

## According to God's Word what is the Church universal?

And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all (NASB; Eph. 2:22-23).

FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. <sup>32</sup> This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church (NASB; Eph. 5:31-32).

*. . . I write* so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth (NASB; I Tim. 3:15).

**According to God's Word the Church  
universal is the body and bride of the Lord  
Jesus Christ, the household of God, the  
pillar and support of the truth.**



## According to God's Word what is a local church?

. . . the church in Ephesus. . . the church in Smyrna. . . the church in Pergamum. . . the church in Thyatira. . . the church in Sardis. . . the church in Philadelphia. . . the church in Laodicea (NASB; Rev. 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14).

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. . . Be on guard among yourselves and for all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has made you overseers (NASB; Acts 20:17, 28a).

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons (NASB; Phil. 1:1b ).

John 4:23-24; Acts 2:42; I Thess. 1:8; I Pet. 4:10-11

**According to God's Word a local church is an assembly of mutually acknowledged Christians, organized in one locale under scriptural leadership, for the purposes of worship, apostolic instruction, prayer, fellowship, evangelism, service, and the observance of the ordinances.**



## According to God's Word what are a local church's scriptural leaders?

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons (NASB; Phil. 1:1b).

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. . . Be on guard among yourselves and for all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood (NASB; Acts 20:17; 28).

See I Peter 5:1-4 for the ministry of elders.

See Acts 6:1-7 for the early church's first ordination of Spirit-filled men who were not elders, but whose wise ministry it would be to assist the Apostles.

**According to God's Word a local church's scriptural leaders are elders, who oversee and shepherd (pastor), and deacons, who assist them.**

*An able and faithful ministry, next to the sanctifying operations of the Spirit, is the greatest benefit than can be conferred upon a people (Samuel Miller, in his inaugural address at the founding of Princeton Theological Seminary in 1812).*



(14)  
THE  
RETURNE  
OF  
PRAYERS.

A Treatise,  
VVHEREIN THIS CASE

[How to discern Gods Answers to our Prayers]

is briefly resolved :

WITH  
Other Observations upon Psalm 85.8.  
concerning Gods speaking Peace, &c.

By THO: GOODWIN, B.D.

HAB. 2. 1.

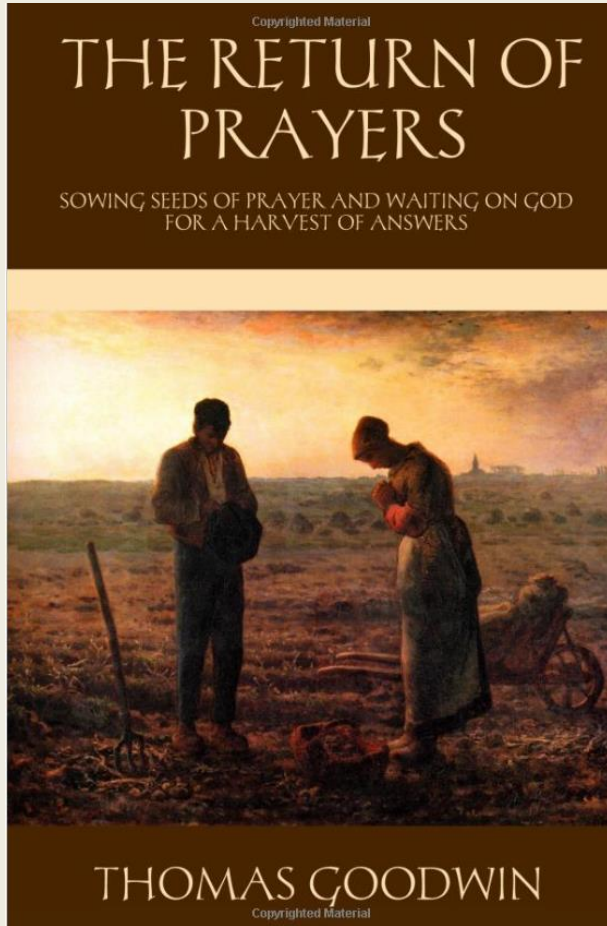
*I will watch to see what he will say to me.*

L O N D O N,  
Printed by M. F. for R. Dawlman. 1643.



