

should bruise the serpent's head; that is, should destroy the power of the devil, and open to such as believed in him, the gates of a better and everlasting Paradise.

§ 3. *Of the Descendants of Adam, and the general Corruption of Mankind.* Gen. iv. v. vi.

As Adam and Eve had no children till after their fall, and that were born of them were born in corruption and sin, and subject to the same miseries as they were, and so were all their posterity. The first children of Adam and Eve were Cain and Abel. These being grown up, offered sacrifices to God; who was pleased to shew his acceptance of the sacrifice of Abel, and to have no regard to the offerings of Cain. Upon this, Cain through envy murdered his brother; and his descendants were a very wicked race. About the time of the death of Abel, God gave to Adam another son, whom he called Seth, who was the father of a more godly race. His son Enos, began with solemn worship to call upon the name of the Lord, Gen. iv. 26. Enos was the father of Cainan; Cainan was the father of Malaleel, who was the father of Jared; Jared was the father of Henoch, who walked with God, and was seen no more amongst men, because God took him away: Henoch was the father of Mathusala, who lived nine hundred and sixty-nine years, which was the longest life of any recorded in the scriptures: Mathusala was the father of Lamech, and Lamech was the father of Noe, or Noah. These were the patriarchs who lived before the deluge. The descendants of Seth and Enos, for their piety, were called the sons of God: till, falling in love with women of the wicked race of Cain, and marrying with them, they also were corrupted, and the whole earth was filled with iniquity, and God determined to destroy them all.