

Lord whom Abraham worshipped." We are not told here "the God of Abraham." Christ said to the people, "Before Abraham was, I am." He also said, "Abraham saw my day and was glad." There is a suggestion here of redemption, but the suggestion bears more directly on the greatness of Abraham, that Abraham whom they think of as such a great one is one who looked forward with joy to the coming of Christ. In this passage the emphasis is quite different. Here the emphasis is on the fact that Abraham, the <sup>grand-</sup>father of Jacob, himself is one whom God redeems. God, who points out that they need not feel sorrowful because of the elective will of God, points out that he himself has redeemed Abraham. He picks Abraham who was simply one of the heathen, one of the mass of Gentiles, as much as any of those who are now to be brought into the kingdom, and God himself redeemed him. It was the sovereign grace of God which brought Abraham in and made him the father of the faithful, <sup>and</sup> made him the one who is to have a spiritual progeny as numerous as the stars. There is doubtless the suggestion involved that the God who did this to Abraham and in which we can rejoice, can continue to do it and raise up even out of the stones children to Abraham and they can rejoice and will rejoice in that, too.

Just a word regarding the question whether Jacob here means the whole race or the person. If we think of it as the race, it certainly is a figure. It thinks of the race as a unity and represents that they need not feel bad or miserable about that which happens, that even though a part are cut off, yet there is a great increase in the spiritual membership of the race of Jacob because of those whom God is bringing in from the Gentiles. The other view that takes Jacob as the person, it might be thought is equally figurative, that it means that if Jacob were ~~a~~ to be thought of as looking upon this people, this is the way he would feel. However, it is certainly not necessary to take this view. All orthodox Jewish and Christian interpreters believe in the continued existence of Jacob. They believe the patriarch is conscious somewhere, and that he will in the future be conscious. Whether he knows now what is ~~now~~ happening is not