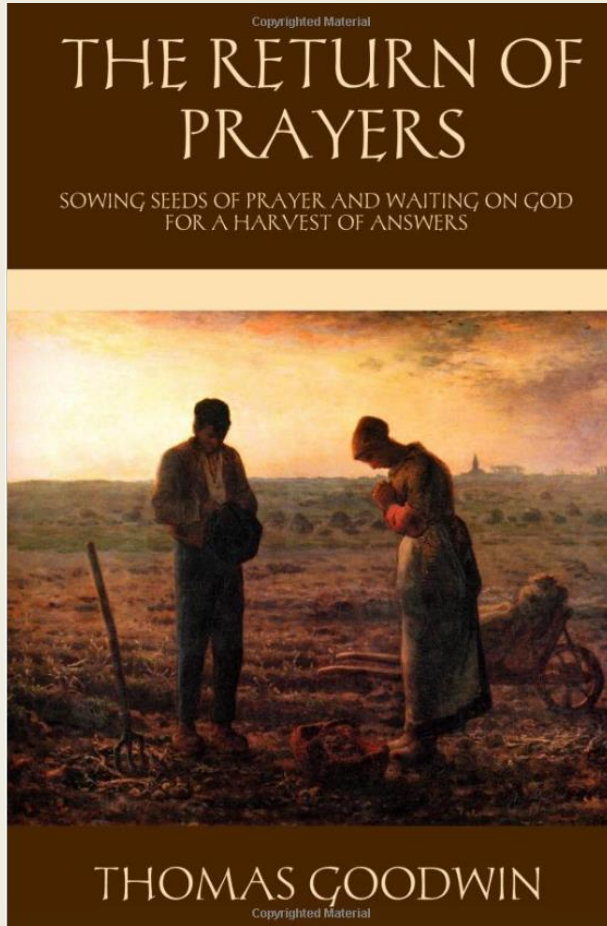
**Thomas Goodwin**  
**(1600-1679)**





## Psalm 85:8

**I will hear what  
God the LORD will  
say. . .**

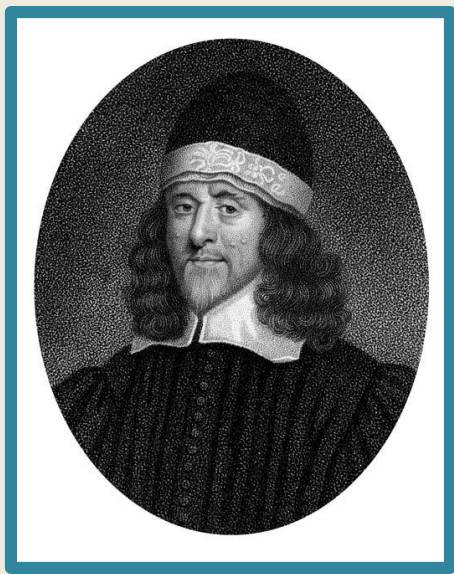


## Psalm 85:8

**Let me hear  
(cohortative verb)  
hear what God the  
LORD will say. . .**

# Directions for watching for returns

**1 From observations *before* and *in* praying.**



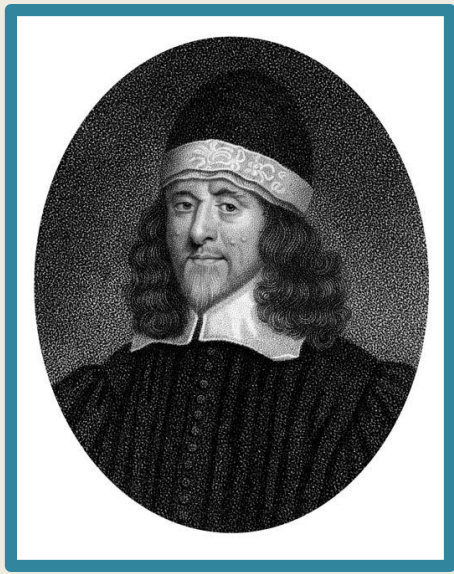
**Before praying:**

**When God secretly speaks to the heart to pray much about a thing.**



**In praying:**

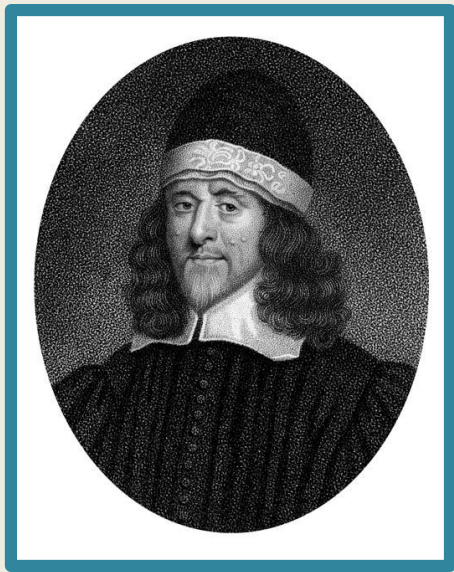
***1 When God quiets, and calms,  
and contents the heart in  
