# 36. The Marrow of Christianity. SECTION IX.

The spirituall Kingdome of Christ in his Church in the latter dayes of the Gospel, discovered.

HE Kingdome of Christ hath alwayes been, and still is, spiritual, but in the latter dayes of the Gospel, it shall be much more spiritual and glorious than formerly with relation to the subjects of it. For the clearing of this truth in hand, note these 4. particulars.

1. That Christ is a King.

2. Who are the subjects of his King-

3. That his Kingdome shall increase in glory and spirituallnesse in the latter dayes.

4. That his Kingdome is spiritual, and

not of this world.

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First, that Christ is King; I suppose it is unquestionable: all who own the Gospel but in the letter, confesse as much in word; see a Scripture or two to confirme it, Pfal. 2. 6. The Lord speaking of Christ, saith, Tet have I set my King apon the holy hill of Sion, notwithsanding the rage of men, yet Christ is King

King, and will reign to likewise, Pfal 45° with Heb. 1.8. but unto the Son he saith thy Throne, O God, is for ever, and ever; a Scepter of righteousnessele is the Scepter of thy Kingdome: he hath a Kingdome and a Scepter by which he rules; he is the Prince of the Kings of the earth, a King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

2. Who are the subjects of his Kingdome; it is true, he is King over all, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, he Will rule over his enemies with his Iron rod, and dash them in peeces like a Potters vessell; but he is in a more special manner King over the Saints, and in them he lives; and fo rules: in them as Wel as over them: he is not only King of nations, but king of Saints, Rev. 15.3. It is part of the Saints long of joy, Just & true are thy wayes O thou King of Saints: and in the Szints he reigns spiritually & powerfully; for in the day of his power he maketh them a willing people: the fubjects of Christs Kingdome are a free people: the manner how Christreignes in and over his people, and what are his Lawes, I passe it in this place, and referr you to the Kingly Office of Christ in my books

booke intituled, the exaltation of Christ in his Offices; and, and so come to the 30 thing propounded; That is, that the Kingdome of Christ shall increase in glory and spiritualnesse in the latter dayese the glory of the Church in the latter dayes shall increase, and the manifestation of Christs Kingly power shall increase, Efa. o. of the increase of his Government and Peace; there fall be no end. The Churches glory shall confist of 2. particulars, that is external and inremall.

I. External, the Church shall injoy much external glory, liberty, and peaces even in the world in the latter dayes.

9. Wherein shall the external glo-

ry of the Church confift?

ediffiv. I. In the abundance of peace and quier, even from the men of the world, Efa. 66.12. I will excend peace to her like a River, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing streame : peace shall be extended not onely in the Spirit, but in the letter likewise; for the ground of this peace is rendred in verses 15. 16. for behold the Lord will some with fire, &c. Efa. 65. 25. the Wolfe The Marrow of Christianity.

Wolfe and the Lamb shall feed together, &c. they shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy; Mountain, saith the Lord God will take away the Wolvish disposition of men, that they shall live peaceably amongst the Saints, they shall not hurt nor

destroy,&c.

2. God wil take off the spirits of evil men, he will make them stoop and fall before the Saints, Mich. 7.16. 17. The Nations shall fee and be confounded at all their might, they shall lay their hand upon their month, their eares shallibe deaf, they shall licke the dust like a Serpent, they shall move out of their holes like wormes of the earth, they shall be afraid of the Lord our God, and shall feare because of thee. Thus will the Lord deale with his enemies in the latter dayes, he will take away their Chariot-wheels, and cause them to drive heavily.

3. God wil give the Saints a good name, even amongst their enemies: they shall be high even in the thoughts of bad men, Isa. 65. 15. And yee (to wit the Lords enemies) shall leave your name for a curse to my chosen: for the Lord will slay thee, and call bis servants by another name. Formerly, the Saints had a name of reproach amongst the

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wicked:

wicked : if a man departed from iniquity, he made himselfe a prey; but the Lord wil give his fervants another name, even amongst their enemies, that men shall not bleffe themselves in their evill wayes; but whoso blefferh himselfe in the earth, shall bleffe himfelfe in the God of truth.

4. God will make his enemies in stead of perfecuting, to ferve the Saints, Ifai. 60. 12. For the Nation and kingdome that will not serve thee, shail perish ; yea, those Nations shall be utterly wasted. Vets. 14. The sonnes of them that afflicted thee, shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised the hall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet, and shal call thee the Citie of the Lord . Thus you fee the Churches enemies shall not only acknowledge the Saints, and confesse them to be the Lords Citie; but bow down unto them, and do them fervice.

7. The Saints shall be exceeding many, and that will adde to their externall glory: Times have been, that to be a Christian indeed, would have been a wonder, and he that departed from iniquity, made himfelfe a prey, and so were counted the offfcouring of all things; but now a littleone shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong Nation, yea, the Lord will halten it in his time, If a. 60.22. and vers. 5. Then shalt thou see and flow together, and thy heart shall seare and be enlarged; because the abundance of the Sea shall bee converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee. This, with much more, shall be the eternall glory of the Church.

Secondly, the Church shall enjoy abundance of internall glory in the latter dayes: both is coming on apace.

Quest. Wherein shall the Churches in-

ternall glory confilt ?

Answ. 1. In the abundance of spiritual light and knowledge: Much ignorance hath possessed the soules, even of Saints, a long time; a veil hath been spread over all Nations, both Gentile as well as Jew; but the veil shall be taken away, Isai. 25. And I will, saith the Lord, destroy or swallow up in this mountaine, (that is, in the Church) the face of the covering cast over ail people, and the veile spread over all Nations. Such hath been the ignorance that hath overspread all People, and Nations, through the spiritual operation of the man of sinne; that, the mystery of the Gospell hath been hid.

hid, as it were, from us, and fealed up even with feven feales, a perfection of darknesse, that none was found worthy to open it : Humane Arts, and Creature-wisdome being fet a-work, did but so much the more darken it, and cast a veile upon it, till at last the Lord Jesus begins to open it himselfe, and will unseale it by degrees, and cause the veile to vanish away, to the great glory of his spirituall Ones; but to the great terror of all humanists, who were left without this fpirituall knowledge of Christ. See the further confirmation of this truth, Ifa. 11. 9. The earth Shall be full. of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. As ignorance hath, as a veil, been spread over all Nations: so shall the knowledge of the Lord goe forth abundantly throughout all Nations, /fa. 60.17. 19,20. Rev. 21.22,23.

