

The Question?

"I read what Smith had to say on Dan 11: 31-36. Something similar to what took place in these verses will take place again. Any idea what that might be?"

"The prophecy in the eleventh of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Much of the history that has taken place in fulfillment of this prophecy will be repeated. In the thirtieth verse a power is spoken of that "shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant." Verses 31-36, quoted. {13MR 394.1}

Scenes similar to those described in these words will take place. We see evidence that Satan is fast obtaining the control of human minds who have not the fear of God before them. Let all read and understand the prophecies of this book, for we are now entering upon the time of trouble spoken of: Daniel 12:1-4, quoted. {13MR 394.2}

The Answer!

How you Ask? Blending of Church and State, necessitated by a religious war with heretics (then Arian, now Islam) by the image to the beast. The Operation of how is describe in verse 30, setting the circumstances for the church to mount the beast--verse 31 which took place in 538.

DANIEL AND THE
REVELATION.
BY URIAH SMITH
1897
CHAPTER XI.
A LITERAL PROPHECY.
CHAPTER 11, VERSE 30
page 254.1,2.

"He shall be grieved and return." This may have reference to the desperate efforts which were made to dispossess Genseric of the sovereignty of the seas, the first by Majorian, the second by Leo, both of which proved to be utter failures; and Rome was obliged to submit to the humiliation of seeing its provinces ravaged, and its "eternal city" pillaged by the enemy. (See on Rev.8:8.)

"Indignation against the covenant;" that is, the Holy Scriptures, the book of the covenant. A revolution of this nature was accomplished in Rome. The Heruli, Goths, and Vandals, who conquered Rome, embraced the Arian faith, and became enemies of the Catholic Church. *It*

was especially for the purpose of exterminating this heresy that Justinian decreed the pope to be the head of the church and the corrector of heretics. The Bible soon came to be regarded as a dangerous book that should not be read by the common people, but all questions in dispute were to be submitted to the pope. Thus was indignity heaped upon God's word. *And the emperors of Rome, the eastern division of which still continued, had intelligence, or connived with the Church of Rome,* which had forsaken the covenant, and constituted the great apostasy, **for the purpose of putting down "heresy."** The man of sin was raised to his presumptuous throne by the defeat of the Arian Goths, who then held possession of Rome, in A.D.538.

The
Two-Horned Beast
Of
Rev XIII.
A SYMBOL
OF
THE UNITED STATES.
1857
BY J. N. LOUGHBOROUGH.
Page 24.7

Matters are moving here similar to the way they moved in the formation of the Papal beast. In A. D., 321, laws were passed prohibiting labor in cities and towns; but in 538, when the Pope was made supreme head of all the churches, this law was made universal. We claim that then commenced the union of church and State. Here we already have several stringent State statutes, and in most of our incorporated cities laws as rigid. Read the following concerning the law of Texas."

Isa. 42:8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

42:9 Behold, the ***former things are come to pass,*** and ***new things do I declare:*** before they spring forth I tell you of them. {See chapter 41:21-29; 30:9-11; 44:7,8; 46:10; 48:3-8.}

46:11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also ***bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.***

Hab. 2:3 For the vision is yet for an ***appointed time,*** but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Ecc. 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and ***a time to every purpose*** under the heaven:

Jer. 8:5 Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return.

8:6 I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness,

saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle.

8:7 Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her *appointed times*; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the LORD.

The evidence before us of the fulfillment of prophecy declares that the end of all things is at hand. There is much important work to be done out of and away from Battle Creek. There will be need of sanitariums in many of the cities of the south, as well as in other parts of America. {KC 71.1} {BCL 48.4}

Jesus knew that He could do the scribes and Pharisees no good, unless they would empty themselves of self-importance. He chose new bottles for His new wine of doctrine, and made fishermen and unlearned believers the heralds of His truth to the world. And yet, though His doctrine seemed new to the people, ***it was in fact not a new doctrine***, but the revelation of the significance of that which had been taught from the beginning. ***It was His design that His disciples should take the plain, unadulterated truth for the guide of their life.*** They were not to add to His words, or give a forced meaning to His utterances. ***They were not to put a mystical interpretation upon the plain teaching of the Scriptures, and draw from theological stores to build up some man-made theory. It was through putting a mystical meaning upon the plain words of God, that sacred and vital truths were made of little significance, while the theories of men were made prominent. It was in this way that men were led to teach for doctrines the commandments of men, and that they rejected the commandment of God, that they might keep their own tradition.*** (RH June 2, 1896). {RH, June 2, 1896 par. 7} {5BC 1089.1}

