World to Come,

OR,

The Kingdome of Christ asserted.
In two Expository

LECTURES

On Ephes. 1.21, 22. verses.

PROOVING

That between the state of this World as now it is, and the state of things after the day of Judgement, when God shall be all in all: There is a world to come, which is of purpose, and in a more especial manner appointed for Jesus Christ to be King, and wherein he shall more eminently Reign.

Preached by Mr. 1ho: Goodwin many yeares fince, at ANTHOLINS, LONDON.

Published for the Truths sake.

DAN. 7. 27. And the Kingdome and dominion, and greatnesse of the Kingdome under the whole heaven, shall be given to the Saints of the most high, whose Kingdome is an everlasting Kingdome, and all Dominions shall serve and obey him.

LONDON, Printed, and are to be sold in Popes-head Alley, and in Westminster Hall, 1655.



THE WORLD TO COME.

The Kingdome of Christ afferted.

In two Expository

LECTURES.

EPHES. 1. 21, 22.

Farre above all principalitie, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come; and hath put all things under his feet.



Hefe words fet forth, and proclaim the supremacy of our Lord and Saviour Jefus Christ over all persons, by what names ortitles soever distinguished, or dignified in all Gods dominions, belonging either to this world, or that

which is to come. I shewed you before what it was, for Christ to sit at Gods right hand, as also how it

was amplified by the fubl mity of the condition and by the quality of the persons, over whom Jesus Christ is set: by Principalities, Might, and Dominions, he would include all forts what loever, as Angels good and bad, and so Migistrates. Now I am to speak of the extent of Christs dominion, and that is in this world, and in the world to come; the great thing to be opened, is, what is meant by the world to come; There are three interpretations given of the words.

z. Sence.

First, it is taken for heaven and earth, this state of the world on earth, & that state of the world in heaven, which are two worlds, only here will be a question, why heaven should be called a world to come, when it is extant now as well as the earth, which is called the present world: To whichit may be answered, that though heaven be a world now that is extant, yet to us poor creatures here below it is a world to come, though it was created at the same time this lower world was, its comfort to Saints that they have a world to come for wicked men come in for the greatest share in this, therefore called men of this world; let them take it, its their world; Saints have a world to come, Luke 18.13. but this doth not seem to be that which the Apostle aimes at here.

2. Sence.

Secondly, this phrase may note the duration of Christs kingdome that it is everlasting; for so in Scripture it is used to expresse eternity, Mat. 12. 32. And therefore Isa. 9.6. which we translate the eternal Father; the Septuagint reads, the Father of the world to come, and so Christs kingdome is said to be for ever and ever; that is, not for one ever but for all evers, the Apostle in Heb. 10. 12. saith, that Christafter he had offe-

red

red one facrifice for finne, for ever fate down at the right hand of God. Now that word for ever doth not relate to Christs sitting at Gods right hand, but rather to the facrifice he offered, who for ever by one facrifice took away finne; for it may be said that there are not Principalities and powers for ever that Christ may fit for ever at Gods right hand; when this world ends, there will be an end of all Principalities, and powers, 1 Cor. 15.24. Then cometh the end, when he shall deliver up the Kingdome to the Father and shall put down all rule, &c. Take notice in what sence Christ hath a kingdome, and fits at Gods right hand for ever, and in what sence he is said to give up this kingdome to the Father. I would clear it by two distinctions.

First, there is a naturall kingdome due to Jesus Christ Distinct. 1. as he is in the God-head, and a naturall inheritance due to him being man, as he is joyned to the God-head: For fo hee inherits the priviledges of that fecond person. which is this naturall Kingdome, which he obtained, and which was due to him by inheritance, Heb. 1.8. To the sonne he said, thy throne O God is for ever and ever: he speaks of his naturall inheritance, though the right be involved in him as he is God, and so he is joyned in commission for ever as God and man with the Father, and so in respect of this naturall dominion of his all things are said to be made by him and for him, Col. 1. 16. Now this naturall right that Jesus Christ hath remains for ever, and accordingly many of those priviledges which are to be understood by his sitting at the right had of God, they likewise must remaine for ever.

As first, a fulnesse of joy; At thy right hand is fulnesse

of joy. Jesus Christ doth enjoy a sulnesse of joy immediately by God himselse.

Secondly, All that personall honour and those glorious abilities which he was filled and crowned with, when he went first to heaven, Heb. 2.9. all these shall remaine to eternity; And they are naturally due to Christ, though they were bestowed on him then when he came to heaven; he is thus in commission with his Father, so farre as naturall rule goes, though in the many sach less than the Father.

in that respect lesse then the Father.

2. The second part of this distinction is, that there is a diffentarory kingdome that Christ bath, and that is, as he is considered as Modiator between God and his Church, which kingdome is given to him, it is not by nature due to him, but as he was the Sonne of God, he was chosen our to exercise that power which in this kingdome is held forth, and this is pointed out by: his fitting at Gods right hand, which God give him as the reward of his obedience, John 5. 22, 23. The Father judgeth no man, but back committed all judgement to the Son; It is committed to Christ, he is that Lord that God hath fet up to do all his bessielle for him visibly and apparantly; and this kingdome is in a speciall manner appropriated to Christ; it is so Christs, as it is not the Fathers, in a more eminent mapner; the Father judgeth no man. To appropriate a work to one person rather then another, is an act of Gods wildome; hence it is that Christ hath his work for a time, and afterwards gives it up to another. till the day of judgement be over Jesus Christ hath the government of the kingdome, and shall reigne; but after the day of judgment, the kingdom is to be given up to the Father, & the reasons why God hath appointed

appointed a time of raigning to Christ.

First, is to draw all mens thoughts to him; that is, that all men might bonour the Sonne, as they bonour the Father. John 5. 22. As for every work there is a seaton, to likewise for every person, wherein they

shall in a speciall manner be more glorious.

