OBSERVATION XI.¹

Wicked men will hereafter be cast into a furnace of fire.

I. How they will hereafter be tormented with fire.

II. How they are said to be cast into fire.

III. How they will [be] cast into a furnace of fire.

I. How {they will hereafter be} tormented with fire.

First. The wrath of God, which they will suffer in their souls, is compared to fire.

Second. Their bodies will hereafter be literally tormented with fire.

II. How the wicked are said to be cast into a fire. Matt. 3:10, "every tree [which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire]." John 15:6, "[If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned]."

This manner of expression seems aptly to represent three things:

First. That God will subject them to their eternal punishment with manifestations of contempt and abhorrence.

Second. That the wicked will be subjected to their punishment irresistibly, and sorely against their wills. [Whereas it is] said of the righteous, they shall enter [the gate of the Lord willingly {Ps. 118:20}].

Third. This naturally suggests their total misery. [They shall be] wholly miserable in every part, every faculty, every member, wholly swallowed up, full within, inward and without.

III. {How they will be} cast into a furnace of fire. [It is] aptly represented as a furnace of fire, on two accounts:

First. {It is a place of} extreme heat.
Second. {They are} shut up in a state of torment, as in a furnace. The fuel is shut in, as with walls.

[They are] imprisoned, enclosed in a strong vault, pent up.

APPLICATION.

Let those consider it, who burn in the fire of lust, [or] secret wickedness, [or] palliate their wickedness with {thoughts of their own self-righteousness}.

[The fire of God's wrath will] burn up your thin covering.

They that burn with the fire of envy, [will hereafter burn with the fire of God's wrath].^2

[...]

6. Consider what fires the wrath of men have kindled.

7. Consider those fires that God has kindled, that have been enkindled by God in the world, that have been signs of the fire [of hell].

[(1)] Sodom.

[(2)] Sinai, Deut. 5:4-6, "The Lord talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire (I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to show you the word of the Lord: for ye were afraid by reason of the fire, and went not up into the mount); saying, I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage."

8. What fires there are in the natural world, that may be looked upon as signs of the fierceness and dreadfulness [of the fires of hell].

9. What evidences have been of the dreadfulness of the spiritual fire of God's wrath on the soul, in the effects thereof in this world.

10. Consider that the time wherein both your bodies and souls will be cast into a furnace {of fire}, will be a time wherein all things will be brought to perfection.

11. There will be great manifestations of the strength of God in that fire. Many expressions show it. Ps. 90:11, "Who knows the power of thine
anger?" Ezek. 22:14, "Can thine [ . . . ] hands be strong, [in the days that I shall deal with thee?]

Heb. 10:35, "[It is a fearful thing to] fall into the hands [of the living God]." Nah. 1:6, "Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him." Rom. 9:22, "What if God, willing to show his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction." Is. 33:10, etc., "Now I will rise, saith the Lord; now will I be exalted; now will I lift up myself. Ye shall conceive chaff, ye shall bring forth stubble: your breath, as fire, shall devour you. And the people shall be as the burnings of lime: as thorns cut up shall they be burned in the fire. Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might." They shall Know that I am the L. II Thess. 1:9, "[Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and] from the glory of his power." Is. 42:13, etc, "[*** quote vv. 13-15***]."
Notes

1 At the beginning of this preaching unit, JE recapitulated the text:

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   Math 13. 50. 47 . ---

   ---- 50 . --------

   ---- and shall cast

   Them into a Furnace

   of fire.

2 At this point in the MS, there is either a significant lacunae, or JE inserted the remainder from elsewhere. L. 2v. begins the Application up to this point, but L. 3r., also headed "Application," takes up with pt. 6.

3 MS cites v. 35.