

Job. 31. v 29th when he queth his face, who
can make trouble? and when he hideth his
face who can behold him?

G. orders, and appoints all things throughout
of course. Nations are not so powerful as
not to need his superintending care, for all are
upheld by him; nor are any individuals so
insignificant as not to be regarded by him, as
all in him live, and move and have their being —
The words immediately following the text
show, if of text itself is equally applicable to
nations, or individuals — It is the same thing
whether G. is acting against a nation, or a man
only — The History of the Jews is a striking
Comment upon them in the former view —
How long did God prosper and protect them;
and made them the glory of all lands, while
they were obedient to his commands; and
the Experience of every man attests the
truth of them in the latter view —
when he hideth his face

when God afflicts any man, in any way, what
-ever, he cannot deliver himself from the hands
of our God. we will observe
1.st none can trouble those whom God comforts
2.nd none can comfort those whom he troubles
1.st God is pleased to bestow peculiar quietness
upon his own People, he has chosen them
for himself, and separated by force of his
in pick edness. He sprinkles their souls to
behold of his own dear Son - The A. addressing
the Hebrews, says, let us draw it a true Heart
in full assurance of Faith, having our Hearts
2. Hence they enjoy Peace with God, and in
their own Consciences - being justified by Faith
in His holy Spirit sheds abroad his love in them -
and again in the same Chap. of A. tells us, that
the Christians Hope maketh not ashamed,
because of love &c. Hence his People maintain
a bold Confidence towards him, having
received the Spirit of Adoption by which they
cry Abba Father - Givers them as his Children

and they acknowledge him as their Father -
moreover he convinces them of his continual
Care over them - we know says of A. that
all things work together for good - Hence their
minds are established under the most trying
Circumstances, and they are convinced if he
does not allow them to be afflicted in any
way willingly, but for their own Profit -
This Perseverance made Job. say, tho he
slay me - This inward Peace and Quietness
is widely different from the false Peace
enjoyed by the ~~of~~ There is a kind of Peace
professed even by the ungodly - when the
strong man yoked himself his Pocket, his
good care in Peace when a ^{man's} mind is so blinded
by Sin and Satan, that he is unconcerned about
his future State, he may be said to be in
Peace - ^{he is not} disturbed about his souls Salvation
from the Influence Satan maintains
over him - but this Peace flows only
from Ignorance & Inconsideration -

Hence it vanishes as soon as light and Commu-
tion break in upon the soul - God hath said
there is no Peace to the wicked. If there was
any wicked man in the universe who enjoyed
Peace, the Scriptures would be broken - But
they can not be broken - The Peace of God's
People consists in Resignation to his Divine
will, assurance in his Promises, assurance
of his love, and an Expectation of his Glory -
St. Paul writing to the Philippians tells
them of the Peace of God which he valued
that Peace above all other Considerations
because he knew it was a Treasure the
believing Soul could never be robbed of
to eternity - if eternal Glory was
connected with the Peace of God -
If God gives his People this Peace, ^{can} none
take it from them, ^{can} none trouble them
He asks the question, who can trouble them?
This is stronger than any affirmation he
could make

It is a triumphant Challenge to the whole Church.
It is not said here, that none will endeavor to
trouble them; but it is certain that both Satan
and the Church will exert all their Influence to trouble
them. In the Church they shall have tribulation - and if
it is through much Tribulation &c. and in a certain
sense they are greatly troubled and tried many
ways. They are as liable as all other mortals
to Sundry Diseases, and all the common
Calamities of Life - but it is affirmed of them, if
none shall materially trouble them - because
their God will be with them, and will not
suffer them to be troubled more than they are
able to bear - and will at all time make
away for their escape - so that the Christian
shall be able to say, I will rejoice in the Lord
I will joy in the God of my Salvation &
nor will they be discouraged by the Persecu-
tions of men, or the Temptations of Satan.
St. Paul when severely tried, prayed
unto his God, who said to him My Grace

is sufficient for thee; for my strength
is made perfect in weakness: most gladly &
and he adds, therefore I take pleasure in tribu-
nations, in Reproaches, in necessities, in Perse-
cutions or Distresses for Christ's sake; for
when I am weak then am I strong - The
Ap. asks, what shall we say then to these things,
if G. be for us, who can be against us? The
real Christian may adopt the language of the
Prophet - The Lord will help me; therefore shall
I not be confounded - therefore shall I set my
face like a Flint, and I know if I shall not
be ashamed - Thus we see, none can
trouble the believing soul, when God
combats - The consolations of his holy Spi-
rit with faith in the Divine promises, can
cause him to rejoice, ever more, to pray
without ceasing, and in every thing to
give thanks unto God - Happy then are the
people who are in such a case, & able to do