Secondly, this was a remard exceeding due to Hous Chris, that he should have a kingdome appropriated to tem for a feafon, that all judgment should be commined to him, and he should draw all mens eyes to him in a more immediate manner, because he vailed himielte in obedience to his Father; therefore the Father to recompence him, he will not appear himfelfe so much in the government; faith he, let my Sonne take it. I will commit all judgement to him; and fee the equity of this, because God will put all things under the feet of Christ, therefore will he againe give up all things to God, and be subject himselfe to him as God-man, 1 Cor. 15. 28. Though Tefus Christ hath this kingdome and means to conquer all his enemies, before he give it up : yet when he is in the height of his dominion, when he is in his full triumph, and hath cleared all the worlds accounts, then will he give up the kingdome to the Father; which may teach us, when we are highest, and most assisted and raised, to fall down and give glory to the Lord; fo Jesus will do when he hath all enemies under his feet, and judged and pronounced sentence upon all, then will he fet up his father, deliverup the kingdome unto him, and he shall become all in all, this will be the last and great folemnity of

This is the first distinction, his natural kingdome, which

19.

which is due to him as man joyned to God, that remains for ever, but there is something of his Mediatory kingdome to be given up.

District: 2. The second district:

The second distiction is this ; This Mediators kingdome it receives a double consideration.

First, Consider Christ as a Mediator for the Church, and so consider him as under imperfection, sinne, or misery, or any other want, till they shall be compleat, or

Secondly, Consider him as he is head to the Church, made compleat, and perfected in all parts & degrees, that I may explain my self: You may call to mind, that when I opened the third and fourth verses, compared with the seventh verse, I told you that in election there were two great designes or contrivements; the one was more principall, and cheif, which I called Gods decree of the end, what Gods designe was to make us, and there it was that God chose us in Christas a head unto absolute glory, which with Christ and in Christ we shall have for ever in the highest that the complex contribution of the end.

Secondly, God designed the way unto this end, and so God was pleased, that he might set off the glory of that perfect state the more; therefore he lets us fall into sin and misery, and suffers our bodies and souls, to be separated, before we shall come to that end which God hath designed us to; To enjoy this Canaan, we must go through a wildernesse to it. Now answerable to this double designe of God, Jesus Christ hath a double relation to his Church, the one as a head simply considered, and so were chosen in him, to that perfect state unto which God hath designed us; Secondly, Christ hath the relation of a Redeemer

deemer and Mediator for us, that as we are fallen into finne, and mifery, and distresse, so he might redeem us and helpe us; now while the Church is in an imperfect state, and hath not all its members, nor they out of all danger neither; though they be in no reall danger, yet they are to give an account of their actions and there is a final sentence to be past upon them; and in that sence, there may be said to be forgiveness of finne in the world to come, and therefore Paul prayes for one, that he may finde mercy at that day; Now while there is any such thing as guilt, or the appearance of it, or any imperfection, and till that finall ientence be past, so long is Jesus Christ a Mediator for us, and so God hath given him all power in heaven and earth, to give eternall life to them that believe: Now folong as Jesus Christ rules in a way of conflict, and as a Conqueror is destroying sinne and death, and all emnity, also raising soule and body, and bringing them together; in this sence the Sripture speaks of his sitting at the right hand of Gad; but when once the finall sentence is past, then this work of the Mediator, his reigning, as to destroy enemies and such like is over, and then Jesus Christ will present us to to his Father, Loe here I am, and the children which thou hast given me; we are now as thou didst look upon us in thy primitive thoughts in election; so he stands in relation to them as a head, there we are confidered as perfect, and the Mediators office is laid down, and God becoms all in all both to Christ and us. I would add a third thing to this, & that is, how Christ is a King, and fits at the right hand of God for ever; when Jesus Christ hath given up this kingdom of his Redeemer-ship unto the Father, yet then he shall sit down

down for ever with this honour, that it was he that did exercise this office, so that there is not a soule lost, nor a sinne unsatisfied for, nor any enemies unsubdued; it is true, he is not a Generall in Warre any longer, but he shall have this honour, that he did all these exployes, brought all these rebels in; so that indeed, & in truth, Jeius Christschall reign more glorioully with the Father after that time of judgement is over, then ever he did before; now he shall raigne triumphantly, whereas before he raigned as one in conflict and conquest. Jesus Christ himselfe will say, that he never was King fo much as he shall be now; Jesus Christ shall ever have the glory of it, that he was that great and gloviou. Dictator, that he subdued all enemies, and delivered up the kingdom peaceably to his Father, and in some sence set the Crown upon his Fathers head, who was as it were in some fence put out of his rule in the world by Saran and wicked men, that did what they lift; and the Saints they lye under fin and misery, and Christ he subdues all these enemies, and presents all these soules to the Father with a peaceable rule and government, and this he enjoys with the Father for eternity; now whereas it is faid, Of his kingdome shall be no end, the meaning is, it shall not be destroyed for ever; its a kingdome that gives way to no kingdome, it shall still be continued, though he himselse give it up to the Father, and become vifibly and apparently more subject then he was before; not in respect of his Godhead, for so he is never subject; nor in respect of his manhood, for so he is always subject; but then Christ shall acknowledge the Father to be the Author of his kingdome, and that he gave him power,

and

and honour, and glory, and then shall he resigne up his Crown to his Father againe from whom he had it; fo much for the second sence of the words.

Now I will adde a third interpretation of these 3. Sence. words (Not only in this world, but in the world to come). but not to exclude the other two I named before, but it shall rather take them in, and that which I shall say is this ; That betweene the state of this world as now it is, and the state of things after the day of Judgment, when God shall be all in all : there is a world to come, which is of purpose, and in a more speciall manner appointed for jes is Christ to be King in, and wherein

be shall more eminently reigne.

God hath appointed a speciall world, on purpose for Jesus Christ, which in Scripture is called a world to come, and Christs world: That as this world was ordained for the first Adam, and given to the sonnes of men: so there is a world to come for the second Adam, even as that time after the day of Judgment, is more eminently; for God when he shall be all in all: So there is a world to come, which is made for Jefus Christ, and which the Angels have nothing to do withall, for it is not subjected unto them, as this world now is. Heb. 2. 5, 6, 7, 8. Unto Angels hath he not put into subjection the world to come, whereof wee speake, but one in a certaine place testifieth, saying, What is man that thou art mindfull of him, &c. Thou madest him lower then the Angels, thou crownedst him with glory and honour, &c. And hath put all things in subjection under his feete: Fut faith hee, Wee see not yet all things put under him, but wee see Jesus Christ, who was made lower then the Angels, crowned with glory and honour, &c.