Secondly, that which shall make for the Churches spirituall glory, shall be the enjoyment of a full freedome from the guilt of sinne; that which much troubles many a pretious soule: and it was that the Apostle Paul was freed from, Rom. 8. We have not received the spirit of bondage to feare again; but the spirit of adoption whereby we

ery, Abba, Father. And this is that the Lord hath promised to his people in the latter day, Isa. 33. 24. And the inhabitant Shall not fay, I am fick, the people that dwell therein, shall be for given their iniquity. Sin is the cause of spirituall sicknesse: This cause shall be taken away; for, they hall be for given their iniquity; i. e. they shall live in the knowledge and enjoyment of it. And from henceforth they shall not say, I am ficke, and the voyce of crying and weeping shall be no more beard in her, for, the former things are passed away: there shall bee no more fin nor forrow, but everlasting gay Shall be upon her head, and forrow and fighing Shall paffe away, Ifai. 35. 10.

A third thing that shall make for the Saints spiritual glory, is the knowledge of, and enjoyment of, a spiritual Onenesse with God in Christ, and each with other : although this be a glorious spiritual truth: yet it is that the Saints have lived exceeding short in the knowledge of it; the knowledge and enjoyment of it will be exceeding glorious to the spiritual Christian. What this union is, and wherein it confifts, I referre it to what hath been faid formerly in the glorious condition of persons

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persons in the second Adam, above the first.

A fourth thing that will make for the Saints spirituall glory, is, a living above creatures and things, in the spirituall enjoyment of God, whom to enjoy is life: when all things below, that bee nothing; when the foule shall be content to suffer the loffe of all things, that Christ may bee all and in all; the glorious Lord will bee unto us a place of broad rivers & ftreams, wherin flaal go no Gally with Oares, nor shall gallant Ships passe thereby, Isai. 33. 24. no need of rowing in creatures or things, no need of gallant ships, of any thing to carry the foul up unto God, or to bring God in Christ down to the foule; but the glorious Lord will be all, and in all, and the spiritual Christian shal live in the enjoyment of him. verse 23. Then shal the tacklings be forfaken, or loofed, they could not strengthen their Mast, they shal not be able, who defire it, to faile any further or longer in ordinances, duties, creatures; but the great spoyle shal be divided, and the lame take the spoyle, the lame contemptible ones, they are the people that are like to enjoy this spiritual glory.

A fifth thing that wil make for the Saints spiritual glory, is a spiritual and internal conformity unto God: they shall live up in the spirit, and walk after the spirit, Christ will manifest himselfe spiritually in them: the light of the Moone shall be as the light of the Sunne; and the light of the Sunne shall be seuen-fold as the light of seven dayes; the light of the Moon, that is, of the Church, shal be as the light of the fun, that is, Christ the sonne of Righteousneffe, who is both a Sun and a shield; and the light of the funne shall be seven-fold, that is, Christ shal appeare in the spirit to his, conforming them to himself in the spirit, which wil appear feven times more glorious, than formerly when we knew him after the flesh. Zach. 12.8. He that is weak and feeble among st them, shal be as David; that is, Christ; David shal be as God, even as the Angels of God before him: This is the glorious conformity that all the Saints shal have unto Jesus Christ in the spirit, & this glorious unity and conformity unto the Law of Righteousnesse is that wil appear at the first fight of it very terrible and dreadful to the fons of men. Cant. 6.10. Who is She that looketh forth as the morning, faire

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faire as the Moon, cleare as the Sun, terrible as an Army with Banners: such wil bee the strangenesse of this glorious truth, that it wil not only appear terrible and dreadful to the men of this world, but even Christ sets it forth himself with a note of admiration, not as if it were strange to him, but rather to discover her excellent glory; and (indeed) the Church will bee worth a looking on, & her glory a seeking, after, of all spiritual ones.

4 Particular propounded for the clearing of the truth in hand, is; that the kingdome of Christ is wholly spiritual, and not of this world, that as formerly, so in the latter dayes, the glory of his Kingdom shall be in the spirit, and not in the sless; it will be spiritual, and not personal: for clearing of it, I shall first prove it from testimony of Scripture. 2ly. By spiritual Arguments grounded upon Scripture. 3ly Answer such Questions and Scripture-grounds, which seeme to hold it for th.

I By testimony from Scripture, it is the word of Christ himself. My Kingdom is not of this world; that is, not a slessly, and external Kingdome over the bodies of men; but a spiritual and internal one; the kingdom

of heaven is within you: So likewise, I Cors. 16. There is no more knowledge of Christ after the flesh, they are too fleshly thoughts for a spiritual Christian. Secondly, it wil appear by spiritual Arguments likewise.

I Argument. The spiritual presence of Christ with his Saints, is the most glorious presence. Christ wil be most gloriously preient with his people in the latter dayes ergo, his presence, and so his Kingdome, will be a spiritual presence, and not a personal, The major Proposition is evident from Scripture, that the spiritual presence of Christ, is the most glorious presence: This Christ tels his Disciples when he was per-Sonally with them, John 16.7. Nevertheleffe it is expedient that I go away, for if I goe not away, the Comforter wil not come unto you: And therefore, Christ tels his Disciples, Ioh: 14.26. That if they loved him, they would not reason, because he said, he would goe away ; because his spiritual presence was the most glorious presence: and we see it by experience, that the Disciples of Christ were most spiritual, and had most spiritual enjoyment of God, when Christ was gone from them in person, and they enjoyed him in the spirit. That the presence of Christ in the latter dayes will be most glorious; appeares by all that have been formerly spoken, and I think none of light, deny it: then the conclusion holds true, that the prefence of Christ with his people in the latter dayes, wherein they shal enjoy most light and glory; wil be a spiritual presence.

2 Argument. If Jesus Christ be known of the saints no more after the flash, but after the spirit; then his reigne in the latter dayes of the Gospel wil not be personal, but spiritual: but, hee is no more to be kno wne of the Saints after the flesh, as you have formerly heard, I Cor. 5. 16. Therefore his presense, and so his Kingdome Will not bee a fleshly or personal presence and kingdome; but a spiritual.