All who join the ranks of Sabbathkeepers should become diligent Bible students, that they may know the ***pillars and groundwork*** of the truth. They should study ***prophetic history, which has brought us down point by point to where we are at the present time.*** This is God's plan for our school. Young men should attend who desire to become educated for any line of work, who have capabilities, and see the necessity of learning more and still more where we stand today in prophetic history, uniting link after link in the prophetic chain, even from Genesis to Revelation. Christ is the Alpha, the first link, and the Omega, the last link, of the gospel chain, which is welded in Revelation. These young men will not have fixed habits of wrong, or defects in disposition and character that will make them inflexible. {10MR 171.1}

“I was then pointed to the flattering things taught by some of these transgressors of God's law. I was shown also ***a bright light, given by God to guide all*** who would walk in the way of salvation, and also to serve as a warning to the sinner to flee from the wrath of God, and yield a willing obedience to his claims. ***While this light*** should continue, there would be hope; but there would be a time when it would cease,—when he that is holy will remain holy forever, and when he that is filthy will remain filthy forever. When Jesus stands up, when his work is finished in the most holy, ***then not another ray of light will be imparted*** to the sinner. {LS88 341.1}

“But Satan flatters some, through his chosen servants, as he flattered Eve in Eden, ‘Thou

shalt not surely die;’ and tells them there will be a season for repentance, a time of probation when the filthy can be made pure. The co-workers with ***Satan and his angels carry the light into the future age***, teaching probation after the advent of Christ, which deludes the sinner, and leads the cold-hearted professor to carnal security. They become careless and indifferent, and walk stumblingly over the hours of their probation. ***The light is made to reach far ahead***, where all is total darkness. Michael stands up. Instead of mercy, the deluded sinner feels wrath unmixed with mercy, having awakened too late to the fatal deception. This plan was studied by Satan, and is carried out by ***ministers*** who turn the truth of God into a lie.” {LS88 341.2}

The history which the great I AM has marked out in His word, uniting link after link in the prophetic chain, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, ***tells us where we are today in the procession of the ages***, and what may be expected in the time to come. All that prophecy has foretold as coming to pass, until the present time, ***has been traced*** on the pages of history, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order. {Ed 178.3} {Ev 193.4}

The closing scenes of this earth's history are near at hand. The ***unfulfilled*** predictions of the book of Revelation are soon to be fulfilled. This prophecy is now to be studied with diligence by the people of God, and should be clearly understood. It does not conceal the truth; it clearly forewarns, telling us what will be in the future. {1NL 96.1}

Prophecies Already Made Plain.--The Lord wants all to understand His providential dealings now, just now, in the time in which we live. There must be no long discussions, ***presenting new theories in regard to the prophecies which God has already made plain***. Now the great work from which the mind should not be diverted is the consideration of our personal safety in the sight of God. Are our feet on the rock of ages? Are we hiding ourselves in our only refuge? The storm is coming, relentless in its fury. Are we prepared to meet it? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the Father? Are we heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ? Are we working in copartnership with Christ?--Manuscript 32a, 1896. {Ev 199.1}

37-42. A Dual Representation.--The image revealed to Nebuchadnezzar, while representing the deterioration of the kingdoms of the earth in power and glory, also fitly represents the deterioration of religion and morality among the people of these kingdoms. As nations forget God, ***in like proportion they become weak morally***. {4BC 1168.4}

Babylon passed away because in her prosperity she forgot God, and ascribed the glory of her prosperity to human achievement. {4BC 1168.5}

The Medo-Persian kingdom was visited by the wrath of heaven because in this kingdom God's law was trampled under foot. The fear of the Lord found no place in the hearts of the people. The prevailing influences in Medo-Persia were wickedness, blasphemy, and corruption. {4BC 1168.6}

The kingdoms that followed were even more base and corrupt. They deteriorated because they cast off their allegiance to God. As they forgot Him, they sank lower and still lower in the scale of moral value (YI Sept. 22, 1903).

