

plain and explicit command. He grades the punishment for the offense itself. Notwithstanding the fact that the temptation was most subtle, responsibility in Adam was maintained. It may also be well to observe, that evil was not necessarily in the tree of knowledge of good and evil itself ; but in allowing entrance of the elements of pride and selfishness, and giving these supremacy over the principles of humanity and love of right. Hence the destruction of perfect order in the citadel of the soul, the heart, the seat of the affections, was begun, and death was the result.

But though God's justice was inflexible, and nothing extenuating as regards the carrying out of the law for the offence committed, yet unasked justice was seasoned with mercy, in an open door of restoration to lost favor, in the gift of a new life, under conditions far more exalted than before. We see this in the promise of a new Adam, who was heralded by the name of Wonder-