3 Arg. Spiritual glory, and spiritual enjoyment, is that which most of all suites with the majesty and glory of God. Ioh.4. 22,23,24. Col.3.1. I Cor. 2.9,10,14. The glory of the Saints shall be spiritual, and their enjoyment firitual in the latter dayes; firitual knowledge, Esa 11 and spiritual conformity unto Christ, Zach. 12.8. and pirituall joy and rejoycing, Ifa 35, 10. Ergo, the pre-Sence and Kingdome of Christ, in, and with bis

his Saints, will be a spiritual Kingdome, and

not a personal.

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4 Arg. Christs Kingdom and presence shal bee with all his people, filling them with spiritual glory, Isa 25.7 He will take away the veil spread over all Nations, & v. 9. And they stall say, Loe, this is the Lord, wee have waited for him: Christs personal presence cannot be with all his at once: therefore his presence and kingdome wil be spiritual, and not personal.

Objections answered concerning the personal

reign of Christ.

Obj. 1. That Christ was promised to the Jewes to come as a King, and they to this day expect him to come a King, to deliver

them from their captivity;

Ans. 1. It is true, hee was promised to come as a King, Isa 9.7. and so he came a King, although not in outward appearance, Matth. 2.2. Where is he that is born King of the fewes? we have seen his Star in the East, and are come to worship him. Hewas the King of the Jewes, when He was born, he was a Child, and yet a King. 2 He is King of all spiritual Jewes, for he is not a Jew, that is one outwardly, but he is a Jew, that is one inwardly; and Christ reignes spiritually in all

all his people, the Kingdome of Heaven is within you.3 Christ will appear a spiritual glorious King to the Jewes; the naturall feed of Abraham, in the latter dayes, gathering them from among the Heathen to himfelf in the spirit, & so will raign in & over them in the spirit gloriously, Ezek. 37. throughout See verf. 24, 25. That they shall be gathered in with all the beloved of God, by the firitual working of Christ, and not by his personal appearing; is cleere from this ground: They shal be gathered unto Christ, from the beholding of Christ crucified, and not from the beholding of his glorious personal appearing : Therfore, Christ shal come a King, in the spirit, to his peo. ple, and not in the flesh: see Zach. 12.10: They Shall looke upon him whom they have pierced and mourn over him, &c. The eying of a pierced Christ, shal bee the way of bringing in Jew, as wel as Gentile.

Obj. 2. Christ suffered reproach & shame in the sless from his enemies: therefore, it is likely he shall be glorified in the flesh be-

fore his adversaries.

Answ. Christ shal without question bee glorified in the presence of his adversaries; and all Nations shal be gathered together before

before him, when he shal appear from heaven in flaming fire, to render vengeance to them that know not God, and obey not his Gospel; but, whether Christ shal appeare perfonally, or in any perfonal forme, wil bee a great question: but with much spiritual Power manifelling himself to the salvation of his people, and to the confusio of al his, and his Churches enemies, Matth. 5.25.

Obj. 3. It is faid Rev. 20. 4. That those that had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus, and for the Word of Ged, that had not worthipped the Beaft, nor his Image, nor received his marke in their fore-heads, and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand yeares, and the rest of the dead

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Aniw. For clearing the mystery of this Scripture, it wil bee requilite, first to fet down the things afferted fro hence. 2ly To unfold the mystery intended, which will answer the things afferted: the things afferred hence are thefe: I That Christ that raign a thousand yeares personally. 2 That all the Saints departed from the beginning. of the world, shal be raised, and come and reign with him. 3 That the wicked shal not be raised till after the thousand yeares bee finished, For

For answer unto, and clearing of the

truth.

I I conceive it to be a glorious truth, that Christ shal come & reign a thousand years, along time, spiritually in his people; but not personally amongst his people: that Christ shal reign thus gloriously, see not only this Scripture, but Rev. 11.15. And the seventh Angel sounded, and there were great voyces in Heaven, saying, the Kingdomes of this world are become the Kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever. Thus, you see, Christ shall have a Kingdom, and for the time of it, it is said Revel. 20. to be 1000. yeares, and in Is a 60, to be many Generations, I will make thee an eternal excellencie, a joy of many Generations.

Obj. But its said, Rev. 11. 15. That the Nations and Kingdomes of the world, are become the Nations of Christ, and he shall reign for ever: therefore, it seemes that his king-

dome shal be personal.

Anjw. The Nations and Kingdomes of the world may be faid to be the Nations & Kingdomes of Christ, in a twofold respect, and yet Christ not reign personally; & this the Scripture clearly holds forth.

In respect of the abundance shall bee

converted unto Christ in all nations, that in comparison of what hath been formerly: the Nations and Kingdoms shall become the Kingdoms of Christ, Elas 2. Christ may be said to be the King of 66. 19. 20. 60. Chap. from 5. to 12. verle. Nations, in respect of the ruling of his Saints over their enemies; for in this Kingdome of Christ shall the enemies of Christ be subjected and shall serve the Saints, the Nations that wil not ferve thee shall perish, and Christ reigning in his. Saints over them, may be faid truly to reigne over them, Psal. 149.78.9. Rev. 2.26.27. Rev. 5.10. Thus the first affertion in part is truth, Christ shalreign but it will but it wany Generations; but it wil be spiritual, and not personal.

the Saints from the begining of the world shall be raised and come, and reign

With Christ.

Answ. For the clearing of the truth in this Scripture, which wil answer this affertion, consider, 1. what is meant by the beheading for the witnesse of Jesus, 2. What is meant by not receiving the marke of the beast. 3. What is meant by being

being raifed, living and raigning with Christ. 4. What is meant by the not liv. ing of the rest of the dead until the 1000. yeares were finished. I. What is means by being beheaded for the witnesse of Tefus: It is a spiritual beheading; such a beheading are all the Saints who shake off Antichrifts badge and yoake like to meete withal. Christ is faid to be the head of the Church, and the head of every man. that is, of every Saint, is Christ now, when the Lord discovers the evil of Antichtia flian wayes to his people, and they forfake it, they durft not receive either the Image, name, or marke of the beaft, they that presently be beheaded by the beaft, that is, they wil condemn them as those that forfake Christ, and cry out on them. that they are revolted, that they are Sectaries, Hypocrites, Herezicks, &cc.