We see plainly that he speaks there of Jesus Christ: as he doth here in the Text: And what he here in the Ephefians calls sitting at Gods right hand, there he expresseth it to be his crowning with glory and honour; And then likewise for that passage of all things being under the feete of Christ, which is spoken of here in the Ephesians, the Apostle quotes out of Pjalm 8 6. which speaks of Christs dominion, and that sentence is no where found in the Old Testament, but only there, and quoted likewi'e in 1 Cor. 15. 27. all which places relates to Christ: Then againe he calls it a world to come, in Heb. 2. that is ordained for this man, and he doth the like here in the Text; therefore these places compared together, we see how they agree. 1 Cor. 15. 25. He faith, Christ must reign till be bath put all things under his feet, which he quotes out of Pfalm 1:10.1 So that thele places before named, they are all parallel places with the Text, and there is another place parallel with it, 2 Pet. 2. 7. compared with the 13. verf. The Leavens and earth which are now by the same word, are kept in siore and reserved to fire against the day of judgement. And at the 13. verse, in opposition to the heavens and earth which are now, he saith, We according to his promise looke for new heavens, and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousnesse; that is, we look for a world to come, wherein righteousnesse dwels : and that these places hold forth the same thing, appeares by this, that when he had alledged there was to be a new heaven, and a new earth, that is, a world to come: At the 15. verse, he quotes Paul, that he had written to them of these things, and that was in his Epistle to the Hebrems: For it's the best argument to prove that Paul wrote

wrote the Epistle to the Hebrewes; Hee hath written to you, saith he, of this new world, and that was in Heb. 2. there hee wrote of this new World: So likewife unto this give all the Prophets witnesse, in Acts 2. And therefore I am not ashamed to give witnesse to it too, Rev. 5. 10. When they faw Christ once take the booke, and was installed King, what do their thoughts presently run out too? it is to the World to come. He hath made us Kings and Priests, and we shall reigne on earth: To be fure at the day of Judgment they shall, which shall certainly be a long day, when all the accounts in the world shall be certainly rip't up, and the world shall be new hung against the approach of their new King, and the glory of the creatures then wil put down the glory of this old world. We see then how this place to the Ephesians, and that in Heb. 2. how parallel they are: Now I would have you confider likewise the scope of the 8 Pfalm, as the Apostle brings it to prove this new World: And indeed any one that reads that Pfalm, would think the Pfalmist doth but set out old Adam in his Kingdome in Paradise, who was made in his nature a little lower then the Angels; One would thinke that were all the meaning, and that the Apostle applies it to Christ only by way of allusion : but the truth is, the Apostle brings it to prove, and to convince these Hebrews, that that Psalm was meant of the Meffish whom they expected; faith he, One in a er taine place bath testified : Hee bringsit as an expresse proof and testimony that it was meant of Christ, and was not an allusion only. Now the scope is this, as you read in Rom. 5. 13. that Adam was a type of him that was to come, namely Christ: So in the 8. Psalne.

you read there Adams world is the type of a world to come. The first Adam had his world where there was sheep, and oxen, and fowles of the ayre: Now whereas it is layd in the Pfalm, that all things were under his feet, it is not meant of man in innocency, but of the Messiah, Christ and his world, which is made of purpose for him, as the other world was for Adam; That it was not meant of man in innocency properly and principally, appears,

First, because it's sayd, Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength: There was no babes and sucklings in Adams time, he fell be-

fore there was any. Secondly, it's faid was to still the enemie & avenger: But the Devill was not stilled by Adam, he overcame him; therefore it must be meant of another that should still this enemie: How excellent (saith the Psalmist) is thy name in all the earth, speaking of this world. Adam he had a Paradife, but he never propagated Gods name in all the earth, much lesse did he found it in the heavens.

Again, Adam, though man, yet he was not the fon of man, but called the sonne of God, he came not of

Againe, take the argument the Apostle useth; faith he, this man must have all subject to him, all but God; he must have Angels subject to him, for be hath put all things in subjection under his feet: This could not be Adam, no not in the state of innocency; but it's true of Jesus Christ, Angels and all were under his feet.

2. As it is not ment of man in innocency, so it cannot be meant of man fallen neither, that is as playn as the other. The Apostle himselse saith, that we see not all things subject to him. Some think that is an objection the Apostle answers, but indeed it's a proof to prove that man fallen cannot be meant, for we do not fee all things subject to him: You have not any one man of the whole race of man-kind to whom all things are subject; take all the Monarchs of the world, there was never any man that was a finner that had all subject to him, therefore it is not meant of man fallen : but faith he, We see Jesus crowned with glory and honour, and therefore it's this man, and no man else that is there spoken of : And then againe, take notice, that it is not an Angel to whom all shall be subject, but plainly man that is made a little while lower then the Angels, but then crowned

with glory and honour.

And it is not only this world that shall be in subjection to this man, but it is a world to come : For faith he, We see not yet all things under his feet, but we see fesus Christ crowned with glory and honour: Therefore it is not this world, but there will be a world that shall be in subjection unto Christ, when all things shall be under his feete : And it is that which the 8. Pfalm fpeaks of; besides Christ interprets this Psalm of himselfe, Mat. 21. 16. when as they cryed Hosanna. and made him the Saviour of the world, the Pharifees wereangry at it: and our Saviour confutes them out of this Pfalm, Know you not, or have you not read, that out of the mouths of babes and sucklings he hathordained praise, quoting this Psalm to speak of himfelfe; what the meaning is, I refer to what Mr. Mead hath written upon the 8. Pfalm, he interprets it of that man Christ principally, that was but a babe, by

-3,

held

whom God would stil the enemie, it is therefore Jesus Christ to whom only all things are subject, & shal be put under his feet: He is the sole manwhom the Pfalmist and Apostle means, that hath a world to come, ordained for him, as the first Adam had a world made for him, so shall Jesus Christ the second Adam have a world to come made for him, this world was not good enough. When I considered (faith he) thy heavens, the work-manship of thy hands. Jesus Christ hath abetter world, a better heaven and earth then Adam had: A new heaven and a new earth, according to his promise, when the Saints shall reign: This world be hathnot subjected to Angels, none of those Principalities and Powers rule there: As there are two Adams, and the one was the type of the other, fo there are two Covenants, the Law and the Gospel; the Angels, they by nature were above the world, and all things in it, and the Law was their Covenant, they were the deliverers and declarers of it, the Law was given by Angels.

