

Against the ravages of this insidious foe what have we to present? The text informs us. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

II. We proceed to consider the promise.

*Death shall be destroyed.* The idea is, he shall be overcome.

This is the promise of God's revelation to man. He tells us by the Prophet Isaiah, "He will swallow up death in victory;" and by the Prophet Hosea he declares, "I will ransom them from the power of the grave, I will redeem them from death. O, death! I will be thy plagues. O, grave! I will be thy destruction." The New Testament renews this promise, and in language most impressive assures us that death shall be conquered. We believe, therefore, that death shall be destroyed, because He who cannot lie hath promised it, and He will not alter the thing that hath gone out of His mouth.

But, you enquire, by whom shall the conquest be achieved? I answer, by the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of His person.

He became incarnate, and entered the field of conflict against this adversary. "Forasmuch as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death; that is, the devil, and deliver them who through fear of death, were all their lifetime subject to bondage." The Son of God assailed the power of death in a variety of forms, and in every instance was found more than a match for him.

He frequently arrested the progress of disease in a manner which demonstrated his ability to ward off the uplifted blow. Diseases of all sorts were rebuked by him; and if the sick and the dying of the whole world had been brought to him, his power was sufficient to restore them all. Death stood confounded in his presence. He saw his design defeated, his pointed arrows blunted, and the right arm of his power broken.

What an affecting spectacle! to behold the Son of the Eternal, treading these lower grounds, and surveying on all hands the devastations of the mighty foe! He first fashioned the world, and flooded it with the vital element. All creation was happy in the enjoyment of its Maker, and all pronounced good; but now the scene was changed—all nature was drooping under the power of