And thus they behead the Saints spirid tually, and that for the testimony of Je. sus, because they cannot but declare the things that they have seene, and heard from him, which will overthrow and ruine all things contrary to himselfe in the end. 2. What is meant by a receiving of the Image or marke of the beast?

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Answ. By the Image of the beaft is meant that likenesse that it hath unto the fiff beaft, who seemes to receive a deadly wound being compared with Chap. 13.11. to 16. that is, this beaft feems to make a change, he speaks great words, his looke is more flout than his fellows; he thinks to change times and Lawes, yet When all is done, it is but the Image of the first beaft, the exercise of the same power, the same wisdome in the things of God, the same worship for substance, it is all the fame in substance, and it is but the number of a man all of the flesh, it is from below, yet fuch must the worth and the excellency of it befor a time that Whofoever wil not receive the Image of the first beast, and account it somthing too, is likewife to be beheaded, and not to be fuffered either: o buy or fel amongst them, and many a Saint is like to be given into his hand, and he shal prevaile over them, but it shal be but for a time, times, and the dividing of a time, and then the Kingdome shal become the Saints, Dan.7.21y. The Image is that internal spiritual principle from which the bealt acts, for none can truly follow the

beaft, but those who have received this Image, that is who act from the fame principle, those are acted, who act for and from the man of fin, and it is called an Image, because it resembles Christ both in the internal as wel as the tx ernal part: yet acts from his own wildome by its own power, according to its own mind. to its own end, and this in all refembles

Christ.

Now these who refuse this Image in the spirit, and cannot be contented with a wildome like Christ, a selfe acting in the roome of Christ, a rule short of Christ: an end besides Christ: from hence casting off this Image, is carried on in another track then before : they come to be beheaded for Christ, because they cannot receive the Image, who is the Antichrift in the Spirit and not Christ, fo that here is not onely the Image of the first beast. with relation to patern and power, but likewise in relacion to holinesse, the first wil be for Christ, and so the second, yet are both but Antichrift. 2. What is meant by the marke of the beaft in the forehead, and in the right hand; by the marke in the forehead, is meant the visible profession of Antichrist in the external part shole that would not visibly protesse the

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wayes of Antichrift: or in the right hand; ceived that is, to act for him, these were denyed to buy or fel, Chap. 13.17. to fel, that is to preach the Gospel; for Antichristunalleda der the notion of preaching the Gospel, fels his wares, but a time is coming that nonewil buy theirwares anymore, fothey deny any who own not the Image name, or marke to fell; hence they may examine those who preach upon such and such intergatories, and if it appear that they deny the Image, name, or marke; they may not fel, that is, give forth freely what God communicates unto them, when others fell or buy, that is, partake of any spiritual good amongst them if they could prevent it, & those were beheaded for the witnesse of Jesus, but they were at last raised, and lived with Christ 1000. yeers, that is raised up from their low condition, taken up into heaven in the fight of their adversaries, and lived with Christ in the Spirit, reigning triumphantly over all spiritual enemies, selfe, fathan, world, and those Merchants that fel all (yea the foules of men too) shal be weeping, and crying alas, alas, Rev. 18. when the Lord shal make good that word of truth, Efg. 66.5. heare the word of the Lord H 3

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Lord ye that tremble at his word, your brethren that hated you, that beheaded you, that cast you out for my name sake, said, let the Lord be gloristed, that is, (it tends to the Honor of God to behead and to cast out these men) but he shal appeare to your joy, you shal be raised up with Christ, and I wil give you a new name, but they shal be ashamed.

Obj. John faith, the Saints that nad not worthipped the Beaft (he speakes in the Preterplupersectence therefore it seemes not to be the Saints raised who at prefent were beheaded in the mystical sence, but the Saints that had been beheaded in

the litteral sense.)

Answ. First it is the use of the Spirit, or the spirits Language, to deliver it selfe in darke and mystical termes, so the Apostle saith in another case, I Thes. 4.5. that we which are alive and remaine til the coming of the Lord, &c. the Apostle speakes of, we, as if he had intended the Thessalonians and himself, which was least intended; but the Saints, who being all one in the spirit, and but one mysticall body in Christ, while there are any Saints in the world, the Apostle makes it to bee all

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one, as if Hee and the Thessalonians were them, & fo delivers it in the present tense; when he might have faid rather, to speake after the manner of men, then they which shal be alive at his coming, &c. as in Revel. the word might have run thus; and fo questionlesse, it is to be understood: then they that were beheaded for the witnesse of Jesus, were raised or lived, & reigned with Christ, as the sence of the former; then they that shall bee alive at the comming of the Lord, shal not prevent them which are afleep: so that the spirit of God, might as wel deliver a truth, which is in the Present tense, in the Preterpluperfect tense; as,a truth in the Present tense, which was in the Future; and yet is, all to exercise the mind of him that readeth, and to let us know, there is mystery in the Gospel.

Secondly, very few Saints have been beheaded in the litteral fence: those that have dyed for Christ, have dyed other deaths, & not beheaded; therefore, we cannot understand it in the letter, but in the spirit.

The fourth particular propounded, was, what was meant, in that the rest of the dead were not raised, until the 1000. yeares were finished; that is, none that had been bodily

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bodily dead, Saints, or wicked, good or bad, were raised, till after the 1000. years were finished, and then you shall see the resurrection of all, which is called the second resurrection: The first, is called a resurrection, and the first resurrection; because it shall be a resurrection from shame & disgrace in the world. And secondly, it shall be a glorious resurrection in the spirit: this first, all the Saints have in some measure been partakers of it. Thus it appeares, that Christ shall have a Kingdome, a glorious, a

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spiritual One.

