for his Reception - yet did an Angel come from
Heaven to announce his birth, and for host of
Angels attended to proclaim his Praise and
glory to him in the highest and in Earth Peace
and good will towards men - on this divine &
Heavenly hymn of incarnation of X^t is represented

3. in a three fold view - 1. As the brightest
manifestation of divine glory - 2^d as the means
of effecting Peace upon Earth - 3. As of most
astounding display of divine love - The Angels
had long beheld the unveiled face of deity; but
never had they discovered so bright a display of
divine Perfections as on this occasion - They had long
desired to look into the great mystery of mans
Redemption and had been sent as ministering
spirits with messages of grace to the Prophets &
old to Moses Abraham Lot & others. They had seen
the justice of God in punishing the fallen Angels
who kept not their first Estate - They had seen
there one glorified Spirit reserved in Chains of
darkness to of Judgment & of great Day - They had
also seen God punish man, and banish him from
Paradise - but they saw God in executing his judg-
ments upon Adam and Eve discover some faint
traces of his mercy. He promised if of seed of of
woman sh^d bruise of her heels Head. but what
astounding mercy in of butress of Logic became
birth in of incarnation of his dear Son: when the
immortal King of glory past by all their Heavenly

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Hort and left the changing realms of bliss and
became man - when he took our nature upon him
he did not at all of Virgins womb. yet in the
Incarnation of the Son of God how innumerable did
Justice appear, when it w^{as} not pass by one offense
it was an adequate an infinite Atonement. So
he had now entered into of O^{bedience} and Death by his it was
requisite for the Honor ^{of} ~~and~~ ^{glorifying} the Divine
Attributes of both sh^{ould} be destroyed and subdued. but
there was none equal to this mighty work but
our nature. Death and his were both works of
Devil & if Son of God was made manifest if he
might destroy them. The Angels it is probable
were prepared for this great Event as they had
seen from time to time the divine Promises given
to man - but still as the Accomplishment of these
Promises was gradually like the dawn before the
rising sun their Visions of it must be proportionally
increased. Let us suppose a Person never to have
seen the glory of the rising sun, but only the
dawn of his Appearance - such a one could form
no Idea equal to the brightness Splendor &
majesty of the sun, and w^{ould} be lost in
wonder and Admiration at his great glory

born to the sheep heads - saying fear not for
behold I bring glad tidings of great Joy, which
shall be to you and to all people &c. Let us then
keep silence, where robes, where only robes can
be founded upon the Son's incarnation sufferings
and death. behold ye careless sinners of manifest
in of flesh for you -! behold him who wraps
the waters in swaddlings, wrapped in swaddling
himself - behold him who created all worlds
visible and invisible, and he upheld all things by
the word of his power God over all blessed be
heaven more, behold him now lying in a
manger - well may we say with the others
that tho' he was rich yet for our sakes he he
came poor, if we know his poverty might be
made rich - behold the babe in Bethlehem and
then say how rich whether he appears a great
God or no to require such infinite Humiliation
in the Supreme Governor of O^{bedience} in order to
deliver man from its consequences - could we
also only see into the depths of our misery
we should we sh^{ould} then see into the wonders of
divine love - The same Holy Child yes. that

eighteen hundred years ago was born in a
stable, now sits the Throne of Heaven, and all
Powers are made subject to him, all the Angels
of God are commanded to worship him -
He is now crowned in glory and Honor. He being
appointed as the Head over all he must reign till
he has put down all Rule and all Authority.
and destroyed all his and his Peoples Enemies -
of last Enemy shall be destroyed is Death. Remember
the day is coming when he will appear a second
time to judgment, all could not see him at his first
coming at his birth - because there were many
generations of men returned to dust before his
Advent, and there have been many generations
since his Ascension into Heaven - but when he
shall come again to judge of all every high shall
see him - he will come to be admired by his saints
as glorified in all them of believe - Each of us
assembled here this day shall see him. either to our
everlasting joy or sorrow. Seeing my beloved
brethren that we know these things and look
for them be diligent that you may be found of
him in Peace without Spot and blameless.
you that have thro' Grace believed have nothing

to apprehend. all things are yours, and ye are Chr.
Remember he comes for the full Redemption of his
People. to wipe away all Sorrows from their
faces. to crown them in everlasting glory. The poorest
saint will then be admitted into the Society of Angels
and will see and for ever dwell in Ab. G. & Paul
and all the Prophets & Apostles. what a blessed
Society. what multitudes of voices will then join
in one divine song and saying glory to G. in
the highest & unto him of loved us and was his
from ever living in his own blood and hell's made
us Kings & Priests unto G. and his Father to him be
glory and Dominion for ever and ever. Thus will the
saints stand a long eternity in the Presence of
God and their forever free from temptation &
sorrow. Every saint shall then experience what
that great man Dr. Swales anticipated, when
he wrote the following lines - there shall I
bath my weary head - - Therefore my beloved
brethren seeing you have such a glorious
Prospect before you labor to grow in Grace
and in the knowledge of our Father and Son
Glor. Chr. to him be glory both now and ever and
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Let me speak one word to you who think nothing
of the Saviour's birth. you are much to be pitied. you
know not your danger, you will not believe. what
is to be done for you - No! if you were wise & permit me
to ask how will you abide if day of his coming, or how will
you stand when he appears? Look up and behold these
visible Heavens will shortly pass away in a great
noise, the Elements will melt in fervent heat. The
Earth & all that is there in shall be burnt up. what will then
become of you - to whom will you flee? where will you
hide your guilty heads. you cannot behold the face of God!
because he will be a consuming fire to you. Even
you will have none in that awful day. you will be
left without excuse. you cannot plead if you never heard
of the Saviour's birth Death and Resurrection - you cannot
plead if mercy was never offered to you - if you were
never warned of your danger, and told of what you
end w. be. It is probable this is the last Christmas
many of you will celebrate. before the return of this
Festival you may be buried in darkness & of your
The sweet voice of Pardon & Salvation you will hear no
more. Consider these things now. They are worthy of
your Attention, and do not trifle with a Power you cannot
resist or withstand, but willingly submit to be saved by grace
and mercies of Christ & His Father and your souls shall love