prayer.***



## In praying:

*1 When God quiets, and calms,  
and contents the heart in  
prayer.*

***2 When God stirs up in the  
heart a particular faith in a business.***



## In praying:

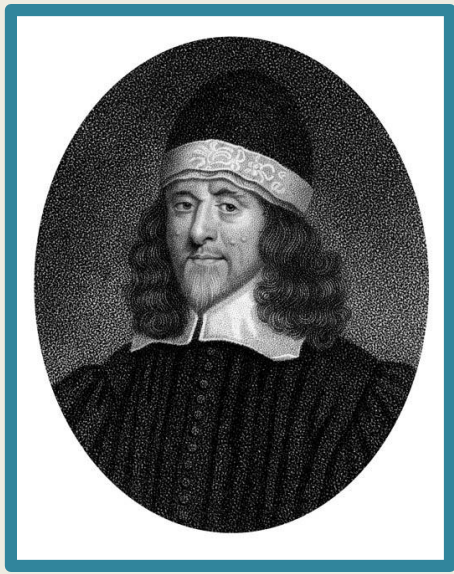
1 *When God quiets, and calms,  
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2 *When God stirs up in the  
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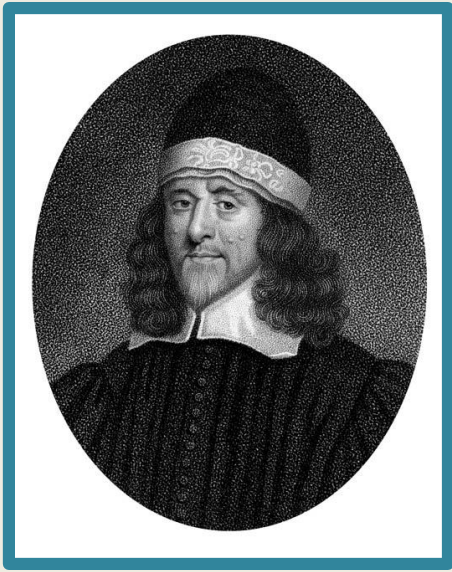
3 ***When God puts a restless  
importunity in the heart.***

# Directions for watching for returns

- 1 From observations *before* and *in* praying.
- 2 From observations *after* praying.