There's a second Covenant, which is the Gospel, ond that declares and speaks of this second world made for Christ: Now the Angels, God hath not used them to preach the Gospel, they do not meddle with it, that worke is not carryed on by them; but God hath appointed men to do it, who were babes, and sucklings; out of their mouth hath he ordained strength, to begin to create this new world, but then why is it a world to come & If we speak of it as the Gospel beginning of it; because as the other world was 6. days in making, the work went on by degrees, so will it be in this new world: and we are now but at the first dayes worke, the perfecting of it is to come.

Therefore

Therefore the Kingdome of heaven is fayd to be like to a grain of mustard seed, which is the least of all seeds, but grows to a great bignesse by degrees: The Apostle calls conversion a delivering of us from this present evill world; there is the first days work, and God will never leave till he hath perfected this world: and because the persection of it was to be afterwards, therefore it was fayd to be A world to come: And as the first world had a seventh day for the celebration of the Creation in it, so hath the new world a Lords day, a Rest, of which hee speaks in Hebr. 4. Now this world, when it is finished, it shall not be subject to Angels, but to Christ, and his babes and fucklings, to the man Christ Jesus for whom it was made, and to the Saints who shall be the Citizens of this world; as they fuffer with him, fo they shall reigne with him. Wee do not read that the Angels at the day of Judgement, shall sit upon thrones of Judgement: But it's fayd of Saints, that they shall six upon thrones, Mat 19. 20. and so in Rev. 20. And so likewise Christ promiseth to give the government of tenn Cities to him that had ten Talents. and improved them; and five Cities to him that had five Talents. The Devils shall be shut up; and if they begone, there needs not the Principalites of good Angels to oppose them. That which good Angels do to the Saints in this present stare below, that office and worke shall the Saints that arise from the dead perform unto the Saints that shall remaine a-. live in that world to come. For it is now fuch as have part in the first Resurrection that shall have to do in that world, and not Angels, and it's no abfurdity neither: And if Angels which have alwayes beheld the face of the Father (as Christ saith of them) yet have they beene busied and employed about things below, why may not Saints be so too? It will be an honour rather to them: Thou hast made us Kings and Priests, and we shall reigne on earth: It is true, the Angels shall gather the Elect from all the corners of the world, and they are Executioners to throw men to hell: but they that are the Principalities and powers of this voorld to come, they are men that shall judge the Angels, and then shall Christs Kingdome be at it's height; and when that is ended, the Kingdomshall be given up to the Father.

Kingdomshall be given up to the Father. First of all, take notice, that here is two worlds for you that looke for happinesse: Me-thinks you should be satisfied with the expectation of this. Alexander wept before he had halfe conquered this world, that there were no more for him to conquer; out of a supposition, when he had conquered all, what hee should do afterwards: If thou hadst the same desire, thou needst not care for this world; for there is another world, as there are things present, so the comfort is, there are things to come. Care not for this world, it is old Adams world, it brings oft times much losse to Saints, it's well if thou can't get handfomely rid of it, with little finning; It is called a present evillworld. It was all Christ desired for his Difciples, John 17. Not that they might be taken out of the world, but kept from the evill of it : But there is a world to come, which Abraham and all Believers are Heyres of; for they were not only heyrs of canaan, but it is expreily fayd in Rom. 4.13. that they were Heyres of the world.

Secondly,

Secondly, Admire wee this man, Christ Jesus, whom Use 2. God bath thus advanced and fet up, and hath made a world of purpose for him, peculiarly for him and his to enjoy, and for him and his (as under him) to rule and govern: That he that was the scorn and derision of men (for fo Christ was when here below) that God should raise him up, and set him at his own right hand, and subject all Principalities and powers unto him, and use him in all that great businesse of judging the world, If this had been spoken of God, it had been no wonder, for all Nations of the earth are but as the drop of the bucket to him ; but to heare it spoken ofman, who is but a drop of that bucket, that this babe or fuckling should still Satan, subdue Angels, have them all under him : O how excellent is thy name in all the earth! This made the Pfalmist admire. What is man that thou visitest him? Visiting is some? times put for visiting in anger, as in Pfalm 59.9. So God visited Christ at first; and when that was done, he visited him with favour; hee takes that broken shattered man and raiseth him up, to crown him with glory and honour: What is man: He speaks of the nature of man, as being united to the God head. What is this babe, this fuckling, that thou shouldst raile him up to such an height? All this concerns us, for the Pfalmitt calls him the Lord our God; how. excellent will his name be one day in all the earth. This will Iwallow up the thoughts of man and Angels to eternity. Now put all together, and here is the most glorious appearance of a Kingdome that ever eyes beheld; more by farre than all the Kingdoms of the world that Satan shewed our Saviour, take but what this Chapter holds forth of it. First,

First, here's a father of glory mentioned, vers. 17. For as God is the fountain of glory, fo himself is the father of it. This father hath an eldest sonne whom he made a man, and visited him as you have heard, and set him in the Throne at his owne right hand: There is your King; and to fet out the glory of this King, he hath Nobles under him, as Principalities, and Powers, and Mights, and Dominions, he hath them. allunder his feet; Those that are his Friends, they fall down and worship him, they throw down their Crowns before him; and for those that are his enemies, hee hath the most glorious conquest over them; he sits and makes them his foot stoole, that he may sit the easier: And for Satan that great Devill, Jesus Christ triumphs so over him, that he makes his children fet their feet upon his neck, here is the highest exaltation that ever was; What can be added to make Christ Jesus more glorious? one would thinke hee hath enough? He is a King over a whole world, is advanced in the highest Throne, he hath the highest power, all is under his feet; what is there more to be added? Look upon Adam, who was the type of Christ, he had a world about him, he had a Paradice, a Court which was peculiarly his, as the King of the world (if he had stood) he was the father of our nature; what wanted this man? he wanted a wife, a helper, God himselfe saith so, all this was in a type. This man Christ Jesus, we heare of his advancement, Far above all Principalities and powers. Here is a father of glory, and a sonne set in glory, and he hath glorious Nobility enough : But where is the Queen? what faith the words following; He hath given him over all to le the head of the Church, above all privileds