Quest. But when shal this Kingdom be? Aniw. 1. It is already begun in the spirits of Saints; the Kingdome of Heaven is within you. 21 believe that the time of the 1000 years, which is a more glorious estate in the spirit is not yet begun : but the beginning of that time shal be when the r seales are fully opened, and the 7 trumpets fully founded, and the 7 vials powred forth, they being but effects of each other; the opening of the seales, occasions the found of the trumpets; the found of the trumpets occafion the vials, the opening of the feales, the unfolding of the mysteries of the Gospel, (which have been hid, Rev. 5.1,2.) As light breakes

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breakes forth, the trumpets found, the fervants of Jesus preach forth the mystery of the Gospel: the preaching of the mysteries of the Gospel, in the power and puritie of it, occasions the vials of wrath to fal upon the Antichristian estate, both in the spirit, and in the letter; which work is now a doing. (Wait the Lords time, and it wil come on apace.) But first, we are yet like to be given into the hands of the little horn, who changes times & lawes; the two Witnesses areyer like to bellain, &to lydead 3 dayes & a half; and the woman cloathed With the Sun, to be driven into the wildernesse for a little space, a time, times, & halfe a time; the Beast with two hornes like a Lambe, hathyet a little time to make use of his power; perswading them that dwel in the Earth , to make an Image to the first Beaft; and that none but those who own it, shal buy or fel with them: the Saints beheaded under the Altar towait a little time, before they be raised up to live with Christ 1000. years: but it is not long, the vision is for an appointed time: in the end, it wil speak, and not ly; it wil come, and not tarry: The first 1000 is almost past the second and third, are coming on apace; & all the

the Nations and Kingdomes in the world wil come apace to be the Kingdoms of the Lord, & of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever; their lives shal be prolonged for a feafon, & a time; and other Scriptures are alledged for the personal reign of Christ; as the stone cut out of the Mountain, withour hands, Dan. 2. that is, the glorious power of Christ, by weak meanes, subduing all Antichristian enemies, without his Saints, & all Antichristian things, by his spirit, within them : So that in Dan. 7.10. the glorious company of Saints attending on Christ in the spirit, which shal be fulfilled at the raifing of the two witnesses up into heaven, in the fight of their enemies, Rev. 5.10,11. This is the first glorious work of the Lord Jesus, in, and amongst the Saints: the Lord reigneth, let the Saints rejoyce : the Lord reigneth, let the world tremble. See Zach. 14.5. The Lord our God wil come, and all the Saints with him; that is, Christ will come in the spirit, and all the Saints shall appear gloriously in him.

A word of Application: First, if this bee truth, that the Kingdome of Christ is a spiritual kingdome, & not of this world; this may inform us how far, besides the Gospel in the spirit and truth of it; those men are, who make the Kingdome of Christ to bee meerly political and a state Kingdom, who turne the world by a humane power into the Church and Kingdome of Christ (as they say) & Christ must have a worldly carnal Kingdome, no better than the Kings of the earth enjoy; or else he shal have none at all: it savors exceedingly of the earth, &

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Secondly, this should incourage the Saints to presse forward after the knowledge of God in the spirit; that as the kingdome of Christ is spiritual, and not of this world; so may the Saints Kingdom likewise be in the spirit, and so all their enjoyments may be spiritual enjoyments: this is that will make the soule fat, and wel-liking in the Lord, fill the soule with joy & peace, which the world is not acquainted with; their eyes never saw it, nor their hearts conceived it; neither are they like to see it, unlesse the Lord make them spiritual.

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#### SECT. X.

Of Death, Resurrection, Judgement, and the state of the saints, after judgment, eternally with God.

Irst, of death: It is appointed for all men once to dye; Dustwe are, and to dust we must return; and therefore, it behoves us to expect it: All the dayes of mine appointed time, wil I waite, till my change come: Death is certain, although the time be uncertain: it is, that none are in a common and ordinary way exempted from, unlesse those saints who are alive at the last coming of Christ; they shal be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, I Gor. 15.51,52. and so shall be eaught up in the spirit, to meet the Lord in the Ayre, I Thes. 4.17. Secondly, of the resurrection.

That there shal be a resurrection of the body at the last day, is evident, Fohn 5,28, 29. Iohn 11. 24. with 1 Cor. 15. throughout, Rev. 20.12, 13. although this truth is by some, denyed, and by others, too carnally

looked

looked upon; somethinking, that our bodies of slesh shall bee raised in the same forme, in which it dyed; others, trust it shall be spiritual, yet question, whether it shall he of the same substance: therefore, it will be necessary, to consider two particulars, for the clearing of it. First, by what power we shall be raised. Secondly, with what bodies.

#### 1. By What power.

Jesus Christ was raised; which was by the Power and spirit of God: he was declared to be the sonne of God with power by his resurrection from the dead, Rom. 1,4. Secondly, by the same power and spirit the Saints are enlightned, and raised from the spiritual death of sinne, and selfe, which is the same power, by which the body of Christ was raised: so that when we say, we are raised by the resurrection of Christ in the spirit; that is, by the same power, by which Ghrist was raised: therefore, the Apostle desireth to know the power of the death, and resurrection of Ghrist, Phil. 3. 10. by the same power and Spirit shall

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our bodies be raised at the last day, Rom. 8. 11. 1 Cor. 15 13,14,15,16. this being a truth that they shal be raised by the fame power : it may formwhat direct us to the form in which they shal be raised, which is the fecond particular, that is in a spiritual forme, not in a fleshly, for as the spirit of Christ raiseth us up in the spirit while we are here, so shal it raise up our bodies in the spiritat the last day it is fowne a natural body, it is raifed a spiritual bedy, our vile bodies shal be changed and madelike his glorious body, he tooke upon him our forme that fo we might be brought into his forme, for when he shal appeare we shal be made like unto him, the substance of our natural body raifed in spirit.

Of Judgment, It is appointed to all men once to dy, but after this the Judgment: when all men shal be called to an account before him (to wit the Lord Jefus) there to give an accompt for all things done in their bodies, whether good or bad, Mat. 25. and fo God in this way wil acquit his Saints and cleare them

before the world, although this is not their life, neither that in which they ap-

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Fourthly, of the eftate of the Saints after Judgment, it is first ever to be with the Lord, beholding his glory, I Thef. 4.17. John 17.24. and in his presence wil be fulnesse of joy, and 2. at his right hand everlastingly to be compleated in the same glory, Col. 3. 3. when Christ Who is our life shal appeare, we shal ap-Peare with him in glory, all flesh shal be Iwallowed up in Spirit, and our bodies shall be changed and made like his glorious body, all things that offend shall be done away, and we shal be made eternally one in the Pather and in the Sonne; & in the spirit one in eternity, one in injoyment, and one in glory, this for the Saints is enough to know, besides, what that be, we do not know, it is an height, and depth, a length and breadth unfearchable. Oh the unsearchable riches of Christ I what the Saints do injoy, what they shal injey, swallowes up the spiritual Christian in the beholding of it: hence let us continue fearthing after an higher measure of the height, depth, bredth.

