

opposing powers called death and hell, Rev. xxi. 4. The Christians' remarkable deliverance out of Jerusalem at the time of the siege was revealed to Paul about fourteen years before it occurred, and it appeared to him mysteriously done, as it were in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, comparatively, at the sound of a trumpet ; and the dead were raised incorruptible, 1 Cor. xv. 51, 52, meaning those in Jerusalem represented as dead by the two witnesses in Rev. xi. 8 ; because they were prevented working any more in that condition, were raised up into a position which is incorruptible ; for Christianity is incorruptible and undefiled and fadeth not away ; and all were changed or raised into a better position at Christ's second coming ; as He said, I will raise them up at the last day, John vi. 40 ; but every man in his own order, Christ the first-fruits, afterward they that were Christ's at His coming, 1 Cor. xv. 23 ; that was the time the rest of the dead lived again, Rev. xx. 5. Then the Lamb received His wife, who had made herself ready during her espousal ; as Paul said, I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ, 2 Cor. xi. 2. For that purpose Christ gave Himself for the church, Eph. v. 26, 27. John had the vision of the Lamb and His bride on Mount Zion, Rev. xiv. That bride, the Lamb's wife, is called the mother of us all, Gal. iv. 26 ; Jerusalem, which is above, is free, which is the mother of us all, Jew and Gentile believers ; said to be above, because of its superiority, and free to all nations, as predicted in Isa. lx. 11, Thy gates shall be opened continually, they shall not be shut day nor night. The gates of the Old Jerusalem were shut by day before the night came. But there is no night in the Christian economy ; it is everlasting day, and no more death, for it is everlasting life. In Rev. xxi. 9, 10, the Lamb's wife, which is the Christian church, is called a city that came down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Coming from God, means of God's establishment. Its magnificence is described by the figures used ; its security and stability is described by a wall great and high, and twelve foundations which were the apostles. But Christ is the chief corner-stone. Its perfection is described as being four-square, and its purity, by the city and the streets of it