**I. IF IT COMES TO PASS. . .**

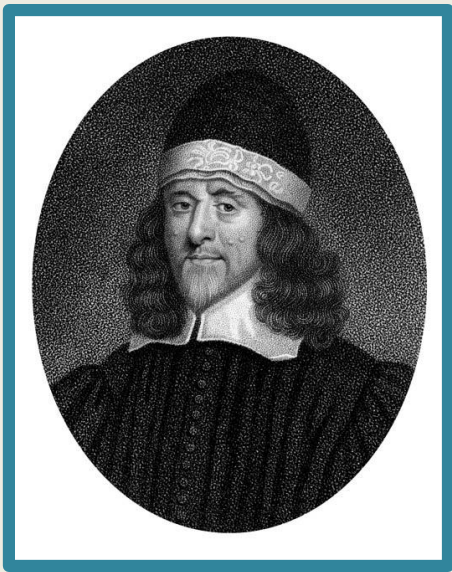


## I. IF IT COMES TO PASS. . .

*And yet, such is the infidelity  
of our hearts. . . that we are  
apt to look but to things below  
and the second causes of them. . .*

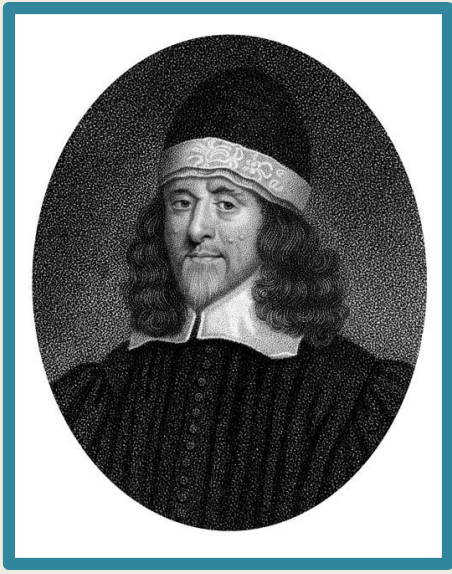
**Sennacharib:** "With my many chariots I came up to the heights of the mountains, To the remotest parts of Lebanon; And I cut down its tall cedars *and* its choice cypresses. And I entered its farthest lodging place, its thickest forest" (II Kings 19:23).

**The LORD:** “Have you not heard? Long ago I did it; From ancient times I planned it. Now I have brought it to pass, That you should turn fortified cities into ruinous heaps. <sup>26</sup> Therefore their inhabitants were short of strength, They were dismayed and put to shame” (II Kings 19:25-16a).



## I. IF IT COMES TO PASS. . .

*And yet, such is the infidelity of our hearts. . . that we are apt to look but to things below and the second causes of them. . . or else distrustfully to question whether or not it was at our prayers that he granted them, or out of common providence.*



## I. IF IT COMES TO PASS. . .

*And yet, such is the infidelity of our hearts. . . that we are apt to look but to things below and the second causes of them. . . or else distrustfully to question whether or not it was at our prayers that he granted them, or out of common providence.*

**Infidelity. . . looking for second causes.**

**Infidelity. . . looking for second causes.**

**Distrustfulness. . . Questioning whether  
it was a common providence.**

**Distrustfulness. . . Questioning whether  
it was a common providence.**



**Like \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

**Distrustfulness. . . Questioning whether  
it was a common providence.**



**Like Gideon**



# I. IT COMES TO PASS.

**1 In ways in which His hand  
is unusually displayed.**





# **I Samuel 6:7-9**

## **I Samuel 6:7-9**

**1 Cows which have never worn a yoke**

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- 3 Cows' calves shut up at home**

## **I Samuel 6:7-9**

- 1 Cows which have never worn a yoke**
- 2 Cows hitched to a cart**
- 3 Cows' calves shut up at home**
- 4 Cows go up by way of the ark's territory**

