

present it in its most obvious, and only possible meaning. If you reject it, your controversy is with God, and not with us.

We are in the habit of thinking of the plan of salvation as an after-thought—a scheme to remedy an evil which had come in as a surprise to God, and which interrupted His plan, and set back the accomplishment of His purpose. We think of our individual salvation as having its inception when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. But here we find that in the mind of God, it antedates creation. Before the world was called into being, or ever a star sparkled in the heavens, when God was alone in the universe, His first thought was for the saints. He had them all numbered, and knew every one, and they were the objects of His love and choice, before He put forth the first stroke to build the material universe. He “chose us in Him before the foundation of the world.”

And all His after-work was in furtherance of His plan of redemption. It was for that He founded the world, to be the scene of the consummation of His plan for the chosen saints ; and it will never reach its prime purpose till in a coming age the glory of God fills the earth, and the tabernacle of God is with men. Creation and redemption are parts of one great plan.

But some one will say, “What about those who are not chosen?” I have nothing to say ; we must not say more than is written, but only speak of what it has pleased God to reveal. Why God chose you and me and not some others ; or what he saw and foreknew that entered into the decision whom He should elect, I know not, and to try to explain it, would be only idle conjecture. Let us be content to know, and praise Him