

**THE DESTINY OF MANKIND: OR,
WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES
TEACH RESPECTING THE FINAL
CONDITION OF THE HUMAN
FAMILY?**

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The Destiny of Mankind: Or, What Do the Scriptures Teach Respecting the Final Condition of the Human Family? by O. H. Tillotson

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BY O. H. TILLOTSON.

"He will swallow up death in victory: and the Lord God will
wipe away tears from off all faces."—Isa, 25 : 8.

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P R E F A C E .

No person, of common observation, can fail to see that the doctrine of the annihilation of the wicked has been gaining ground, to some extent, for the last eight or ten years. The inquiring and reasonable portion of all denominations are growing tired of the awful and obnoxious doctrine of endless woe, and, as a substitute, are fast fleeing to the ranks of those who believe that a portion of the human family is to be totally and endlessly annihilated. But, though this doctrine may be a little more palatable to the humane than that of never-ending torture, it is, nevertheless, an unscriptural doctrine, as destitute of proof as is that of eternal suffering. And yet, as it is gaining ground, it must be met. I have accordingly, in the following pages, endeavored fairly and fully to show that it is not the doctrine of the Bible.

In this work I take the position, that the Scriptures abundantly declare that all mankind are to be finally

holy and happy. This, however, is not a new doctrine. It was advocated by many in the early ages of the Christian religion. We find distinct traces of it in the Sybilline Oracles, which appeared about A. D. 140 or 150. Clement of Alexandria, President of the renowned catechetical school in that city, believed it. He was the most learned and illustrious of all the Christian fathers before Origen. And Origen, the most illustrious of all the Christian Fathers, was a decided Universalist, and, as is well known, taught and defended this doctrine in almost all his works. He was born A. D. 185. We find that many of the Fathers, immediately after Origen's day, maintained the doctrine, and it flourished until the dark ages nearly extinguished the fire of truth which burned on Christian altars. But, after the reformation it speedily revived, and was believed and defended in England, by Dr. Hey, Rev. Jeremy White (Chaplain to Oliver Cromwell), Dr. Henry Moore, Archbishop Tillotson, Dr. Thomas Burnet, Sir Isaac Newton, Dr. Samuel Clarke, Dr. George Cheney, Chevalier Ramsay, Daniel DeFoe (the celebrated author), Dr. Edward Young (author of *Night Thoughts*), and a large number of others. Many very learned men, in Germany, embraced the doctrine. It spread also in Holland, Switzerland, Ireland and Scotland; and it is now believed and advocated by many among the greatest and best men of which the world can boast. The fact that so many have believed it does not, indeed, prove the doctrine to be true; but,

unless there were some ground for its truth, so many great and good men would never have believed and advocated it.

Those who read this work will perceive, that my arguments are based wholly on the Scriptures. "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." And, that all who read this little volume, may come to a knowledge of the truth and be saved, is the sincere prayer of

THE AUTHOR.

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