

a standing monument of the truth of Christ's predictions. Themselves dispersed over the face of the whole earth, and their land groaning under the yoke of foreign lords and conquerors, i. e. the Turks: and at this day there is no reason to doubt but they will continue in the same state, nor ever recover their native country, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. Our saviour's words are very memorable: JERUSALEM shall be trodden down of the GENTILES, until the TIMES of the Gentiles be FULFILLED. Luke xxi. 24. It is still trodden down by the Gentiles, and consequently the times of the Gentiles are not yet fulfilled. When the times of the Gentiles shall be fulfilled, then the expression implies, that the Jews shall be restored: and for what reason can we believe, that though they are dispersed among all nations, yet, by a constant miracle, they are kept distinct from all, but for the farther manifestation of God's purposes and promises towards them? The prophecies have been accomplished to the greatest exactness in the destruction of their city, and its continuing still subject to strangers; in the dispersion of their people, and their living still separate from all people: and why should not the remaining parts of the same prophecies be as fully accomplished too, in their RESTORATION at the proper season, when the times of the Gentiles shall be fulfilled?

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The times of the Gentiles will be fulfilled, when the times of the four great kingdoms of the Gentiles, according to Daniel's prophecies, shall be expired; and the fifth kingdom, or the kingdom of Christ, shall be set up in their place, and the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. Dan. vii. 18.

Jerusalem, as it hath hitherto remained, so probably will remain in subjection to the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled; or, as the apostle Paul expresseth it, (Rom. xi. 25, 26) until the FULNESS of the Gentiles be come in: and so all Israel shall be saved, and become again the people of God. The FULNESS of the Jews will come in as well as the FULNESS of the Gentiles: for if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles, how much more their fulness? For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, that blindness, in part, is happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in; and so all Israel shall be saved. I conclude this head with an earnest desire that my dear young readers would take the first opportunity of reading the whole of these masterly Dissertations on the Destruction of Jerusalem: to which he ought to add Josephus's\*  
History

\* The new edition by Fielding and Walker is adorned with a great number of elegant copper-plates, 4to. p. 108.

History of the Siege; who was certainly preserved by God for the great purpose of illustrating the prophecies of Christ relating to this grand and astonishing event.

### VII. PROPHECIES OF THE MAN OF SIN.

This is the pope of Rome, and agrees to no other man in the world so much as it does to him. There is a most striking agreement in the sentiments and views of Daniel and the apostle Paul, concerning this man of sin. See Dan. vii. and xi. compared with Paul's epistle to the Thessalonians; 2 Thes. ii. 3--12. Here I am happy to produce a beautiful passage from the bishop of Bristol, vol. ii. p. 388. "The man of sin is the same arbitrary and wicked power that is described by Daniel under the characters of the LITTLE HORN and the mighty king." The bishop gives six views of this coincidence and agreement.

1. In St. Paul he is revealed when the Roman empire is taken out of the way: and in Daniel the Roman empire is first broken into several kingdoms, and he *cometh up among them*.

2. In St. Paul he opposeth: and in Daniel he doeth according to his will, and weareth out the saints of the most High.

3. In St. Paul he exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, shewing  
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ing himself that he is GOD: and in Daniel he exalteth himself, and magnifieth himself above every god, and speaketh marvellous things against the GOD of gods.

4. In St. Paul he is the lawless one: and in Daniel he changeth times and laws.

5. In St. Paul his coming is with all deceivableness and unrighteousness: and in Daniel he practiseth and prospereth; and, through his policy, causeth craft to prosper in his hand.

6. According to Paul, the Lord shall consume him with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy him with the brightness of his coming: and according to Daniel, a fiery stream shall issue and come forth from the judge: and his body shall be given to the BURNING FLAME, and they shall take away his dominion to consume and destroy it unto the end. The characters and circumstances are so much the same, that they must belong to one and the same person.---The whole of Dr. Newton's Dissertation on the Man of Sin is exceedingly entertaining and instructive; and I will affirm in his words, (vol. iii. p. 403) "If the bishop of Rome had fat for his picture, a greater resemblance and likeness could not have been drawn."

#### VIII. PROPHECIES of the APOSTACY of the latter TIMES.

We will give the text, according to the translation

translation of Dr. Newton. 1 Tim. iv. 1--3. But the Spirit speaketh expressly: he had been speaking before of the mystery of godliness, and now he proceeds to speak of the MYSTERY of INIQUITY in opposition to it. But the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some, i. e. many shall apostatize from the faith, giving heed to erroneous spirits, and doctrines concerning demons, through the hypocrisy of lyars, having their consciences seared with an hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving by the believers, and them who know the truth.