Prophecies of Revelation Repeat Prophecies of Daniel.-- Revelation is a sealed book, but it is also an opened book. It records marvelous events *that are to take place in the last days of this earth's history*. The teachings of this book are *definite*, not *mystical* and unintelligible. *In it the same line of prophecy is taken up as in Daniel. Some prophecies God has repeated, thus showing that importance must be given to them. The Lord does not repeat things that are of no great consequence.*--Manuscript 107, 1897, pp. 1,2. ("Search the Scriptures," no date.) see GC 356.0 "succession of events."

White Estate Washington, D. C. November 14, 1978 {9MR 7.5}

{12MR 296.1-298.2}

NOTE: This does not mean dual application! example Dan 2, 7, 8, 11-12. Rev. 2 and 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 17.

"Let pioneers Identify truth. When the power of God testifies as to what is truth, *that truth is to stand forever as truth. No after-suppositions, contrary to the light God has given are to be entertained.* Men will arise with interpretations of Scripture which are to them truth, but which are not truth. The truth for this time, God has given us as a foundation for our faith. He Himself has taught us what is truth. One will arise, and still another with new light, which contradicts the light God has given under the demonstration of His Holy Spirit." {CW 32}

"There have been one and another who in studying their Bibles thought they discovered great light, and new theories, but these have not been correct. The Scripture is all true, but by misapplying the Scripture men arrive at wrong conclusions. We are engaged in a mighty conflict, and it will become more close and determined as we near the final struggle. We have a sleepless adversary, and he is constantly at work upon human minds that have not had a personal experience in the teachings of the people of God for the past fifty years. Some will take the truth applicable to their time, and place it in the future. Events in the train of prophecy that had their fulfillment away in the past are made future, and thus by these theories the faith of some is undermined. . . . {2SM 102.2}

The leadings of the Lord were marked, and most wonderful were His revelations of what is truth. Point after point was established by the Lord God of heaven. *That which was truth then, is truth today.* But the voices do not cease to be heard--"This is truth. I have new light." But these new lights in prophetic lines are manifest in misapplying the Word and setting the people of God adrift without an anchor to hold them. If the student of the Word would take the truths which God *has revealed* in the leadings of His people, and appropriate these truths, digest them, and bring them into their practical life, they would then be living channels of light. But those who have set themselves to study out new theories, have a mixture of truth and error combined, and after trying to make these things prominent, have demonstrated that they have not kindled their taper from the divine altar, and it has gone out in darkness." {Ms 31, 1896.} {2SM 104.1}

"In the future, deception of every kind is to arise, and we want solid ground for our feet. We want solid pillars for the building. Not one pin is to be removed from that which the Lord has established. The enemy will bring in false theories, such as the doctrine *that there is no sanctuary*. This is one of the points on which there will be a departing from the faith. *Where shall we find safety unless it be in the truths that the Lord has been giving for the last fifty years?"* {RH, May 25, 1905 par. 28}

We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has *led* us, and His *teaching* in our past history. {CET 204.1}

The light of prophecy still burns for the guidance of souls, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." It shines on the pathway of the just to commend, and *on the way of the unjust to lead to repentance and conversion. Through its agency sin will be rebuked and iniquity unmasked*. It is progressive in the performance of its duty to reflect light on the past, the present, and the future. {ML 42.2}

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God," are the words of our Saviour. Errors in doctrine are multiplying and twining themselves with serpentlike subtlety around the affections of the people. There is not a doctrine of the Bible that has not been denied. *The great truths of prophecy, showing our position in the history of the world, have been shorn of their beauty and power by the clergy, who seek to make these all-important truths dark and incomprehensible. In many cases the children are drifting away from the old landmarks*. The Lord commanded His people Israel: "When thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord our God hath commanded you? then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand: and the Lord showed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes: and He brought us out from thence, that He might bring us in, to give us the land which He sware unto our fathers. And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is at this day. And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as He hath commanded us." {5T 330.1}

Every child of God should be intelligent in the Scriptures, and *able, by tracing the fulfillment of prophecy, to show our position in this world's history*. The Bible was written for the common people as well as for scholars, and is within the comprehension of all. The great truths which underlie man's duty to his fellow men and to his Maker are clearly revealed; and those who really want the truth need make no mistake. The way is not left in uncertainty, as though we were standing where four roads met, not knowing which one to take. The truth is our guide; it is to us like a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. {CSW 23.1}