ges else: He counteth this the highest and chiefest flowr in the Crown, that he is a head to the Church, who is his body, and the fulnesse of him that filleth all in all; as if our Lord and Saviour should have said. though I have all this honour, and am thus full, yet it I have not a body, a Church, I want my fulnesse; for the Church is the fulnesse of him that filleth all; therefore above all hath God given this to him to be a head to his Church, Christ hath all else under his feet : but come up, saith he to the Church, and fit on my right hand, Plal 45. As I fit at my Fathers right hand, and as I fit down in my Fathers throne, you shall sit downe with mee in my Throne. And though all things else be under my feet, I will have my Church, my body, fit on my right hand, for she is my fulness. (My brethren) Jesus Christ delights more in love then in power; Though he be a King, and hath all power committed to him, yet that doth no whit abate his love, he takes care that his Church shall share with him in his glory and greatnesse: Ob what is man that thou art mindfull of him! the Lord Christ and the Church made up that man.

) 2

THE



THE WORLD TO COME.

The Kingdome of Christ afferted.

The fecond Sermon.

EPHES. 1. 21, 22.

Not onely in this world, but in that which is to come; and bath put all things under his feete.



HE last time my work was to shew you, that between this world as now it is, and the state of things after the day of Judgment, when God shall be all in all; that there is a state which the Scripture calls a world to come,

which is of purpose, and in a more special manner appointed for Jesus Christ to be King, when he shall have all things put under his feet. I quoted divers places to make it good, especially that in the eighth

Psalm, and the 2d of the Hebrews; At the 5. verse of Heb. 2. I found it was the Apostles scope to prove that the Pfalmist had prophecyed of a world to come ordained for Christ: and he proves it by this, that he was to have a world, wherein hee was to have all things subject to him, which was but the same thing that follows here in the text: And faith he, though we now fee Christ crowned with glory and honour, ver. 8. which is all one with fitting at the right hand of God : Yet, faith he, We fee not all things put under him; therefore it proves that there is a world to come, wherein all things shall be subject to Christ. Now then, finding in the Text mention of a worla to come, wherein Christ hath his Kingdome over all, and all things is under his feet 3 and which in the judgment of most Interpreters, is taken out of the 8. Pfalm, no ratioall man could imagine ; but in the same sense that the world to come is taken, in Heb. 2. it must be taken here in the Ephofians. I spent time the last day to prove that the Son of Man prophecyed of in the 8. Pfalm, that was to have all things under his feet, was Jesus Christ: Now I shall speak of this, that he hath a world to come ordained for him, and I shall expresse my selfe in these two heads.

First, that the world to come, mentioned in Hebr. 2.5. wherein Christ is to have all things under his feet, it is not this world that now is, or meerly the government that Christ now hath; nor it is not the world or state that shall be after the day of Judgement, and yet it is said to be a world to come.

And secondly, I shall in a few words shew what I thinke is meant by that world to come, and see the severall steps and degrees of its growing up to perfection

perfection, I shall speake a little to these two things to cleare up what I delivered the last day, because I sear I was not well understood in what I said, and I shall do it with as much brevity as I can.

First of all, That the world to come mentioned in Heb. 2.5. and prophecyed of in the 8. Plalm, that it is not the world that now is, that is playn; for the Apostle distinguisheth the world that now is, from that world to come : By this (faith he) we do not now fee all things Subject to him, and it is the argument by which he proves there multineeds be a world to come that must be subject to Christ, Heb. 2. 8. Wee see not all things now put under his feete, which implies that there is a world to come wherein this is to be fulfilled; take this world now as it is in its ruffe, and it falls farre short of that world to come, wherein all things are to be subject to Christ, for that is not grown to perfection; we see Jesus now only Crowned, but we see not all things subject to him; it's true, this world to come is begun, but is not come to its perfection.

Secondly, I shall prove, that it is not the state of the world after the day of Judgement, and that I shall prove-likewise out of Heb. 2. compared with this place.

My first reason to prove that the world to come ordayned for Christ, is not that world after the day of Judgement: I meane it is not that state then, because this world to come here spoken of which is for Christ, Adams world was the type of. Now looke into Rom. 8. 19, 20, 20, 22. He shewes you there, that Adims world, that is this very world vyherein nowy yvee are, vyhich is the type of that world to come; hee tels you there, that this world that now is, the creatures in it they groane for the manifestation of the

fons-

fons of God; for faith he, the creature was made subjest to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him that. bath subjected the same in hope; for we know that the whole creation groaneth, &c. Wee may in these words plainly scethat there is a world to come, which is not that world or state of things after the day of Judgment: For what will become of these creatures then. no man can tel, but it is this very individual Creation wherein we live, that groanes for restitution, and the restitution of it is a world to come, as the present corruption and bondage of it, is this world; then look into the 8. Pfalm, which is Christs world typed out, it is fayd, that heaven and earth, the moone and starres, the sheepe and oxen, the fowls and fish, &c. they are all Sayd to be subject to him. This cannot be meant after the day of Judgment, for there is nothing after that. which heaven and earth, the fun, moon, and stars, the sheep and oxen, &c. should fignifie and typifie; so that the world to come is a State which is between the state of this world, which is yet in its Ruffe, and height, and that state which is after the day of Judgment.

A second reason for it is this; When this world to come shall come, and Christ shall have all subject to him: Now after this subject on of all things to him, then shall he deliver up the kingdome to his father, namely after the day of Judgment is over: This is playn in 1 Cor. 15. 24, 25. When Jesus Christ is fully in possession of this world to come, that all things are subject to him, then shall the sonne also himselfe be subject to him, that put all things under him, so that this world of Christs shall cease after the day of Judgment is over, for then cometh the end.