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bredth, and length of his love, which passeth knowledge: and there shall we be able to see and say that his wisdome is unsearchable, and his wayes past finding out.

## FINIS.



## A briefe Discovery of An-

tichrift, both in the Mystery, and in the Historie.

By THOMAS COLLIER. 1647.

For my more cleare proceeding in the difcovery of the Man of Sinne, five things are confiderable.

1 What Antichrift, or the Man of Sin is.

2 What his Reigne.

3 What shall be his discovery.

4 What his ruine .

5 When his ruine shall be.

SECTION I.

What Antichrift or the Man of Sin is.

A Ntichrist or the Man of Sin, is to be considered, either in the Spirit, or

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in the Letter. I ha the Spirit, Antichrise fignifies one seemingly for Christ, yet in deed is against him, and so is but a Man of sin, a son of perdition, and this hee will appeare to be, both in the Mystery, and in the

History.

1 In the mystery, or spirit, and in this he hath taken hold of every man, especially in these latter dayes; yet tis true, much time hath been spent by many, to find out this Man of finne, who he is, and for the most part ascribe it to some particular man, never looking at the mystery, or root of iniquity, which is not in the first place, a man, but a wicked thing in man; and this, for want of a spirit of discerning, we have not feen Antichrist in our selves, but have cast him upon others, and fo misse of the thing, or a least, most strike at the top-boughes, and are ignorant of the root : Now Antichrist in the mystery, or spirituall and in . ternal part; It is a confederacie betweene Sathan & the deceitful heart of man, trans. forming himself into ah Angel of light; nay into the Son of light: and while nothing leffe than Christ, and Christian wil satisfie; he wil be the Christ, or at least the Antichrift, in stead of Christ to deceive Toules.

power

For this was and is the last, the greatest and most deceiving stratagem that ever Sathan made use of to ruine soules; that, where he cannot content foules but they must be Christians, he can be content With that, so he may be the Christ thence he is called the man of fin, the Son of Perdition, that wicked deceiver, 2 Thef. 2. It is not Sathan acting in a carnal and fifthly forme of the flesh, but in the most refined part of the first Adam, so he keepe the creature in the first Adamstill, he cares not.

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1. There must be a reformation that 120 it shall injoy, provided it be legally in the Letter, it must believe or else it cannot be farisfied, and believe it doth; but the ground must be built upon that first reformation, qualification, &c, wildome is required to walke in Gods wayes, and to the knowledge of the minde of God; wisdom must and may be obtained; provided it be humane, the wisdome of the first Adim, that is enough: power of acting must likewise of necessity be obtained: a power shall be obtained, but it must be a creature-power, and a creatureacting under the name and no ion of the

power of God; that is indeed and int truth condemned though in none owned there must now somtimes be a spiritual minde, and that it injoyes likewise in its own apprehension, although hardly obtained, and indeed the highest pitch of spiritualnesse is but carnal to the spiritual mans injoyment: this is a high pirch of spirituall mindednesse where Sathan dwells; to have felfe thoughts of Reformation, thoughts to pray more, to walke more exactly, and to p'ease God better: never, thoughts of living out of its felfe more, and of living in the injoyment of God in the Spirit more; and spiritual joy it must have somtimes too: why? that it shall have likewise, but it must arise from inlargement in duties, humiliations, felfe-actings, reformation, & all from felfe, and thus Sathan and the deceitful heart joynes together, to the delution of many a foule, and this is Antichrift in the Mystery; the man of sin spoken of in Scripture, that comes with all deceivablenesse of unrighteousnesse: and wel may he be called a man of fin an Antichrift, a mystery of iniquity; for inthis fhape he deceives foules, and they are mever ne o

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know it, until everlastingly undone, and he hath his diversities of formes in this kinde.

1. If the name of Christian wil serve, and yet live loofe and prophane; that they shall have, and there he wil hold them. If there must be a conformity to Christ, and a more zealous and conscionable walking; to quiet the Conscience, it shall have it: he will goas neere unto Christ With the foule as may be, provided it reft it felfe below: and thus, Christ faith, many shall come under this delusion, expecting life from duty, and it wil appear to be but workes of iniquity of fin, (why) because acted by the man of sin, acted not from a right principle, nor by right power, neither to a right end; acting there must be, but not Christofting. Hence it is, that though he wil be a Christian, and so talkes much of Christ, yet; he denves Christ to be come in the flesh, that is in the flesh of his Saints, the spirit of Christ acting and working all things in the Saints (and they are senfible of it) and thus this deceivable man of fin carries on hoodwinke winkt to perdition many and many a foule; And now it is more wicked and deceivable, than when in its proper place, acting after the luits of the fleth. Gal. 5. 19. 20. 21. then every one almost is fencible of it. Hence it is, that Christ faith, Mar. 12. 45. The uncleane spirit being cast out, that is out in its uncleane forme, it can no longer be owned: he is now content to come in, when it is fwept and garnished , prophanesse and file yneffe is gone, and now he comes in a more refined forme , perhaps legall reformation, as the present Phari-fees to whom Christ spake, or else the name of Christian, or the knowledge of Chrift, after the fleft; but Chrift faith the latter end of the man thus deceived is feven times worfe than the begining: he comes in this refined forme with feven worfe spirits than himselfe, and fo makes him feven times more, the Child of perdition than before. Oh then, how dorn it concern every one bearing the name of Christian to looke about themselves, if they are not deceived and deluded, with this Antichrist under the name of Christ! seeing it is the high-way of soules ruine, now in the dayes of the Gospel; for herein doth Sathan declare himselfe to be the Master of Arts in transforming himselfe into the ion of light, and under the name of Christ, and Christ.

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2. There is Antichrist in the History or in the Letter, and this slowes from Antichrist in the Spirit: now the soule being possessed with Antichrist, he growes up into some forme, and now not onely in the spirit invisibly, but in the letter: more visible he appeares sitting in the seate of God, and he may be descryed principally under these 3 heads, as sitting in the seate of Christ, and acting those things which properly belong to Christ.

