the peoples and upon the nations of the
earth; and many other things have been
in his program; because this life, with
its few years is only comparatively, as it
were, a few moments in the estimation
of Jehovah. It is but a span, a dream,
or a tale, that is told and passed away.
But in regard to the eternities that are
to come, and the realities we have to do
with hereafter, that is another affair. I
have heard men talk about the cruelty
of God, just like some foolish people talk
about their fathers. Who knows any-
thing about God? Did you ever see him?
Some think it was very cruel in him to
destroy the world at the flood. How do
they know but that it was the greatest
boon he could confer upon that wicked
people? How do they know but that it
was one of the richest blessings he could
pour out upon their heads in sweeping
them off the earth and sending them
into another existence and then shutting
them up in prison after that. How do you
know? Certainly you do not know that it
is not the case.

Let us reason for a few moments and
look at things about as they are; I will
tell them as they are and as they were.
Satan before the days of the flood ob-
tained the ascendancy over many men
and brought them under his rule and do-
minion. He started in with Cain and
made a murderer of him the very first
thing he did and taught him many prin-
ciples of evil, and he was called the
great Master Mahan. Under the in-
fluence and power of Satan he oper-
ated to thwart the designs of God and
to stop the purposes of Jehovah. Sa-
tan first started in the heavens, but
was cast out and succeeded in obtain-
ing a great ascendency over the minds
of the people; whom he caused to corrupt
themselves, leading them into evil, folly,
vanity and corruptions of every kind, so
much so we are told that the "imagine-
ations and thoughts of their hearts were
only evil and that continually." What had
to be done then? There were other par-
ties interested besides those upon the
earth. There were innumerable hosts of
spirits in the heavens that had to come
and take tabernacles. Was it proper and
righteous, was it equitable, was it ac-
cording to the principles of justice that
those that were pure with their Father
in the heavens should come and take
bodies and be forced to enter into taber-
nacles, that were the offspring of those
corrupt beings who were then peopling
the earth? If I or you had been there
should we not have spoken to our Fa-
ther and said, "Father, do you see the cor-
rup tions that exist upon the face of the
earth?" "Yes, I know it." "Is it just that
we should have to go into these corrupt,
contaminated, evil, wicked bodies to re-
ceive our earthly parentage from them;
and be subject to that power and iniquity
in all its phases for thousands or millions
of years to come?" "No," says He, "it is
not, and I will sweep them away, I will
destroy them; they possess the power,
while living to propagate their species,
but I will deprive them of that power. I
will send in the floods upon them, and
then I will shut them up in prison." Did
he do it? He did. But before He did
it, he had the Gospel preached to them
as it is now being preached, and men
clothed upon with the priesthood were
sent forth among the peoples to proclaim
to them the great principles of life, and
they had the Gospel and the revelations
of God and communion with their heav-
enly Father. Enoch was a preacher of
righteousness, and numerous Elders at
that time were sent forth among the peo-