Thirdly

Thirdly, out of the words of the Text, you have this world and the world to come, wherein there are Principalities, Powers, Mights, and Dominions: Now after the day of Judgement there will be no Principalities, and Mights, and Dominions; that is plain in 1 Cor. 15. 24. He shall deliver up the Kingdome to his Father, when he shall have put down all rule, and power, and authority; so that the world to come the Apostle speaks of, wherein Christ is actually to have all things under his feet, it is not that time or state of things after the day of Judgement is ended, nor is it this world or the state of things now: so much for the sirst generall head.

Now I would a little explaine what is meant by this world to come, and that but in few words. I would first shew why it is called a world, and then why a world to come, and the severall degrees and countings on of this world, and when it is at its perfection, and when it shall cease.

First, why is it called a world? (my brethren) you must know this; that as God made this world for Adam, and put all things under him, though not under his feet, for God appointed a world for the second Adam Jesus Christ, and Adams world was but a type of this world, Rom. 5. 13. its said Adam was the type of him that was to come, answerably this old Adams world which now good Angels, and bad Angels, and sinfull men rule, it is but the shadow of that world which is to come, prophesied of in the 8. Psalme, and mentioned in Heb. 2.

Yea let me add this, that God doth take the same world that was Adams, and makes it new and glorious; this same creation groans for this new world, this new E

cloathing; as we groan to be cloathed upon, so doth this whole creation, even as God takes the same subfrance of mans nature, and engrafts grace upon it, fo he takes the same world, and makes it a new world, w world to come. For the second Adam, for the substance, the same world shall be restored which was lost in Adam; this God will do before he hath done with it, and this restitution of it is the world to come.

Now then, why is it called A world to come? It is called so, though the foundation of it be now laid, and was laid then, when our Lord and Saviour was upon earth, the foundation of it is laid in the new creature. As the first creation began the old world, fo this new creature begins the new world; and as the old world was fix days in making, so this new world is not perfected at once: the new creature that is in your hearts, it is but the beginning of it.

Mark in Heb. 2. how this new world is begun, and but begun, and when it began; Ver. 2. If the word spoken by Angels was steadfast, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation, which at first began to be spoken of by our Lord, and was confirmed to us by them that heard him, God also bearing them witnesse, &c. For unto ingels hath he not put into subjection the world to come. whereof we speak; its plaine, hee speaks before of the preaching of the Gospel, which was begun to be preached by Christ; and though the Angels delivered the Law, yet this Gospel which is the Kingdome of Heaven, and the beginning of the world to come, whereof we now speak; this Gospel was not delivered by Angels, this world to come was not subjected to them, they preached it not, neither shall they have

to do in that world, which the Gospel begins; so that you see this world to come began when Christ began to preach, and therefore observe the language of the Golpel; Repent, faith John the Baptist, for the king. dingdome of Heaven is at hand; the world to come is coming upon you; so our Saviour, Mark 1. 11. Mat. 16. 28. There be some standing here that shall not dye, faith Christ, and yet all were dead that stood there long ago; they shall not dye (saith he) till they see tha

Sonne of man come in his Kingdome.

The foundation of this world was laid by Christ in bringing in the Gospel, and it was he that was Prophesied of in Dan. 2. 44. In the dayes of these Kings (whiles Principalites and Powers were standing, he that meant to raigne in the world, came stealing in upon it) In the dayes of these Kings shall the God of Heaven set up a Kingdome that shall never be destroyed. &c. This new world began in the flourishing and height of the Roman Monarchie: what did Christ when he came into the world, and afterwards went up to Heaven? he began this world, before that time the Devill was worshipped as the God of this world, in all parts of it; Christ he flings him downe, Luke 10.17, 18. I saw Satan fall down like lightning. Christ destroyed the Devil in all those heathen Oracles whereby people were deceived; when heathenisme did not prevaile, then did Jewisme shew it selfe, and Christ he throws that down too, by the preaching of the Gospel, the Apostle cals this a shaking of the earth: There was a great deal of the old world gone presently, and fell down before this new world: Jefus Christ he converted by the Apostles millions of foules over all the world, in 2 Cor. 5.17. Conversion

is there expressed by the passing away of old things; this is the first dayes work, for the world is yet to come; this is but a delivering us out of this present evill world, and not a subjecting of it to Christ, as in Gal. 1. 4. When Christ threw down heathenisme, and Jewisme, it was but the first dayes work, like a new naile that being strucken in, puts out the old one by degrees. This kingdome of Christs shall break in peeces and consume all other kingdomes, Dan. 2. 44. this will eat out all the Monarchies, and glory of the world.

Now after this first days work of throwing down heathenisme and Jewisine, then came a night of Popery web was set up in the room thereof: what will Christ do before he hath done? he will have a second days work, and will not cease till he hath thrown down every ragg, all that drosse and defilement that Antichrist and Popery brought into the world: We now are under the second days work, we are working up still to a purer world; it is fill this new world, working up to its perfection; and Jesus Christ will never rest, till he hath not onely thrown out all the drosse of this world, both of doctrine and worship which conformity to the world hath brought in.

But for a second degree of this work, Jesus Christ will not rest, till he hath brought in the generality of men in the world to be subject to himselfe; the world (according to Scripture account) consists of Jews and Gentiles; and how bitterly doth the Apostle complaine in his time, of Gods cutting off the Jewes, the generality of the Nation was cast off: and for the Gentiles, saith he, Who hath beleived our report

report. There was very few of them in comparison that did come in to Christ; but there will come a time, when this new world shall have a further perfection, when the generality of mankinde, Jewand Gentile, shall come into Christ: The world was made for Christ, and he will have it before he have done, Rom. 11.26. All Ifrael shall be faved. There he tels us of anew world of the Jewes, and for the Gentiles; he tels you, They shall be cast in, the vaile shall be taken from off all nations, Isa. 25 7. And that which is to much aleadged for unity, shall one day be fulfilled, but it will be when Christis Lord of all the earth, and not till then; Christians will not agree till then, here will be a brave world indeed, that will be another degree of that world to come: One shepheard and one sheepfold of Jewes and Gentiles, and that as large as all the world, John 10.16. This was never yet fulfilled, Jewes and Gentiles, were never yet one sheepfold together, but they shall be so one day: Read the Prophets, and you shall read there of strange things, of glorious times, that shall be here upon earth, of all Nations coming into the Church, the mountains of the Lords house, being set on the top of the mountains, and all Nations flowing unto it, and of great prosperity they shall have, which was never yet fulfilled; and there are many fall in and acknowledge thus much, that there shall be a glorious church on earth, when the Jews (hall be called: but there is a third thing which is much controverted, which here followeth.