Here you see an apostacy from the faith is foretold---it is particularly shewn wherein this apostacy should consist, i. e. in giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; or rather giving heed to erroneous spirits, and doctrines concerning demons, i. e. middle powers between God and men.---The conformity between popery and paganisin has been proved at large by Dr. Henry More, in his second part of the Myftery of Iniquity, book i. chap. xvii. by Dr. Conyers Middleton, in his famous Letter from Rome; and by Mr. Seward, in his Dissertation on the Conformity between Popery and Paganism; with Dr. Newton's excellent Dissertation on the Apostacy of the latter Times, vol. ii. p. 404.

IX. PROPHECIES in the BOOK of the REVELATIONS of St. JOHN the APOSTLE and DIVINE.

This is a most wonderful book, and of a peculiar construction. Here is every thing to astonish the understanding, to strike the imagination with a mixture of delight and terror, to animate and deeply interest the passions, fix the will eternally for GOD, and rouse the whole soul into zeal for the glory and kingdom of Christ in the world. This book was never so well understood in any former age as it has been in this century; and we can never enough adore the spirit of Christ, who has stirred up the most learned and sagacious minds in the world to search laboriously into the sense and meaning of this sublime and God-breathed revelation. The principal names I will just mention nearly in the order of time in which they have written; and not one of these writers ought to be despised.

1. Brightman. 2. Mede. 3. Dr. Henry More. 4. Daubuz. 5. Vitringa. 6. Sir Isaac Newton, 1728. 7. Lowman, 1740. 8. Dr. Gill, 1748. 9. Dr. Guyse, 1748. 10. Dr. Doddridge, 1750. 11. Dr. Thomas Newton, bishop of Bristol, vol. iii. 8vo. 1758. 12. Rev. Thomas Reader, of Taunton, in Somersetshire, just published in 8vo. 1778.---All these authors are men of excellent sense, sound learning, and deep seriousness. They write in the fear of GOD, and with an ardent love

love

love of truth : the christian world is indebted to them beyond expression, and I do with joy and gratitude acknowledge my obligations to them all.

At present I must only give a few brief hints concerning the order and sense of this admirable book, just enough to raise my reader's curiosity, and excite him to wish for a more ample view in another part of this work, when we shall propose rules for understanding the holy Scriptures.

The book of the Revelation delights in the number SEVEN. Here are seven churches, seven spirits, seven eyes, seven horns, seven seals, seven trumpets, seven angels, seven vials full of the wrath of God, and seven thunders,

Let me go a little farther, and observe, that some of these great men think that the seven churches represent the state of the church of Christ in seven distinct periods, from the apostles time to the end of the world.

Most of these great men agree, that the seven seals begin with the apostolic age, and finish at the time of Constantine the Great, 313. Then the seven trumpets begin ; and that we are now under the sixth trumpet---that when the seventh trumpet shall sound, popery and mahomedism shall be destroyed ; the Jews all converted, and brought back, with great spiritual and temporal glory,

glory, into their own land; the fulness of the Gentiles shall come in; the spiritual reign of Christ commence, and all the nations of the earth be filled with the knowledge and love of God: and holiness be as common and universal as wickedness is now: grace in the powerful operations of the spirit of God, and in its vigorous exertions in the heart towards God, will be an effectual preservative of all the millions of mankind amidst great temporal riches, peace, fulness, and tranquility: the utmost delight in the person, offices, satisfaction, righteousness, and grace of Christ will abound: the most intense and generous love to each other will spread thro' the hearts of all mankind: and every nation that rolls at the foot of Christ's throne, shall be enlightened by his spirit, cleansed by his blood, and cloathed with his glorious righteousness. After these happy times, there will come on a state of lukewarmness in the churches, which will provoke our mighty God Christ Jesus to make his sudden and personal appearance to burn the world; to raise the righteous dead; to change all the bodies of the true christians that are living; to wrap the globe of the earth in fire; to burn the bodies of the wicked to ashes, and throw them under the feet of the saints, Mal. iv. 3; to consign all wicked souls to hell; to create new heavens and a new earth, and to reign  
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with the whole redeemed world a thousand years: at the end of which period the wicked shall all be raised, and, under the strong delusion of Satan, shall make a desperate and mad attempt on the glorious city and church of God. This will bring on the universal judgment. Depart, ye cursed, will be the lot of all the wicked; and come, ye blessed, will be the glorious voice to the righteous. The two eternal worlds will open to view; the characters and states of the whole human race will be fixed; and God, in all the utmost terrors of his justice to impenitent rebels, and in all the boundless splendors of his mercy and grace to his people, will be made known through the vast extent of his intellectual and eternal empire.

