

says, "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace his goods are in peace, but when a stronger than he shall come upon him and overcome him he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusteth and divideth his spoils;" and again, in Isaiah liii. 12, we have, "Therefore will I divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He hath poured out His soul unto death." "Having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in Himself,—Col. ii. 15; and we find in Ephesians iv. 8-9, "When He ascended up on high, he led a multitude of captives.... Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth." In the garden of Eden the devil obtained dominion over man, and held their spirits in ward in Hades; but the Lord of Glory left His bright abode, He who was rich became poor and took part of flesh and blood in order to die, that he might wrest from Satan the keys of death and Hades and deliver from his power the Old Testament Saints who through fear of death were all their life time subject to bondage. Are Christ's people now subject to bondage through fear of death? "Having a desire to depart and be with Christ which is far better," does not sound like the utterance of one in bondage through fear of death. The triumphant challenge "O! Death, where is thy sting? O! Grave, where is thy victory?" Would not lead one to suppose that the utterer was in bondage through fear of death. No, dear reader, the spirits of the Lord's saved ones go direct to Himself (Hades is no longer for them) into His presence, present with Himself. It is blessed to know that the Old Testament Saints were comforted in