1. In making Christians by a humane power, it being the proper worke of God in Christ to make Christians, Iohn 6 37. 44. but now here is an Antichrist will undertake the businesse, and so turns the world into Christians or rather Antichristians, and pretend that they do the worke of Christ too: when, if he did the worke of Christ, he would rather keep off all carnal ignorant ones, and ac-

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cept of none, until made willing and fpiritual by Jesus Christ; for Christ dorh not onely owne foules, when they come: but first gives them a will to come, and that by a spiritual, and not a humane power. Hence it comes to passe, that there are so many carnal profane ones under the same of Christian , because made Christian not by Jesus Christ but by men.

Oh that the Lord would be please to inlighten the understandings of these men betymes, that they might not walke in a way for directly opposite to the Gos. pel,and destrutive to their own &milli-

ons of foules:

2. In prescribing rules of worship which is proper onely to Jesus Christ to prescribe rules, and to carry through the foule in acting according to these rules.

. To prescribe rules; this belongs unto Chrift, and who ever undertakes it. pais themselves in the roome of Christ, and is the Antichrift; this is to exercise creature-wisdome in the things of Jesus Christ, and (indeed) to fit in the feate of God. It is the worke of Christ in the Spirit to helpe; in prayer or any duty; we know know not what we pray for as we ought, but the spirit helpeth our infirmities, Rom. 8. It is Christ that helpeth both to fee our wants, and formeth by his fpirit, words within accordingly. Therefore those who prescribe formes and rules of worthip, put themselves in theroome of Christ.

2. It belongs to Christ to give in power to act according to those rules, but Antichrist gives the command, and so carries on an external acting, not according to Christ; but his own minde.

3. Antichrist may be discovered as fitting in the feate of God not onely 1. In making Christians. 2. In prescribing rules, but 3. In compelling all unto those rules whatever Christ laith, that matters not; he himselfe will be the Christ, and must be obeyed, let Christ fay what he will, and all that question his power must be the Antichrist, for he exalteth himselfe above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he, as God, fitteth in the Temple of God, shewing himselfe that he is God, and in all these particularsthere is a mystery lyeth, a myste y of iniquity, that is iniquity hid

hid under the name and notion of Christ; therefore, so much the more to be dreaded. To be a Christian, is accounted a gallant thing: and therfore, not only himfelt; batotherslikewise look upo it to be a matter of much piety, to make men Christians, and cause them to own Christ.

Oh! but here lyes a mystery of iniquity, many foules madeChristians by a humane power, are but Antichriftians, and fo under The name of Christian, are likely to be undone for ever, if the Lord prevent it not : An excellent thing accounted in the world to make creatures Christians, as soone as they are born, by fprinkling a little water upon them, & so in bearing them in hand that they are so ever after : but here lyeth a mystery of iniquity , & one of the soule ruiningstmysteries of iniquity as ever came from Hel : Speak England, speake all Nations called Christian; whether (almost all people of all forts, devoutly flain in the spirit under this mystery of iniquity) to have formes of worships prescribed, that all Priests and People may walk in one forme and way of worship, and all compelled unto it, is accounted an excellent part of Christianity? but here lyeth a mystery of in-

iniquity under it. First, it brings all sorts of people to be acting in something, though worse than nothing, and so desude themselves in all their a strings; it causeth them to look to men, and not to Christ. Secondly, it causeth them to blesse themselves in their unity, in formes and worships, never questioning their Onenesse with Christ in the Spirit, they are as strangers unto it. Hence it is, that uniformity in the Letter, is so much called for amongst all forts of people, being wholly ignorant of unity in spirit.

I could instance in divers other particulars as Ministry, Guitts, Church, Ordinances, all have something like Christ in them; but it is al but the number of a man, meerly humane, carnal Ministry, humane guists, and annointings in stead of the spirit, carnall Church, invented Ordinances: but I passe it at present.

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### SECT. II.

## What is his Reigne .

Ntichtists reigne is likewise in the Aspirit, and in the letter; Antichrist or the Man of sinne, is as high in his reign, as

confident of his good estate.

First, his reign in the spirit in the mystery, he sheweth himself, that he is God; he perswades soules, that he is the Christ, his wisdome and his righteousnesse, his rules & his Ordinances, they are of God; and they mult stand, although it hath neither Scripture nor reason, I mean in the spirit for it: and thus this mystery of iniquity hath reigned a long time; it began to work in the Apostles dayes.

Secondly, the reign of Antichrist in the Letter: he also visibly sheweth himselfe, that he is God, and must be submitted unto, under penalties, fines, and imprisonments, better speaking against the Ordinances of Christ, than his Ordinances. And thus he reignes with power, and likewife with much confidence; for, Shefitteth as QVEENE, and faith, the shall see no

forrow.

The Marrow of Christianity. 125 forrow; but her forrowes will come in one day, &c.



# SECT. III. The discovery of Antichrist.

THE Revelation of Antichrist may bee considered, either first, as he openly and publicly reveales himselfe to bee the Antichrist by his considence, and powerful acting, as the Christ, or above Christ: of this,

the Apostle speakes, 2 Thes. 2.3.

2 It may be considered, as a mystery of iniquity, and so revealed by the spirit of Christ unto his servants; and so the revelation or discovery of Antichrist unto the Saints, shallbe by the spirit of Christ in the Preaching of the Gospel: as it is a mystery of iniquity in it self; so it must be that hidden wildome in a mystery, I Cor. 2. that must discover it. Now where the Lord worketh for his discovery, hee first discovers him to be the Antichrist; hee helpes the soule to find him out: And then secondly, he discovers the evill, the iniquity of him he lets the soule see; that it is, the greatest, and

and the subtlest adversary that ever it had to deal withail; the most dangerous, because cloathed under so faire and Christlike a Garbe, and the hardest to be discovered; fuch an Adversary, as bears soules in hand, that they are going to heaven, when they are in the broad and rode-way to ruine, like a cunning Hocas-Pocas, that jugleth away a mans estate, before he is aware of it, and all the while pretends friend ship. & thus it is the spirit of God in the Gospel. that must discover and reveal Antichrist in the mystery; that same spirit who revealed it to the Apostle Paul, and the same who revealed, both his rifing and falling, to John in the Revelations; those who thinke to attain the discovery of him by humane industry, historicall readings,&c. are exceeding low in their apprehensions, and come short of the discovery of him: he may bee strongly working in a man, while hee is discovering of him. Ports gratin gold we come the and

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# What shall be the ruine of Antichrist?

