

yond question that our first parents, if they had continued obedient, were more than a match for Satan, consequently they were guilty ; and as they were our parents we partake of their guilty nature.

But mark the goodness of God, and his wisdom shown itself immediately. "The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head." The Saviour was promised to punish Satan and redeem men. And hope must have arisen in the guilty but now penitent couple by this gracious promise. And the Lord clothed them with skins, which gives the idea of sacrifice ; and thus they were shown down the stream of time to the sacrifice on Calvary. But more clearly do we see Christ fore ordained in the sacrifice Abel offered, and which was accepted by God because he owned that he had sinned and deserved to die, but offered the life of the lamb as a substitute. In this there was humility and faith, which God always is well pleased with, and which two things were lacking in Cain ; and hence he was rejected. The spotless lamb, and the shed blood of the lamb are the only things that can satisfy Divine justice.

"Sin entered into the world, and death by sin ;" and the inspired apostle tells us that the King of Terrors reigned from Adam to Moses. Yet in these dark times a glimmering of light is seen in Enoch, who walked with God when nearly all the rest were walking with Satan. How must his heart have been grieved on viewing the scenes of wickedness going on around him ; and what suffering must he have endured from the ungodly. But we see the reward was also great, and he was not, for God took him.

In Genesis, vi., 5,—6, we read, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at his heart."

How much these two verses contain—how completely dopraved human nature had become by sin. But doubtless the greatest of all sin was the neglect of God's simple plan of salva-