The many contradictory opinions in regard to what the Bible teaches do not arise from any obscurity in the book itself, but from blindness and prejudice on the part of interpreters. Men

ignore the plain statements of the Bible to follow their own perverted reason. Priding themselves on their intellectual attainments, they overlook the simplicity of truth; they forsake the fountain of living waters to drink of the *poisonous stream of error*.--Review and Herald, Jan. 27, 1885. {CSW 23.2}

The history which the great I AM has marked out in His word, uniting link after link in the prophetic chain, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, tells us where we are today in the procession of the ages, and what may be expected in the time to come. All that prophecy has foretold as coming to pass, until the present time, *has been traced on the pages of history*, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order. {Ed 178.3}4}

The time of Christ's coming, His anointing by the Holy Spirit, His death, and the giving of the gospel to the Gentiles, were definitely pointed out. It was the privilege of the Jewish people to understand these prophecies, and to recognize their fulfillment in the mission of Jesus. Christ urged upon His disciples the importance of prophetic study. *Referring to the prophecy given to Daniel in regard to their time, He said*, "Whoso readeth, let him understand." Matthew 24:15. After His resurrection He explained to the disciples in "all the prophets" "the things concerning Himself." Luke 24:27. The Saviour had spoken through all the prophets. "The Spirit of Christ which was in them" "testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow." 1 Peter 1:11. {DA 234.1}

Jesus declared to the listening disciples *the judgments that were to fall upon apostate Israel*, and especially the retributive vengeance that would come upon them for their rejection and crucifixion of the Messiah. Unmistakable signs would precede the awful climax. The dreaded hour would come suddenly and swiftly. And the Saviour warned His followers: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains." Matthew 24:15, 16; Luke 21:20, 21. *When the idolatrous standards of the Romans should be set up in the holy ground, which extended some furlongs outside the city walls, then the followers of Christ were to find safety in flight*. When the warning sign should be seen, those who would escape must make no delay. *Throughout the land of Judea, as well as in Jerusalem itself*, the signal for flight must be immediately obeyed. He who chanced to be upon the housetop must not go down into his house, even to save his most valued treasures. Those who were working in the fields or vineyards must not take time to return for the outer garment laid aside while they should be toiling in the heat of the day. They must not hesitate a moment, lest they be involved in the general destruction. GC 25.4}

As the approach of the Roman armies *was a sign* to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, *so may this* apostasy be a sign to us that the limit of God's forbearance is reached, that the measure of our nation's iniquity is full, and that the angel of mercy is about to take her flight, never to return. The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress which prophets have described as the time of Jacob's trouble. The cries of the faithful, persecuted ones ascend to heaven. And as the blood of Abel

cried from the ground, there are voices also crying to God from martyrs' graves, from the sepulchers of the sea, from mountain caverns, from convents vaults: "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? *{Mar 199.5}{GC 26.0}{Hist. of the Sabbath. 133.1-138.1}*

It is no time now for God's people to be fixing their affections or laying up their treasure in the world. The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. *As the siege* of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, *so the assumption* of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. **It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains.** And now, instead of seeking expensive dwellings here, we should be preparing to move to a better country, even a heavenly. Instead of spending our means in self-gratification, we should be studying to economize. Every talent lent of God should be used to His glory in giving the warning to the world. God has a work for His colaborers to do in the cities. Our missions must be sustained; new missions must be opened. To carry forward this work successfully will require no small outlay. Houses of worship are needed, where the people may be invited to hear the truths for this time. For this very purpose, God has entrusted a capital to His stewards. Let not your property be tied up in worldly enterprises, so that this work shall be hindered. Get your means where you can handle it for the benefit of the cause of God. Send your treasures before you into heaven. {5T 464.3} {CL 32.1}

To defy the *Sunday laws* will but strengthen in their persecution the religious zealots who are seeking to enforce them. Give them no occasion to call you lawbreakers. If they are left to rein up men who fear neither God nor man, the reining up will soon lose its novelty for them, and they will see that it is not consistent nor convenient for them to be strict in regard to the observance of Sunday. **Keep right on with your missionary work, with your Bibles in your hands, and the enemy will see that he has worsted his own cause.** One does not receive the mark of the beast because he shows that he realizes the wisdom of keeping the peace by refraining from work that gives offense, doing at the same time a work of the highest importance. {9T 232.3}

