

this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven ; and the first voice which I heard was as it were a trumpet talking with me ; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit ; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne." Here we have a continuous description, in several chapters, of the heavenly world, with its arrangements ; and in the 8th chapter, 3d verse, we read, " And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer ; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints, upon the golden altar which was before the throne." Thus we see that the Bible account is, that the scene here described by John was in heaven and the altar under which he saw the souls, was the golden altar of incense which was before the throne, which, we think, does not indicate a suffering condition, but rather a magnificent state of glory, although John seeing them under the altar may be indicative of the nature of the tribulation and suffering through which they passed into that state of bliss ; and they were told to rest yet " a little season," until their brethren were " killed as they were." And how were they killed ? We answer—In their bodies, the man or the woman was killed on the earth ; and so will their brethren here mentioned be killed in like manner in their bodies ; and many have been thus killed as they were since this word was written, and are there now with them that then were killed, awaiting the redemption of their bodies from the grave. And as these souls could not be killed, they are spoken to as the identity or representatives of the bodies whose souls they were, which had been killed. The same as Abraham addressing the rich man as a man who had died. " Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things," implying that he was not now in his lifetime, although in conscious being in soul, but not in body,—the death of the man being a dissolution—the separation of the body and soul—the outward and the inward man. So the souls of Christians, as the identity and