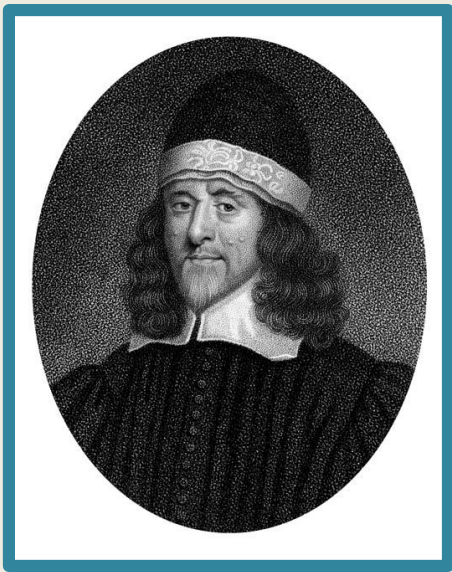
## **I Samuel 6:7-9**

- 1 Cows which have never worn a yoke**
- 2 Cows hitched to a cart**
- 3 Cows' calves shut up at home**
- 4 Cows go up by way of the ark's territory**
- 5 Cows go to Beth-shemesh**



## **I Samuel 6:12**

- 1 Cows took the straight way**
- 2 Cows lowed as they went**
- 3 Cows did not turn to right or left**
- 4 Cows went to Beth-shemesh**



# **I. IT COMES TO PASS.**

**1 In ways in which His hand  
is unusually displayed.**

**By overcoming many  
difficulties.**

**1 Kings 18:34** And he said, "Fill four pitchers with water and pour *it* on the burnt offering and on the wood." And he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time. <sup>35</sup> The water flowed around the altar and he also filled the trench with water.

יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹרָהֶם יִצְחָק וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל  
הַיּוֹם יוֹדֵעַ כִּי־אַתָּה אֱלֹהִים בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל  
וְאֲנִי עֲבָדְךָ וּבְדִבְרֶךָ עָשִׂיתִי

אֶת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה: <sup>37</sup> עֲנֵנִי יְהוָה  
עֲנֵנִי וַיִּדְעוּ הָעָם הַזֶּה כִּי־אַתָּה יְהוָה  
הָאֱלֹהִים וְאַתָּה הַסַּבֵּת אֶת־לִבָּם אַחֲרֵנִית:

**1 Kings 18:38** Then the **fire of the LORD** fell

**1 Kings 18:38** Then the fire of the LORD fell  
and **consumed the burnt offering**

**1 Kings 18:38** Then the fire of the LORD fell  
and consumed the burnt offering **and the**  
**wood**

**1 Kings 18:38** Then the fire of the LORD fell  
and consumed the burnt offering and the  
wood **and the stones**

**1 Kings 18:38** Then the fire of the LORD fell  
and consumed the burnt offering and the  
wood and the stones **and the dust**

**1 Kings 18:38** Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, **and licked up the water that was in the trench.**

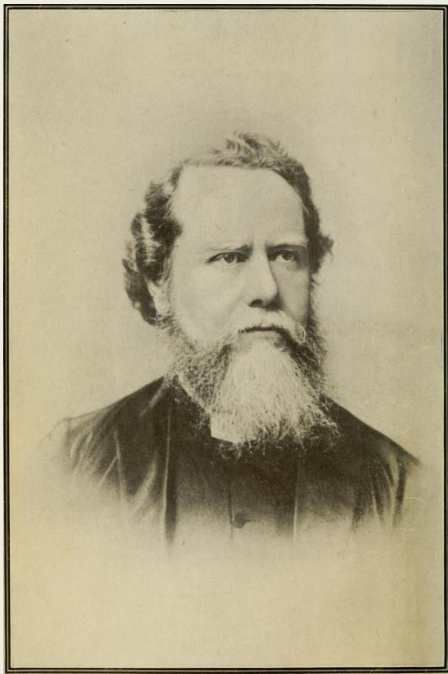
***The people who are with you are too many  
for Me to give Midian into their hands,***

*The people who are with you are too many  
for Me to give Midian into their hands, **for**  
**Israel would become boastful,***

