

[For OUR MISSION UNION.]
The Kept One.

By the Editor.



KEPT BY THE POWER OF GOD. 1 Pet. i-5. The secret of Elisha's coolness and courage in the midst of foes (2 Kings vi.) was his implicit faith in God and his realizing sense of the presence and power of God. Well would it be for us personally, and for those with whom we come in contact were we possessed of "like precious faith." We should then be better fitted for labor, for conflict, for counsel, and for comfort.

Let us together look into "the Word" and see what God the Lord would say unto us upon this subject. At the outset we admit that there is a place of safety, "A strong tower," and also that outside that "tower" there is danger. We therefore desire to gain access to this safe place, and we are met with these words, "I am the door, by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." John x. 9. This is a very comprehensive verse. It embraces Safety (saved,) Liberty (in and out,) and Supply (pasture.) Entering this Door I am in the Tower, and have started on the right way, for He said "I am the way." John xiv. 6. Previous to this, our way has been a very dark, uncertain and dangerous way. Now, all is changed—for "He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." John viii. 12. It is apparent that a light way will be a safe one; and of this we have an assurance in the words, "I will cause thee to walk by the rivers of water in a STRAIGHT WAY, wherein they SHALL NOT STUMBLE." Jer. xxxi. 9. "Then thou shalt walk in this way SAFELY." Prov. iii. 23. For the Lord shall KEEP THY FOOT from being taken. Prov. iii. 26. The traveller is now under charge of one who "is able to keep you from falling." Jude 24.

In this "Way" we are expected to make progress. Being to us a way which "we have not passed heretofore," Josh. iii. 4, we need a guide. Such has been provided, for "I will instruct thee and *teach thee* in the way which thou shalt go: *I will guide thee with mine eye.*" Ps. xxxii. 8. Not only will He guide, but He assures us that His eyes "run to and fro throughout the whole earth to shew Himself strong" on our behalf. 2 Chron. xvi. 9. Our enemy the Devil represents himself as "going to and fro, and *walking* up and down." Job i. 7. Surely that which runs will reach us ere that which walks can harm. God will ever be ahead of Satan, when any of His children are threatened. We, seeing our danger, cry out in a time of need—and find at once that "HIS EAR IS OPEN to our cry." Ps. xxxiv. 15, and "immediately" Matt. xiv. 31, He is by our side "holding our *right hand* and saying, fear not. I will help thee." Isa. xli. 13. The feeble knees are strengthened as we realize that His

"right hand upholdeth us." Ps. lxiii. 8, and in triumph we shout "Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved." Ps. xvi. 8. In the journey there may be times when the outlook seems discouraging, and Satan also attacks with recollections of the past, but we need not fear. Let us rest in His promise "the Lord will go *before* you; and the God of Israel will be your *renewal*." Isa. lii. 12. Yea, more than this "*Underneath* are the everlasting arms," Deut. xxxiii. 27, and He covers us, "with His feathers and *under His wings* shall we trust," Ps. xci. 4, for has He not said, "*I have covered* thee in the shadow of my hand." Isa. li. 16. It is quite true that we shall be opposed, and threatened. "Our enemy would fain swallow us up, and there be many that fight against us." Ps. xxxvi. 2, but we have the assurance that "NO WEAPON formed against us shall prosper," Isa. xxxiv. 17. therefore "though an host should encamp against me my heart shall not fear, though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident." Ps. xxvii. 3. And what is the basis of this confidence? "The Lord is my salvation." Ps. xxvii. 1. "He is mighty, he will save," Zeph 3: 17; and we know that "the ANGEL OF THE LORD ENCAMPETH round about them that fear Him and delivereth them." Ps. xxxiv. 7. My enemies cannot break through those ranks, for that encampment is rendered doubly secure in the fact that God Himself "will be a WALL OF FIRE round about." Zech. ii. 5. Note this fact, the arch enemy is represented as a Lion and as a Serpent. When travellers encamp in regions infested by Lions they build fire about the camp, and the beasts of prey are kept at bay. Again Serpents will avoid fire and it is said will not even pass over heated ashes. So this wall will hold back Satan, the Lion-Serpent. But it may be argued that fire dies out. Well, let us look at another outer circle, "AS THE MOUNTAINS are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth and forever." Zech. ii. 5. Not the armies of King David, nor the walls of the city. Those have disappeared, or are in decay—but the mountains still remain in their grandeur and stability. So dear fellow-believer, "fear not nor be dismayed." 2 Chron. xx. 18. The body may fall beneath the assaults of wicked men, as did Stephen's, and those of the army of Martyrs, but "fear not them which kill the body, but are NOT ABLE to KILL the SOUL." Matt. x. 28. That is beyond their reach. That soul-life is safe, for "He (Christ) is our life," Col. iii. 4, and that "life is *with* Christ in God." Col. iii. 3. Therefore "let not your heart be troubled." John xiv. 1. He will protect us while we are here, and He has prepared for us, there, where He is, a Mansion, and "He will come again and receive you unto himself; that where He is, we may be also." John xiv. 3. And such a place! No sorrow—no crying—no pain—no darkness—no night—no fear—no want—no hunger—no defilement—no curse—no death. In other words it is the "*kept*" inheritance for the "kept" people.

Thus we find that as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