These! These! are the tremendous scenes which are thrown open before our eyes in this astonishing and delightful book of the Revelations.

### R E C O L L E C T I O N.

Now, my reader, let us review this series of prophecy respecting the Lord Jesus---the Jews---the four monarchies---the other nations of the world---the rise of the pope and popery---the destruction of Jerusalem---the man of sin at Rome---the apostacy of the latter times---and the prophecies in the book of the Revelations.

Great

Great and all-discerning God, what do we see pass before the eyes of our mind? The birth-place of Christ--the stock, tribe, and family, out of which he should spring--the very time of his birth, with its circumstances marked out--the life, actions, and miracles of our Lord--his sufferings and death are foretold in the most distinct and precise manner, so that if the prophets had sat under the cross, they could hardly have given us a more striking and particular account. What do we see in the predictions concerning the state of the Jews for three thousand two hundred years past! and their present state in all nations! We see the Assyrian and Babylonian monarchy rise up to view--the Medo-Persian--the Grecian and Roman empires pass before the mental eye, with all their characteristic features marked out before they actually existed as empires--we behold the fates of Nineveh, Babylon, Tyre, and Egypt--the ram, or the Persian king Darius, the he-goat, or Alexander the Great, rise up before our astonished eyes!--we see Xerxes, the richest king, invade Greece--we see Antiochus the cruel king of the North, and Ptolemy the king of the South, speaking lies at one table!--we see the pope rise up as a little horn, and at last growing to be a great king--we see Jerusalem and its famous temple destroyed by Titus and the Roman army, and not one stone

left to stand upon another!---we see the man of sin, or the grand antinomian of the christian church; we see him break all laws, human and divine; we see him live in sin, wallow in sin, and give all manner of indulgencies to commit sin---we see this monster in sin rise into all the height of impudent blasphemy against the holy God!---we see the apostacy of the latter times consisting principally in a departure from one God, and the one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus; and going into the worship of demons, or invisible middle powers between God and man, i. e. angels and departed souls. Now, how clearly is all this verified in the idolatrous worship of the church of Rome!

We see the astonishing predictions in the book of the Revelations clearly fulfilled in a most evident and striking manner---the church of **EPHESUS** marks out the state of the primitive apostolic church---**SMYRNA** points out the state of the church under the ten pagan persecutions---**PERGAMOS** represents the church flourishing in worldly prosperity under Constantine, and Theodosius the Great---**THYATIRA** marks out the state of the church for a thousand years under the darkness of popery---**SARDIS** points out the state of the church after the reformation from popery, that is the present state---**PHILADELPHIA** describes the spiritual reign of Christ over all nations---

**LAODICEA**

LAODICEA points out the lukewarmness of the church just before the visible appearance of Christ to burn the world, to raise the righteous dead, and reign personally a thousand years; which will be before the last resurrection of the wicked dead, and the general judgment.

The seals and trumpets, and vials, will be all explained, and made easy to young inquisitive minds, when we come to give rules for the right understanding of the holy Scriptures.

And now, my reader, stand still and consider the wondrous works and words of God! What evidence! what demonstration is here! May I not say, in the words of Dr. Newton, (vol. ii. p. 326) “It appears next to impossible, that any man should duly consider all these prophecies, and the exact completion of them; and if he is a BELIEVER, not be CONFIRMED in the FAITH; or if he is an INFIDEL, not be CONVERTED.” But alas! alas! infidels are more stubborn than devils, and harder to be convinced of the truth. Men out sin devils, and yet they are at the same time the most resolute believers in the world; for they are resolved to believe the vilest lyes and the grossest falsehoods, in spite of all the evidence of God’s truth, set in a vivid light before their eyes.

But,

But, my friends, let us believe, admire, and adore: let us love the truth, and rejoice in it: let us not only rejoice, but glory in the truth: and whilst we feel its convincing power, taste its inexpressible sweetness, and see its perfect and attractive beauty, let us fall down at the throne of the most high God, and adore his lovely perfections.

N. B. XERXES invaded Greece near 150 years before ALEXANDER conquered DARIUS: but I have placed the last first, as it is in Daniel viii. xi. 2.

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### Select BOOKS on the PROPHECIES.

1. Dr. