

ones, that Noah and those that were with him, were saved by water. Noah was not saved from depravity, or from guilt, by the water of the deluge ; for he was a righteous man before that event. But he was saved from violent hands, from martyrdom, by the water that drowned the violent men of that age. Whether by inflicting martyrdom, or by inspiring the fear of it, they had dwindled the church down to a single family, and that a small one, containing only eight persons—and these, perhaps, not all truly pious. And the existence of that little church was now exceedingly endangered by farther violence from without, possibly, also, by farther apostacy from within, in every case except that of its veteran preacher of righteousness. God, however, could not, at this crisis, permit any farther threats or deeds of violence. He must preserve the Church : and to do so, he must destroy, by drowning, the world of the ungodly.

Thus the water of the deluge manifested, and executed, the Divine indignation against the persecuting world, and yet saved the church and perpetuated its existence on earth.

Then, he adds, "The like figure whereunto even baptism, doth now save us." Having thought of the reins of the deluge descending on the ark of Noah, and of their design, he discovers a significant resemblance of them in the mode and design of Gospel baptism. His words are as follow, omitting for the present, the parenthesis after the first clause : "Baptism doth now save us by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is gone unto heaven, and is on the right hand of God ; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him." That enthroned Being can prevent these subject angels, authorities, and powers, from carrying their violent opposition so far as to annihilate the church militant in these latter days. And not only can he do so, but by the appointment of baptism, as a like figure or emblematic representation of the water that saved the church in Noah's time, he has pledged himself that he will use his supreme dominion in still preventing the church from being exterminated by persecution. And he will yet use this power as miraculously as he formerly did in Noah's behalf. When the army of Gog and Magog, for the purpose of making a universal martyrdom, shall "compass the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city," fire shall come down from God out of heaven, and devour them. And the devil that deceived them, shall be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, &c.—Rev xx. 9, 10. And inasmuch as baptism pledges