

suffer with the people of God, and are content that the distinguishing rewards which he has promised should be withheld until after death.

In meditating further upon this passage, "In the world ye shall have tribulation," let us consider it, in the first place,

AS A PREDICTION.

There are numerous passages of similar import among our Lord's instructions. He informed his disciples that they should be brought before governors and kings for his sake; and the time will come, says He, when whosoever killeth you, will think that he doeth God service. Instead of being in favor with the world, they should be despised and persecuted; instead of being rich in this world's goods, the little which they did possess might be confiscated by a tyrannical government; and instead of living in peace as the harmless and benevolent might be expected to live, they should be driven from city to city, and railed at as the offscouring of the earth.

If we read the Acts of the Apostles, with these statements in view, we shall find it to be a record of persecutions endured by the disciples of Christ. They were arraigned before the high priests and elders, they were imprisoned. Stephen was stoned to death; James was slain by Herod; Peter was bound with chains. They were pursued with unrelenting cruelty by Saul of Tarsus, until when he became a Christian; he was stoned until he was thought to be dead, was imprisoned with Silas at Philippi, was arrested at Jerusalem, and sent a prisoner to Rome, and shipwrecked on his voyage; and he speaks afterwards of much affliction and anguish of heart which he endured,—of afflictions, and necessities, and distresses to which he was called in the service of his Master. Indeed, the early Christians suffered almost incessant persecution for three centuries after the death of Christ; and the history of the Church for ages afterwards is a history of wars waged against it, and of cruelties endured.