As G. will most assuredly bless and save his
people; on the other hand, his denunciations
are irresistible also to respect to his Enemies,
so if none can combat them whom he troubles
which was of 2^d kind to be considered - Tho' G. ~~+~~
Does not leave it in the power of his Creatures
to trouble his people; he does not see fit to
envent it if altogether to trouble - He sometimes
for wise and good reasons hides his face from
David had frequent occasion to lament the
Loss of God's Presence - Thou didst hide thy
face and I was troubled, and again in the 13th
Psalm - How long wilt thou forget me O Lord
for ever - how long wilt thou hide thy face
from me? It was the Complaint of the Church
of old - but Zion said, the Lord hath forgotten
me, and my God hath forgotten me; but how
soon was the promise of never more
renewed? Can a woman suck G. forget her
sucking Child? - This promise has administered
consolation to many a pious Christian in
time of trial -

Even our blessed S^r cried out when wherry of
Crops ^{from Degeneration} my G^d. There is therefore an awful propri-
-ety in the Prophets address to God. Surely they
art as G^d if I hidest thyself, O G^d of Israel of law?
nor can any comfort them at such seasons
but their G^d. The Prayer of Gods People at such times
is left up the light of thy Countenance ^{upon us} and we
shall be whole. when David was in a distressed state
of mind, when he poured the 102. Psalm. His
feelings were expressed in the following words for
~~the 1st~~ the 1st Verse - Hear my Prayer O G^d
many have experienced similar anguish of
mind - under the hiding of Gods Countenance,
and all the Children of God, have experienced
this more or less in their Pilgrimage thro
Life & The wicked are however more awfully
exposed to these tokens of Gods Displeasure
They are now indeed for the most part in-
sensible of his Abence from them - and they
desire not the Knowledge of his ways - but in
the Hour of Death which comes upon all
for it is appointed for man once to die

they will feel the full weight of his Indignation -
It is thus says St. Paul, that Indignation and
Anger, Indignation, and wrath will come upon
all that do evil, both Jew and Gentile - To see a
Lion upon his Death bed, is one of the most
distressing scenes in the world, for God most assured-
ly hideth his Face from him, when the wicked
Dieth all his Hopes perish, he is undone for ever
who can comfort sinners, when they are on
the brink of the Grave? If at all sensible of
their sin, and danger they are in, wretched, and
their Dearest Friends can afford them no Relief -
God then maketh Trouble for them - he lays
his heavy wrath upon them, and they sink
and perish beneath his awful Power - God
will then bid them Depart for ever - Depart ye
Curst & In the eternal G^d will afford them
no Comfort, because they will be hindered by
his Presence & the glory of his Power & everlasting
Destruction - The Angels will certainly administer
no Comfort to them, any more than can
Executioner can ~~administer~~ administer Comfort
to a condemned Criminal, because we are

told by our Lord, who will be the Judge of quick
and dead, that the Angels will be the executioners
of his ~~own~~ righteous will - Then shall he send
forth his Angels, and they shall gather out of
his Kingdom all things that offend & ye. of do iniquity
This is an awful Declaration, and ought to
alarm the Conscience of every wicked Person
for all such must fall under the Curse of
condemnation ere long unless they speedily repent and turn to G.
nor can their fellow Creatures help them in
the least - Their wicked Companions will only
increase their misery; which ~~the~~ may fairly be
inferred from the Solitude which the rich
man mentioned by St. Luke manifested, respecting
the probable Condemnation of his five Brethren
we are there told of when the rich man
he lifted up his eyes and fell - and prayed Abraham
&c. And the righteous in glory will not afford
them so much as a single Drop of water to be
they will find no Comfort in Reflection - Every
mispent Hour Day and Year will be
remembered, till then it is never Argued

The mercies they have abused, the warnings they
have neglected - The Sabbath they have profaned
and the Pleasures and walks which they have
uttered against the God of Heaven will all add to
the bitter Cup of Divine wrath which they will
be doomed to drink for ever & ever - As they can
derive no Comfort from what is past, so they
can derive none from the prospect before them
for nothing will now revive in their past trans-
gression &c. for ever and ever - Oh think on these things
now, ye if forget God - ere it be too late - for the
Day will come when you will find all that has been
told you, too true we have now shewn that none
neither in this or in any other is to come
can comfort those whom God troubles - we
will now apply what has been said first
to those who are seeking Rest & Quietness in
the G. How poor a Rest is of G. in comparison
of G. Should any one ask, if the G. comfort me
who can trouble me - we answer it can't bear
a contradiction Conscience, if awakened by G.
may trouble you - what did Cain feel when
he said my Murder is greater than I can bear

under ~~conscious~~ conscious guilt - and what do many
now feel, under similar convictions - Some
from the anguish of their minds prefer Death
to life and become their own destroyers -
God departs from ^{us} and they are ruined - Pain and
Sick. ness may trouble you - from these you
cannot free yourselves - and how much are our
Afflictions increased, when they have no G. to go
to, in the Hour of Pain and Sick. ness - The Prospect
of Death may also oppress them. Malacm was
drowned at this Prospect, when it was near, he
exclaimed let me die, no doubt, but there are
many who utter this Prayer, when in the Mercy
of y. Grace - and abate all the wrath of God
will trouble ^{the wakened} them for the ever -