When we devote Sunday to missionary work, the whip will be taken out of the hands of the arbitrary zealots who would be well pleased to humiliate Seventh-day Adventists. When they see that we employ ourselves on Sunday in visiting the people and opening the Scriptures to them, they will know that it is useless for them to try to hinder our work by making Sunday laws. {9T 232.4}

WAYMARKS AND HIGH HEEPS

Joseph Bates

First Land Mark and High Heap

page 5

Is it possible for any one to show that this proclamation in the text has ever been published to every nation and kindred under heaven since the days of the Apostles. I think history will be searched in vain for it, and if it has not been faithfully given since 1840, then I think it cannot through the instrumentality of man. ***Then if, as we have shown, this prophecy is fulfilled, it never can occur again. That it is done I have not the shadow of a doubt.***

Prophetic Gift

In The
Gospel Church
J N Loughborough
Rule Six
page 18, 41-42

The students of Scripture prophecies have ever claimed that ***“when the time comes for the fulfilment of a prophecy, the genuine fulfilment is there, and not a counterfeit.”***

This sixth rule teaches that if a miracle is wrought by a pretender, there will be seen with it, ***when carefully tested, a departure from the sacred truths of God’s word, and a lowering of the standard, to meet a heart inclined to shun the way of self-denial. The Lord permits such pretender to arise, and his course is a test to the true child of God,*** giving him an opportunity to weigh carefully the tendency or motive of said miracle-worker. Those who cling to God’s word, instead of being captivated by the false miracle-worker, come forth strong in God as the result of such experience.

In these evil days when many are claiming to be “faith healers,” “divine healers,” or “Christian Science healers,” etc., it would be well to apply closely the Scriptural rules; for it will need divine rules, and the illumination of the Holy Spirit, to enable us clearly to discern the intent and purpose of some of these “healers,” so subtle in their work; while on the other hand are those who openly disregard God’s law and His truth for this time.

In this rule six we are counseled to watch the nature of the testimony, ***whether it draws us nearer to the Lord, or away from Him.*** Virtually, we are counseled to test the prophet by all the rules, and not decide that he is a true prophet because apparently he is in harmony with one rule. I say apparently, for if perchance he made a prediction, the next question naturally arises, Where did he get his prediction of events to take place? ***We understand from the Scriptures that anciently unprincipled men, false prophets, “stole” the words of true prophets, and passed them off as their prophecy, seeking thus to succeed in their deception.***

The Lord has told His people in these times that “the devil is a careful student of the prophecies of the Bible.” And why is this? Is it to learn the truth, that he may help on the work of the Lord?—No, by no means, but rather that he may tell some of these things that are coming—***having stolen them from the Lord’s prophets—thus making it appear that his prophets are true ones.***

“Satan closely watches events, and when he finds one who has a specially strong spirit of opposition to the truth of God, he will even reveal to him unfulfilled events, that he may more firmly secure himself a seat in his heart. . . . During his experience of nearly six thousand years he has lost none of his skill and shrewdness. All this time he has been a close observer of all that concerns our race.”—***“Testimonies for the Church,” volume 2, pages 171, 172.***

Although Satan’s prophets may do miracles, or may speak of things to come, by the aid of what they have seen take place (as the death of a person occurring at a certain hour), or tell of

an event to come (of which they “stole” their knowledge from God’s prophet), yet in applying all the rules to their case, it will soon be seen where they fail to be in harmony with the Lord’s standard of true prophets. Satan will not teach submission to God’s law, but rather the service of other gods, even though it be the self-pleasing way of shunning the path of self-denial.

There is no Bible sanctification for those who cast a part of the truth behind them. 1T 338

{ ATJ LOF RH99/01/03 }

This also is how it is that it is "impossible for God to lie." It is not impossible for God to lie only because He will not, but also because He cannot. And He cannot lie, just because He cannot. It is impossible. And it is impossible, because when He speaks, the creative energy is in the word spoken, so that "the word only" causes the thing to be so.

Man may speak a word and it not be so. Thus man can lie, for to speak what is not so is to lie.