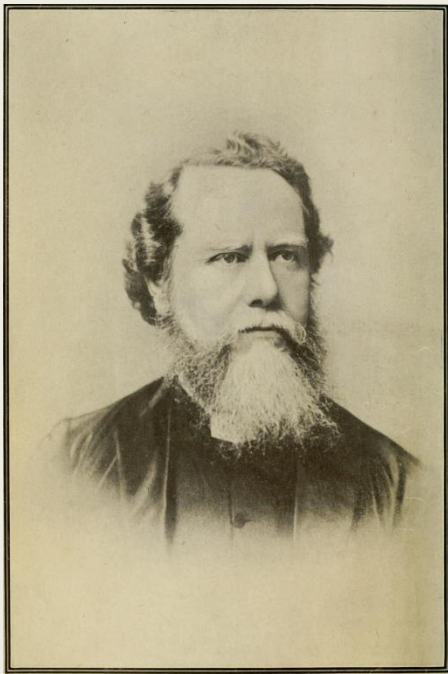
**Judges 7:2**

***The people who still too many. . .***

**Judges 7:4**

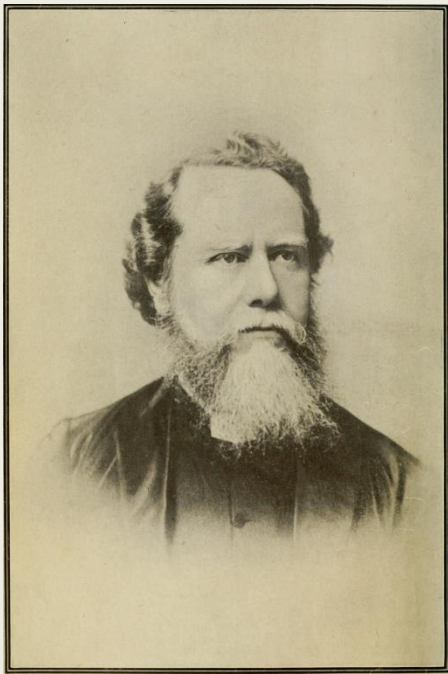


**“There are three  
stages to every great  
work of God;  
— J. Hudson Taylor**



**“There are three  
stages to every great  
work of God; first it is  
impossible,**

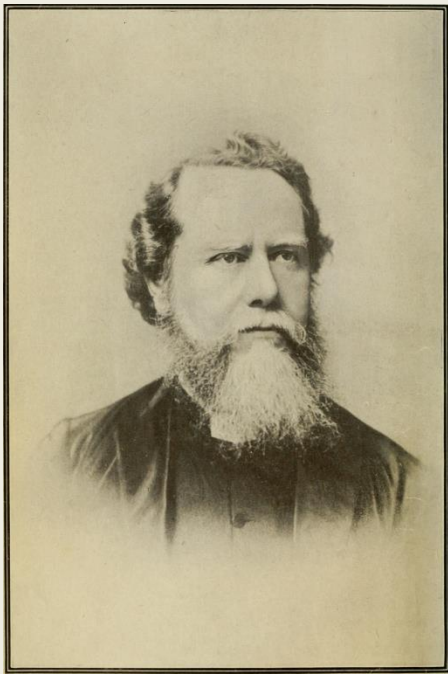
**— J. Hudson Taylor**



**“There are three  
stages to every great  
work of God; first it is  
impossible, then it is**

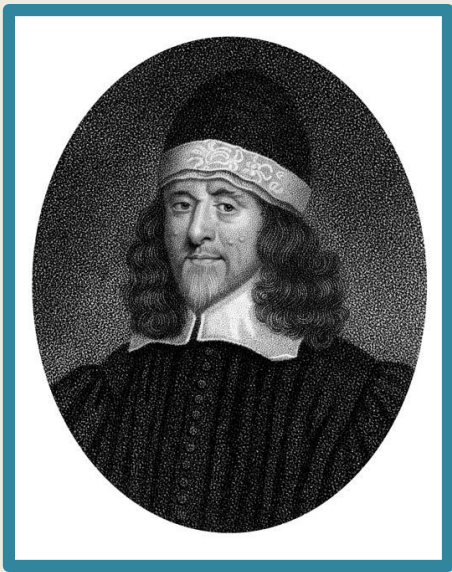
**difficult,**

**— J. Hudson Taylor**



**“There are three  
stages to every great  
work of God; first it is  
impossible, then it is  
difficult, then it is done.”**

