

## LECTURE III.

### DEATH A UNIVERSAL LAW OF ORGANIC BEINGS ON THIS GLOBE FROM THE BEGINNING.

DEATH has always been regarded by man as the king of terrors, and the climax of all mortal evils; and by Christians its introduction into the world has generally been imputed to the apostacy of our first parents. For the threatening announced to them in Eden was, "In the day thou eatest of the forbidden fruit thou shalt surely die," implying that if they did not eat thereof they might live. But "when the woman saw the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also to her husband with her, and he did eat." As the result, it is generally supposed that a great change took place in animals and plants, and from being immortal, they became mortal, in consequence of this fatal deed. But geology asserts that death existed in the world untold ages before man's creation, while physiology declares it to be a universal law of nature, and a wise and benevolent provision in such a world as ours. Now the question is, Do not these different statements conflict with one another? And if so, is the discrepancy apparent only, or real? These are the questions which I now propose to examine, by all the light which we can obtain from the Bible and from science.

*The first point to be ascertained in this investigation will be, what the Bible teaches on this subject.*

In the first place, it distinctly informs us that the death which man experiences, came upon him in consequence of sin.

The declaration of Paul on this subject is as distinct as language can be. "By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." This corresponds with the original threatening