And man can lie, can speak what is not so, because there is no power in his word itself to cause the thing to be. With God this is impossible; He cannot lie, for "he spake, and it was"; He speaks, and it is so.

This is also how it is that when the word of God is spoken for a certain time, as in a prophecy for hundreds of years to come when that time actually has arrived, that word is fulfilled. And it is then fulfilled, not because, apart from the word, God does something to fulfill it, but because the word was spoken for that time, and in it is the creative energy which causes the word at that time to produce the thing spoken.

THE
SECOND COMING
OF CHRIST:
OR
A BRIEF EXPOSITION
OF
MATTHEW TWENTY-FOUR.
BY ELD. JAMES WHITE.
page. 1, 2.

No truth of inspiration can be more clearly stated than that God reveals his designs to his prophets, that men and nations may be warned before their accomplishment. “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7. Before visiting with judgments, God has uniformly sent forth warnings sufficient to enable the believing to escape his wrath, and to condemn those who have not heeded the warning. This was the case before the flood. “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his house, by the which he condemned the world.” Heb.11:7.

At a later period, when the nations had become sunken in idolatry and crime, and the destruction of wicked Sodom was determined, the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all

the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?" Gen.18:17,18. And due notice was given to righteous Lot, who, with his daughters, was preserved; and none, even in that guilty city, perished without due warning. Lot evidently warned the people; and, in thus communing with them, was "vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked." 2Pet.2:7,8. When he warned his sons-in-law, "he seemed as one that mocked." Gen.19:14. And when "the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter." Lot warned them, and entreated them to desist from their wickedness. And they at once did that which all sinners, since the days of righteous Lot, have been disposed to do to those who faithfully warn them of their sins; namely, they charged him with being a judge.

Before the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus, a forerunner was sent to prepare the way before the Lord. Those who did not receive Christ, were rejected, "because," as he said to Jerusalem, when warning the people of the destruction of their city and temple, "thou knewest not the time of thy visitation." Luke 19:44. We have on record the Lord's prediction of the destruction of Jerusalem during the time of the generation that rejected him, which was fulfilled in less than forty years from the time of his crucifixion. And, that the Christians in Judea might escape its impending doom, they were told that when they should "see Jerusalem compassed with armies," or, as recorded by Matthew, "the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place," they were to "flee to the mountains." Luke 21:20; Matt. 24:15. They heeded the admonition, and escaped in safety to Pella. Such is the testimony of inspiration respecting the dealings of God with his people in past ages. And it cannot be supposed that God will change his course relative to the future, when that future is to realize the crowning consummation of all prophetic declarations.

Can anything be learned from the Bible relative to the period of the second advent, is a question unsettled in many minds. This is a grave inquiry; and, from the very nature of the subject, is worthy of close investigation, and a candid answer. It is a matter of painful regret that not a few, under the influence of popular prejudice, have decided that the period of the second advent is a secret, hidden with the Lord. While these may scarcely be reached with this subject, as long as they remain under the influence of those religious teachers who denounce all investigation of it as prying into the secrets of the Almighty, there is still a larger class who wait for evidence before deciding. It is with ardent hope of benefiting these, that we write.

We accept the Bible as a revelation from Heaven. What God has revealed in that book, let no man call a mystery, or a secret of the Almighty, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God; but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever." Deut. 29:29. If the sacred Scriptures do not designate any period in particular for the second appearing of Christ, then men should at once abandon the vain search for proofs of his soon coming. But if prophecy, in a most clear and harmonious manner, does point to the period of that great event, and if there is evidence that "it is near, even at the doors," the subject at once assumes vast importance.

When the disciples inquire, "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Jesus does not reprove them for inquiring into that which was purposely hidden from all men; but he answers that question in the most definite manner. He even states that there should be signs of that event in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and adds, "When ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." The simple fact that the Lord mentions signs of his second advent, is the best proof possible that his people were not to remain ignorant of the relative nearness of the event. Add to this evidence his declaration that when these signs should be seen, his people should know that it was near, even at the doors,

and the case becomes an exceedingly strong one. Probably no one chapter of the Bible speaks more fully, and more definitely, upon the subject of the second coming of Christ, than Matt.24. We invite the attention of the candid reader to a brief explanation of the entire chapter.