

Israel; It is *as the morning cloud, and as the early dew, that passeth away, as the chaff that is driven with the whirlwind out of the floor, and as the smoke out of the chimney.*

As another alleviation of our grief; let us consider that in all probability it is better for persons, in many instances, to be taken out of this world of sin and trouble in their earlier years, than to be continued in the present life to extreme old age. Youth has commonly more innocence and less trouble than old age, or even the middle stage of life.

In addition to what we have already mentioned, it would be very prudent in us to observe, that the longer our children are spared, the more difficult will it be for us to resign them into the hands of him, who gave them. It is much easier to part from one with whom we have had but a short and slender acquaintance, than from another that has been a long time connected with us, by the dearest ties of friendship, nature and religion. The longer our own lives are spared, the more unwilling are we to die: the longer our children remain in life, the more bitter and afflictive is our task of following them to the dreary mansions of the dead. Supposing the life of your deceased son should (for your gratification) have been lengthened thirty or forty years, yet when that number of years should have expired, do you imagine that it would *then* be easier to resign him, than *now*? would it not be much harder? God knows best at what time to call us and our children to our eternal home—Our duty and our business is to submit to his will and his time; to be ready to obey his call; to be prepared to meet the awful stroke of death, whenever our great creator sends it, and to resign our lives and all our enjoyments into his hands, at such time and in such method as he sees fit; fully persuaded that God knows what is best, and that he will do, what is best. We may repose perfect confidence in him, whose wisdom and justice are infinite, and whose mercy is equal to his wisdom and his justice.

FURTHERMORE we may turn our attention to the

almo
ed c
sorro
pain
the
we s
we f
But
part
strik
sick
us to
" to
" in
the
miser
lance
cour
wisel
conc
cont
L
its jo
ther
time
one
repet
life o
imag
that
we h
that
ing
acco
tho'
tho'
disap
captiv
purfu
up be