Lastly let me address those who enjoy Quietness
in God. ^{the their remembrance be here} How infinitely great is your Privilege—
but your Peace can only be maintained in
a way of Holiness. The Prophet tells us the
work of righteousness is Peace; and the effect
of righteousness is Quietness and assurance for ever—
but indulged will immediately ensure God to

to hide his face from us - he is the thing which
his soul abhors - and nothing but sin will cause
God to withdraw the consolations of his grace
and spirit from us - This was the case with
God's people in former times - when God hid
his face from his people of old, the Prophet
told them - your iniquities have separated between
you & your God; and your sins have hid his
face from you, if he will not hear -
If we as Christians expect to enjoy the light
of his countenance, we must depart from
all evil - great peace have they who love thy
law, and nothing shall offend them - Let us
then watch unto prayer - let us keep our hearts
to all diligence - If we incline our hearts, in any
way to evil, the Lord will not hear our prayer -
our present combat depends upon our holy con-
-version - we cannot grow in grace, and in the
knowledge of our Lord and Saviour unless we
live in communion and fellowship with him -
If we honour God in our lives, he will honour us
at all times - and he will be with us in times of

Trial when we most need his aid - Should we
be cast upon a bed of sickness, he will put under
neath us his comforting Arm - Should Death
approach us, he will strengthen us to overcome the
fear of Death, and enable us to say, Tho I walk
through L. Now did Stephen the martyr die -
He beheld the Gates of Heaven thrown wide open
~~before~~ for his glorious entrance before his
Soul quitted its earthly Tabernacle - St. Paul
was also ready for Glory - when Death approached
him - and desired to be dissolved and to be in
Christ - Paul had been determined to win X. for
many years, he had sacrificed every thing
to gain this grand object, and he was not dis-
appointed in the end - Happy will it be for
us my brethren, if Death comes to us trust-
ing - Come he will in, one shape ~~or~~
or other - ~~we~~ we must meet him - we
must die - there is no discharge in this warfare
besides, and only besides are they who die in X.
L. Examine yourselves ~~there~~ this day, and
know what Preparation you have made
for his coming, that Death may not come

at an unseasonable hour - God's People are waiting
for him - God told Jacob entertained upon his dying
bed, I have waited for St. John cried, come St. John. come
quickly - when the Christians earthly hour sets,
his Heavenly hour rises to set no more - When
he finds, that his Promise fulfilled, they have
shall no more go down - It is here intimated
that the Days of his mourning will not be ended,
until that Period - we must not expect our
Heaven here - we must look for it above -
Here the Christian's mind is often clouded - and his
Soul is in Heaviness thro manifold temptations -
was he only to keep in view by the Eye of Faith
the glory reserved for him; and how soon it
it will be revealed, he would encourage himself
in the Lord his God - and wait patiently until
his Change come - This made the A. in heart
all Christians, to have their Conversation in
Heaven - and that while they were passing
through the things that are seen to him
an eye to those things w. are not seen -
If they were to do this, how often would they rejoice
in the glory of G. when they go mourning now

Study then to live up to your high Privileges -
bear in mind that you are sons of God and if
sons then Heirs of his Kingdom - which he as
your heavenly ^{Father} is reserving for you - and which
he will put you in full Possession of in the glorious
Day of his appearing, when he will come
to be admired in all them that believe. Cleanse
then unto your Father now with full purpose
of Heart - devote yourselves to his service
and study to honour him by an holy life
and conversation - he will then own you
for his People, when he shall come to judge
the world in righteousness. He ^{will} place you on
his right hand, you will hear him say
come ye blessed Children &c. Thus shall they
be blessed who bear the Lord - and be happy
in his Presence for ever and ever. with this
Prospect in view, labour to forget the things which
are behind - look not back upon the ~~to~~ you have
bid adieu to, like Lot's wife; but bear her awful
End in remembrance, agreeably to our Lord's
injunctions, and escape for your life - you will be
safe when you get to Heaven, as Lot was when he entered
~~the~~ Door, but never think yourselves secure until then