The third degree of this new world is this, that when this glorious time comes that Jesus Christ, as we have said, will call home both Jews and Gentiles, and have a new world, in respect of the multitudes that shall come into him; Christ will also make this new world more compleat, he will bring part of Heaven down too, to add to the glory of this state. I shall breifly give you some grounds for what I say, fuch as for this twenty yeares I have not known vvell hovy to answer.

I do not fay that Christ himselfe shall come down from Heaven to reign here on earth; but let it be understood that Christ shall still remaine in Heaven, and there to be his Court, where he shall reign both ever this world, and the world to come; Yet this I conceive, that part of Heaven shall come down and rule this new world, to make the glory of it the more compleat; and that it may clearly put down old Adams world; my reasons and grounds which satisfies

me in this are thefe.

If this be not so, I do not know how to understand that place which shall be the foundation of the rest, in Rev. 20. the whole Capter; but specially the five first verses, you shall finde, and such as know that Book, they do acknowledge as much, that in the Chapter going before, both Pope and Turke is dettroyed : In Chap. 19. Ver. 20. it is said there, The Beast was taken, and with him the false Prophet, that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the marke of the Beast, and them which worshipped his Image, these both were cast alive into the lake of fire, burning with brimstone. Here we see the Beast and the salse Prophet is gone, where is the Devill? he is left still; therefore in the beginning of the 20. Chapter, he tels us, what becomes of the Dewill: I saw an Angell come down from Heaven, having

the key of the bottom!esse pit, and a great chain in his hand, and he laid hold on the Devill, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bostomleffe pit, and flut him up, set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the Nations. no more, till the thousand years were ended. The Devill, though now he travell the Eirth up and down, and is ruler over the world, yet here he is kept up, that he may not deceive the Nations: This was never yet fulfilled, it could not be fulfilled, during the times of Antichrist; for the D vill never deceived the creatures more then he did in that time; and we fee how it follows in order, after the Beaft is taken. and destroyed, then is Sathan bound up : but we know the Beast is not yet destroyed, therefore this thing is not yet come, and it cannot be after the day. of Judgement, his binding up, for he is after his binding to be loofned a little leafon: and you shall finde that after Satan is let loofe a littlewhile, then the day of Judgement follows, when all the dead shall rife and be Judged, as in the 11, 12, 13. Verses.

Now take notice, that when the Devill is gone and thus thut up for a thousand years, what ther's done in these thousand years, of that we read in the 4, 5, 6, 7. Verles, And I Jaw Thrones, and they fate upon them, and Judgement was given unto them; Who are they that have this Judgement given unto them? What is meant by Judgement, but reigning, and Authority, that such shall have. And I faw the soules of them that were beheaded for the witnesse of Jesus, and the word of God (which were the Martyrs in the Primitive times, under the Roman Emperors persecution) and (faith he) which had not worshipped the Beast, neither had received his marke on their foreheads, or in their hands.

hands, which were such as had stood it out in the times of Antichrist, and had not desiled themselves. They lived (saith he) and reigned with Christ a thousand years, but the rest of the dead lived not againe until the thousand years were sinished, this is the first resurrection: Now it is said by some, that the first resurrection is a spiritual resurrection, of mens souls from the death of sinne, such interpretations are commonly put upon it: Now I desire you would consider with your selves a little, and weigh the place.

First of all it is the body of men that are said to be dead, that is plaine, for they are said to be beheaded, or flaine with the fword, for the witnesse of Jesus. It cannot be said so of the soule, that it's beheaded or slaine with the sword. And as the death is, such must be the resurrection, but their death was a naturall death, and their resurrection must be answerable. And faith he, They lived and reigned with Christ athousand years. This is not meant the glory of heaven, that reigned with Christ onely there for so they shall reigne for ever with him, and so they had reigned from the first time that they were slain, they were with Christ in glory; but this reigning is upon their rifing from the dead, for saith he, The rest of the dead lived not againe; therefore this rising of theirs is a living againe; This (faith he) is the first resurrection. Now (my brethren) consider further, where doe these reigne? It seemes it is on earth by this argument, because why else is the Devill bound up, he need not be bound up for their reigning in Heaven; but we see here as a preparation to their reigning, the Devil is bound: this is a place I could urge multitude of things out off, but I must not en-

large; I know not likewise how to answer another place, Rev. 5. 10. where we have the the Saints in Johns time, laying, Thou hast made us Kings and Preists, and we shall reigne on earth : They do not fay, vve do reign, but we shall reign on earth, and then joyne with that what is faid in 2 Pet. 3.13. We according to his promise looke for new heavens, and a new earth, &c. We Apostles, we Saints that live now, we look for it; how prove you that? because the use he makes of it shews as much, as in ver. 14. Wherefore beloved feeing you looke for such things, be deligent that you may be found of him in peace, without | pot, and blameless. It could be no argument to them in those times to be holy, and blamelesse: If they that lived in those times might not personally look for it; and what was it which according to his promise the Saints then looked for? it is for a new heaven and a new earth. If we take heaven properly, there is new heavens to be made, but the old heavens shall continue which was made from the foundation of the world, and where we shall ever be with Christ after the day of judgment: And how is there a new earth? It shall be an earth wherein righteousness dwels; because as I said, it will be a new world, subject to Jesus Christ, when the new Jerusalem comes down from heaven; if you aske me what the Saints that rife from the dead shall do here in this new world: For that I shall give you such considerations as shall take off the absurdicy that seems to be in the thing.

