

what manner of salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said to her : Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God.

31 <sup>g</sup> Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shalt bring forth a son ; <sup>h</sup> and thou shalt call his name Jesus.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the most High ; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of David his father ; <sup>i</sup> and he shall reign in the house of Jacob for ever.

33 And of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34 And Mary said to the angel : How shall this be done, because I know not man ?

35 And the angel answering, said to her : The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the most High shall overshadow thee. And therefore also the Holy which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

36 And behold thy cousin Elizabeth, she also hath conceived a son in her old age ; and this is the sixth month with her that is called barren :

37 Because no word shall be impossible with God.

38 And Mary said : Behold the handmaid of the Lord ; be it done to me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

39 And Mary rising up in those days, went into the hill country with haste into a city of Juda.

40 And she entered into the house of Zachary, and saluted Elizabeth.

41 And it came to pass, that when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the infant leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost :

42 And she cried out with a loud voice, and said : Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me ?

44 For behold as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.

45 And blessed art thou that hast believed, because those things shall be

<sup>g</sup> Isaias 7. 14. — <sup>h</sup> Infra 2. 21.

<sup>i</sup> Dan. 7. 14 and 27 ; Mich. 4. 7.

<sup>j</sup> Isaias 51. 9 ; Ps. 32. 10.

Ver. 48. *Shall call me blessed.* These words are a prediction of that honour which the church in all ages should pay to the blessed Virgin. Let

accomplished that were spoken to thee by the Lord.

46 And Mary said : My soul doth magnify the Lord.

47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

48 Because he hath regarded the humility of his handmaid ; for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

49 Because he that is mighty, hath done great things to me ; and holy is his name.

50 And his mercy is from generation unto generations, to them that fear him.

51 He hath shewed might <sup>i</sup> in his arm ; he hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.

52 He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble.

53 <sup>k</sup> He hath filled the hungry with good things ; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

54 He hath received Israel his servant, being mindful of his mercy :

55 As he spoke to our fathers, <sup>l</sup> to Abraham and to his seed for ever.

56 And Mary abode with her about three months ; and she returned to her own house.

57 Now Elizabeth's full time of being delivered was come, and she brought forth a son.

58 And her neighbours and kinsfolks heard that the Lord had shewed his great mercy towards her, and they congratulated with her.

59 And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they called him by his father's name Zachary.

60 And his mother answering, said : Not so ; but he shall be called John.

61 And they said to her : There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name.

62 And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called.

63 And demanding a writing table, he wrote, <sup>m</sup> saying : John is his name. And they all wondered.

64 And immediately his mouth was opened, and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God.

<sup>k</sup> 1 Kings 2. 5 ; Ps. 33. 11.

<sup>l</sup> Gen. 17. 9, and 22. 16 ; Ps. 131. 11 ; Isaias 41. 8.

<sup>m</sup> Supra 13.

Protestants examine whether they are any way concerned in this prophecy.

65 And fear came upon all that heard these things ; and all these things were abroad over all the hill Judea :

66 And all they that heard them up in their hearts said : What an one, think ye, shall be ? For the hand of the Lord is with him.

67 And Zachary his father was with the Holy Ghost ; and saying :

68 <sup>n</sup> Blessed be the Lord because he hath visited and redeemed of his people :

69 <sup>o</sup> And hath raised up for us, in the house of his servant :

70 <sup>p</sup> As he spoke by the holy prophets, who are faithful and true saying :

71 Salvation from our enemies, the hand of all that hate us :

72 To perform mercy to us, to remember his holy testament :

73 <sup>q</sup> The oath, which he swore to our fathers, that he would give us, a land flowing with milk and honey :

74 That being delivered of our enemies, we may dwell in peace and quietness :

75 In holiness and justice, all our days.

76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest : for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord, to prepare his ways :

77 <sup>r</sup> To give knowledge to his people, unto the remission of their sins :

78 Through the bowels of our God, in which <sup>s</sup> the high hath visited us :

79 To enlighten them with the light of the knowledge of the truth, and in the shadow of the wings of the Lord, to direct our feet into the way of peace :

80 And the child grew, and was strengthened in spirit ; and was in the temple until the day of his going out of Israel.

<sup>n</sup> Ps. 73. 12. — <sup>o</sup> 1

<sup>p</sup> Jer. 23. 6, and

<sup>q</sup> Gen. 22. 16 ; Jer. 31. 33 ;

Ver. 69. *"Horn of salvation"*, as Dr. Witham translates, by *horn* is generally understood to signify strength and power.

Ver. 78. *The Orient.* It signifies the Messiah, the true light and sun of justice.