**— J. Hudson Taylor**



# **I. IT COMES TO PASS.**

**1 In ways in which His hand  
is unusually displayed.**

**By overcoming many  
difficulties.**

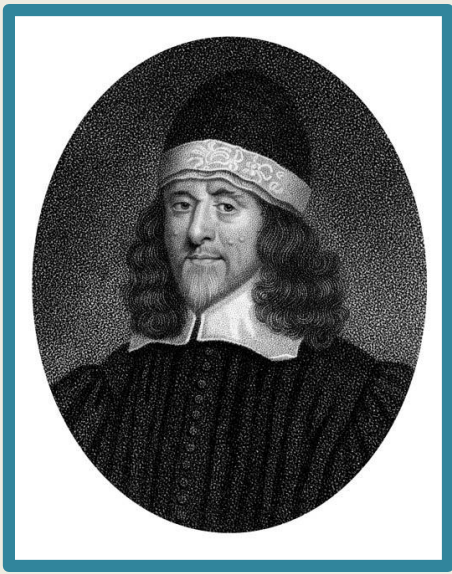
## **Psalm 126:1-3**

**When the LORD brought back the  
captive ones of Zion, we were like those  
who dream. Then our mouth was filled  
with laughter and our tongue with joyful  
shouting. . .**

## **Psalm 126:1-3**

**Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”**

**The LORD has done great things for us;  
We are glad.**



# **I. IT COMES TO PASS.**

**1 In ways in which His hand  
is unusually displayed.**

**By doing it very suddenly,  
after long delay.**

## Isaiah 48:3

**“I declared the former things long ago  
And they went forth from My mouth,  
and I proclaimed them.”**

## Isaiah 48:3

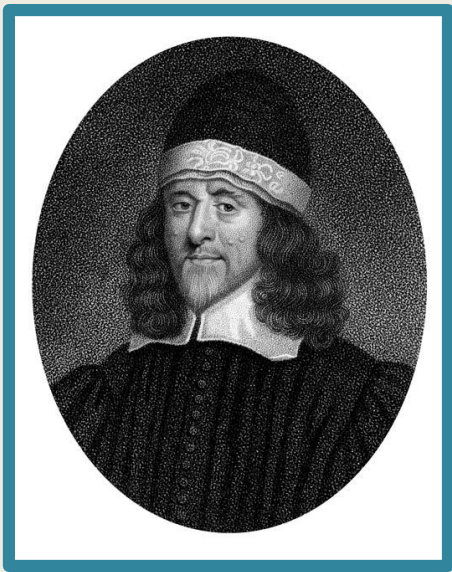
"I declared the former things long ago  
And they went forth from My mouth,  
and I proclaimed them. Suddenly I acted,  
and they came to pass.

## **II Chronicles 29:36**

**Then Hezekiah and all the people  
rejoiced over what God had prepared  
for the people,**

## II Chronicles 29:36

Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced over what God had prepared for the people, because the thing came about suddenly.



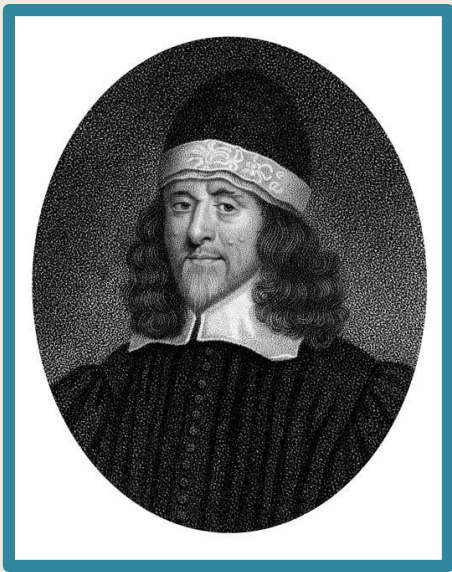
# **I. IT COMES TO PASS.**

**1 In ways in which His hand  
is unusually displayed.**

**By adding to it an  
overplus of mercies.**

# Solomon

*He asked but wisdom, and he gave him more than he asked, “peace, riches, honor” (1 Kings 3:12, 13).*