First, to tell you what they shall not do; They shall not eate and drinke, nor marry, and give in marriage: So Christ tels us in Mat. 22.30. The childr n of the resurretion do none of these things: And therefore to imagine F a Turkish

large

a Turkish heaven here below, is the absurdity that hath been put upon it, and which indeed made the Fathers, many of them, after the first 200, years after Christ, to flye out so much against this subject; for there was an opinion then, that Christ should reign at ferusalem, and that they thould abound in all severall pleasures and delights, &c. and this the Fathers were against. I have told you what they do not; I will tell you what they do: he tels us, as I sayd before, that they shall be Kings and Priefts, as in Rev. 20, 6. El sed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurre-Clion; why? on such (faith he) the second death hath no vower; they are out of all danger of it, being in a celestial state: Iut (saith he) they shall be Priests of God. and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand yeares; here is both their reigning and their Priesthood set. out, I would open it a little. First, they shall be Kings; You heard before out of Heb. 2. 5. That bee hath not vut this world to come in subjection to Angels: The Angels now, they are the Thrones, and Principalities, and great ones that rules this present world, but the Sainis shall be Kings then: And for them to take the Angels places, to be as the Angels now are after their refurrection, there is no absurdity in it : Christ saith, after the refurrection, the Saints they shall be as the Angels of God, & they shall be Priests likewise. I shall take off what absurdity there may seem to be in that by this: Our Saviour when he took up his body out of the grave, he continued forty dayes upon the earth; What did Christ do all that while? It is playne, he performed the part of a Priest and Prophet; he did instruct them in the worship of God, and speaking to them of things percayning to the Kingdome of God. God, so you read expresly in Ade t. the Apostles had a brave Teacher, Christ rifen from the dead; to he began that new world, and he remained forty dayes: here of purpose to do it : Now consider, is it any abfurdity for the Saints to be conformed to Christ their Lord and head, to run through the same states that he did? he lived in this world, was poore and miscrable, so are you; when he dved, he commended his spirit into the hands of his Father; and whether his foul went, our fouls goe: So likewise when he took his body again out of the grave, he remained forty dayes upon earth, instructing his Disciples in the things concerning the Kingdome of God : It the Saints do so when they take up their bodies againe, in all this here is but a conformity to Christ. he ascended then up to heaven, and so shall his, and be for ever with the Lord.

But the great objection is, That the soules of men that are now in heaven, and see the face of God, for them to come downe and reign on earth, and do such tervice here below, it would be a disadvantage to them, or changing a better estate for a worse, which seemes to be a great absurge.

dity.

For answer, consider to take off the absurdity that even this State I speak of will be a better State then what their soules are now possessed of, for otherwise our Lord and Saviour. I sous GHR 1 ST when his body and soule was united againe at his resurrection, was not in a bester state againe his soule was in after death, when it was seperated from his body. Certainly his state after his resurrection, whilst upon earth, was better then his state before his resurrection; but you will say, they

are now in heaven, where they behold the face of Godasthe Angels do, which they may loofe by coming here upon earth; that doth not follow, for the Angels came down here below, and yet Christ saith. they alwayes behold the face of their father, so may these Saints on earth behold the face of God. Stephen, though a mortall man, yet the heavens were opened to him: He saw the glory of God, and Jesus sitting at the right hand of his Father. My brethren, God hath eternity of time to reveale himselfe to his people in : and he doth advance his Favourites by degrees. First, he glorifies their souls apart; after when foul and body is united, it's in a better condition, fimply considered, then the soule had before, how many wayes God hath to manifest himselfe to his Saints, & how many degrees they shall pass through. and how many worlds he will have to do it in, that is known to himself, however the more the better. If God shall lead you by degrees through this and that glory, from one to another, it will be to your advantage. As in a Masque there are several shews, which adds to the excellency of it, God hath eternity of time to make all these shewes and representations of himselse to his children : And let mee adde this. that the will that he fulfilled, which is prayed for in that we call the Lords prayer, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. There is a time when the will of God shall be done on earth; as compleatly as in heaven, which is in that time of the first resurrection: My brethren, I have spoken these things, as that which hath a great shew of truth in it, and as that which is exceeding probable. I have told you my grounds for it, which I could never answer my self. Now

Now there is a fourth degree of this world to come, and that I am fure will hold, and that is that time du. ring the day of judgment, strictly so taken, after the generall refurrection both of just and unjust ! Then to honour this New World, not only shall the Saints come down, but Jesus Christ himself will come down and abide a long day here below: Therefore it is not absurdity for Saints to leave heaven, when Christ himself shall do it; neither will it diminish any thing from Christs happinesse, for he will come and bring all his glory with him. That we call the day of judgment will be a long day, judg you your felves whether it will be foor no: Do you think that the ac. compts of all the world can be cast up in the twink. ling of an eye? Doth not Solomon say expresly, That God will bring every worke to judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil, in Ecclef. 12. And doth not the Apostle say in 1 cor. 4. 5. That when the Lord comes, he will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the heart, Will not this require much time? furely it will be a long day, when our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ will do that great work or service to God, the greatest that ever was, more then all his preaching, which is the examining the accounts of all the world, convincing all man-kind of their evill, and fending them speechless to Hell. Things shall be so there, that the Saints shall beable to judg the world too, according to that in 1 Cor. 6.2.

Now here this new world will be in its height and perfection, here is Christ and all his Saints and Angels about him: Yet not that this world shall be subject to Angels, but they shall gather all the Nations

tions together, and shall execute the sentence that Christ pronounceth against them, and fling them all to Hell: but the Angels shall not sit as Judges, they shall stand and not sit, whereas the Saints are sayd to fit upon 12. Thrones, and they are faid likewifein 1 Cor. 6. To judge Angels: And now shall this world to come be at its perfection; that creature that hath groaned under mans lusts, shall then be fully restored to the glorious liberty of the fons of God, the world will then be new hung; This is Christs world to come, wherein he shall have all things subject to him. For at this time shall all things be under Christs feet. and never till then; for the last enemie that shall be destroyed is Death: and when all things shall be subdued to him, then shall the sonne also himself be subject, then shall he give up the Kingdome to the Father: And what that State is that shall come after Christ hath given up the Kingdome to his Father. no man knows, only the Scripture faith this of it; That God shall be all in all, and that Christ himselfe shall tlen be subject.

FINIS.