

But we might very well object to have the biblical sense of the word death determined by an appeal to its usage in heathen writers, or indeed in extra scriptural writers of any kind. The only safe way to reach the meaning of the word in the Bible, is to examine carefully the passages in which it occurs. Supernatural revelation had to engraft an entirely new circle of ideas upon languages which had been before employed merely as the vehicle of heathen thought. It was therefore often compelled, as the context shows, to use words in a much higher sense than that in which they were employed among the heathen. To insist that the usage of classic Greek is to rule the interpretation of the New Testament is really to keep Christianity down to the dead level of heathen ideas. What, we may say, was Paul's entire speech on Mars' Hill, but an attempt to engraft on the word GOD a circle of ideas, as much higher than that which the Athenians connected with it, as the God of the Bible is higher and purer than those monsters of vice, whom the heathen often honored as their Deities?

II. We cannot regard the death threatened as equivalent to the cessation of being, because that view does not agree with the intimations of the record in Genesis, respecting the nature of man and the execution of the penalty. There are four things in the record which we require to observe:

1st. That the creation of man is introduced with much greater solemnity than that of the lower animals. His creation is not referred to merely as that of a member of the animal kingdom, with powers and capacities somewhat higher than those of his fellows, but as that of a being largely *SUI GENERIS*, an animal no doubt, but one quite unique in his nature. When the lower animals are introduced, God said, "Let the waters bring forth abundantly, the moving creature that hath life," or "Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind."—Genesis i. 20 and 24. The language looks as if their origin were wholly earthly, but when we come to the crea-