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He consummation of Antichrist shall be by the same meanes that discovers him , the bright goings forth of Jesus Christ in the Gospel: for, as the kingdom of Jesus Christ goes up in the spirit ; (for the kingdo of heaven is within you &c.) for the kingdom of Antichrist must go down: this is the meanes fore-told and prescribed by the Apostle, who fore-saw him in his rifing, 2 Thef. 2.8. The Lord Will confume him with the breath of his meuth, and destroy him with the brightnesse of his coming, the preaching of the Gospel, and the bright comings forth of Jefus Christ in the spirits of his people shall both consume and destroy him: As it is not a humane wisdom that shal discover him, so neither is it a humane power that mult destroy him: for all humanity in the things of God, whether wisdome or power, it is Antichristian : Therefore, not that which shall destroy Antichrift; but that which will upho d him untill he be destroyed: the ruine of Antichrift is farther held forth, Rev. 14 6.

The Angel flyeth through the midst of heaven, preaching the everlasting Gospell; and verf. 8. Another Angel followeth, faying, That Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great City, &c. The preaching of the Gospel, is the meanes, you see, of Antichrists ru-ine; and the Sermon is, Feare God, and give glory to him. This Sermon, is that wil ruine Antichrist; both in the letter, and in the spirit; give glory to God, that is, let God be all, and in all : let God bee your enjoyment in the spirit; see you live upon no. thing below him; give not glory to crea. tures, duties, actings, any thing either of the first Adam, or Antichrist: give glory to God in the letter, give not glory to Man, fer not up Man in the roome of God; doe not cry the voyce of Man, and not of God. in any of the things of God; and this is the Sermon that shal ruine Antichrist.

See likewise, Rev. 12.9. The Divel and Sathan, the mystical Antichrist, was cast forth of heaven, to the Earth; that is, he shall not bee suffered any more to delude soules, in a heavenly shape: the Divel is now turned Christian, and he makes warre with the Saints, under the name of Christ, both in the Spirit, as wel as in the Letter:

And

And hence the great warre is betweene Christ and Sathan in Heaven; that is, between the Heaven of Christ, and the Heaven of Sathan, under the name of Christ. But now John faith, he faw Sathan cast out of Heaven; that is, he shal deceive soules no more, in a Heavenly forme; neither perfecute the Saints any more under the name of Chrift: (Aglorious word, and it is comming on apace) for the most part of soules in that part of the world, called Christians, are ruined in the Divels Heaven; and beleeve it, this is the great work Christ hath to doe, in these latter dayes, the consummation of Antichrift; that is, First of all, Antichrists spiritual delusions, by which he hath deceived soules. 2 And all Antichrifts deluding formes and ordinances by which the common fort of people are generally deluded: the worke of Christ is to Powre downe Vials of wrath upon the head of the Man of sinne, both in the spirit, and in the letter: Looke about you therefore, all you, whose spiritual life confifts in nothing, but spiritual and Antichri-Stian delusions, with invented and Antichristian formes and ordinances. A Vial of Wrath is coming on you, which wil shar-K

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ter to pieces al your confidence: and then; if mercy prevent not, you may stand looking on, and crying; alas, alas, in one houre is fo great riches come to nought? and then when this is fulfilled, there shal be no more warre in Heaven, or spiritual delusion under the name of Christ.

A glorious word for those that dwel in Heaven, and that which wil cause joy to

the Saints.

For, first they shal bee without, and above, all danger of delnfions, in the spirit, or in the letter, would be an excess flind

And secondly, they shal from the same ground be for ever freed from fellowship with Hypocrices, and literal Christians; for their communion shal bee more, in the fpirit, and leffe, in the letter : and there fhal in no wife enterinto it, any thing that defileth; neither whatfoever worketh abho? mination; that is, lives earthly, carnal, and prophane, or maketh a lye 3 that is, Hypo criticall, that feemes to be what he is not But they which are written in the Lambs book of life: and there shal be no more a Cananite in the house of the Lord for ever. This is the great work Christ hath to do in these latter dayes; the consummation

tion of the Kingdome of Antichrift, who hath a long time fate in his feate, with the exaltation of his owne Kingdome in the spirit.

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Christ comes in, and shines gloriously in the spirit so shal Antichrist bee discovered, and destroyed: and so hee hath received a great blow already in this Nation, through the shinings in of Jesus Christ in the spirit amongst many of his Saints: so that this is the time of Antichrists ruine: when Jesus Christ comes in, and takes place in the spirit of his people; as the Kingdome of Christ increaseth, so the Kingdome of Christ increaseth, so the Kingdome of Antichrist decayeth and consumeth.

when the everlasting Gospel shal be preached; that is, when the Angel syeth through the middest of Heaven, preaching the everlasting Gospel; that is, when the Ministers

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of the Gospel shal come forth with their ful and heavenly discoveries of God in the fpirit being permitted to preach the Go. fpel, by the Earthly power in all places with liberty: For, much hath beene done already by the witnesses professing in lackcloth : that is, almost always in danger of a civil perfecution; and much ignorance of the mystery of the Gospel, which hath caufed them to prophesie in fack-cloth; ver they have had power, to cause fire to come from Heaven, as oft as they pleafe, burning up all Antichristian formes, and invented delutions: And then, what wil be done think you, when the Ministers of the Gofoel shal come forch in the full and bright discoveries of the Gospel, with liberties here below for the publishing of it?

Thirdly, Antichrist shal bee destroyed, when the witnesses have beene slaine, and laine dead three dayes; (that is a short space) then a tenth part of the City shal fal, and the rest shal have their time prolonged; but, for a time and a season. The first woe is almost past; behold, a second, and third woe cometh quickly: waite, and it

wil come apace, and maked the flablant of

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Thus have I from the Light of Truth, with as much brevity as may be, in some measure, hinted at this Man of sinne, this Mystery of Iniquitie, with his reign, ruine, with the meanes and time.

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## Errata.

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