

CHAPTER II.

THE TRUE GOD.

1. THE * God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob is our God; this is his name forever, and this is his memorial unto all generations. He † created the heavens and the earth, and all things that are in them are the workmanship of his hands. He created ‡ man in his own image, that he might have dominion over the earth, and over the beasts of the field, and over the fowls of the air, and over the fishes of the sea. 85 words, 325 letters.

2. Man, being in the likeness of God's person, they all recognize him as their Lord, and fear him as a God. And notwithstanding his degeneracy, he has retained so much of the divine likeness, that beasts, birds, and fishes, fear him, and his power is over them as a mighty one. It is diminished as he has departed from the likeness and perfections of his creator: and that spirit of rebellion, which man has received so redundantly, he has communicated to them also, that they rebel against him, as he rebels against God. Yet the § fear of man is on them continually; and his dominion is over them throughout the earth. 111 words, 484 letters.

3. God ¶ conversed with Adam as a familiar friend; and ¶ walked with Enoch, who was faithful unto him in the midst of a corrupt

*Ex. iii. 15. †Gen. i. Ex. xx. 11. xxxi. 17. Neh. ix. 6. Psa. viii. 3. xxxiii. 6, 9. lxxxix. 11, 12. Isa. xlv. 24. Jer. x. 12. ‡Gen. i. 26, 27, 28. v. 1. §Gen. ix. 2. Psa. viii. 4, 8. Jas. iii. 7. ¶Gen. ii. iii. ¶Gen. v. 24.

race: he * communed with Noah, the father of a new world; and covenanted, by his own oath, with Abraham the faithful. 44 words, 185 letters.

4. †He commanded a fiery law, ‡ with a voice of thunder, in Sinai: the earth quaked at the tread of his foot: the rustling of his garment was as low thunder; and his voice as a mighty thunderbolt: the § beaming of his face was as the sun in the morning; and the flash of his eye as the fierce lightning. The ¶ nations trembled at his presence; and the tribes said, Not unto us; not unto us, Oh Lord God, but unto Moses, be thy voice known. 85 words, 330 letters.

5. For they heard the voice of God, as the voice of a trumpet; and as loud thunder: and they saw the lightning; and the mountain smoking; and they felt the earth tremble; and they ¶ fled far away, crying, Not unto us; not unto us; but unto Moses, declare thy law, Oh God, and we will obey his voice and live, for, who shall abide in thy presence? 67 words, 259 letters.

6. His word was made known to the prophets, and his sacraments were established in Israel. Kings ruled in his glorious name; and the nations who forgot him were destroyed. 29 wor. 136 let.

7. He hath appointed everlasting life in the Lord Jesus; and given the * keys of death and of hell unto him who alone among mortals, hath kept his glorious word in all things. He hath chosen him the † first born among many brethren; for he is the ‡ first begotten of the dead,

*Gen. vi. 14, 21. vii. 1, 4. viii. 15, 22. ix. 1, 17. †Ex. xix. 16 20. Deut. xxxiii. 2. ‡Job xxxvii. 2, 5. §Hab. iii. 4. ¶ 1 Tim. vi. 16. ¶Psa. xcvii. 4. ¶ Ex. xx. 18, 21. Heb. xii. 19. *Rev. i. 18. †Rom. viii. 29. Col. i. 15, 18. ‡Rev. 1, 5.