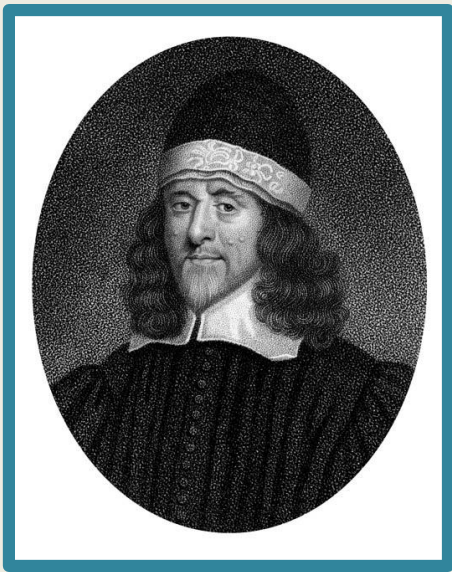


# **I. IT COMES TO PASS.**

**1 In ways in which His hand  
is unusually displayed.**

**2**

**John 4:46-54**

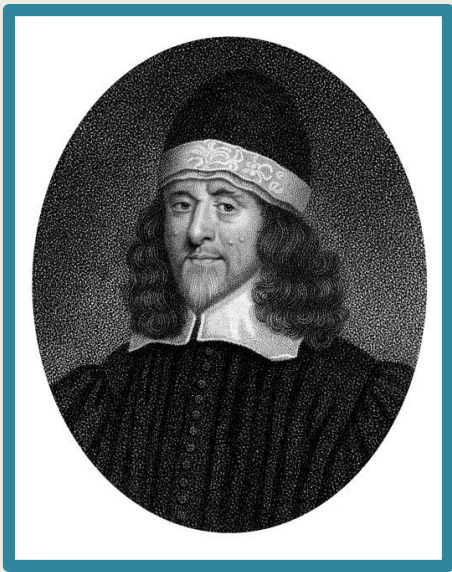


# **I. IT COMES TO PASS.**

**1 In ways in which His hand  
is unusually displayed.**

**2 At a certain time.**

**John 4:46-54**



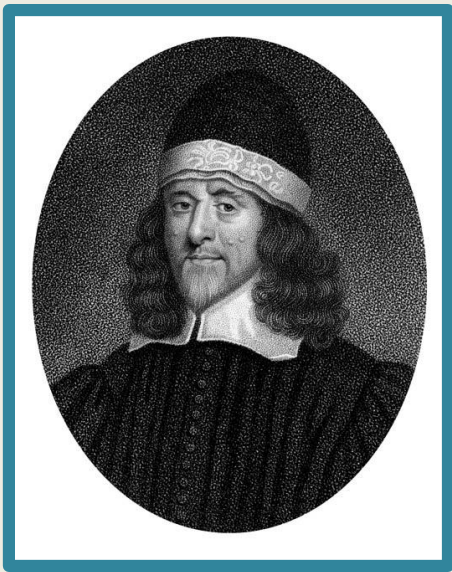
# **I. IT COMES TO PASS.**

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**John 4:46-54**

**Acts 12:12-17**



# **I. IT COMES TO PASS.**

**1 In ways in which His hand  
is unusually displayed.**

**2 At a certain time.**

**John 4:46-54**

**Acts 12:12-17**

***And it will come to pass  
that before they call, I will  
answer (Isaiah 65:24a).***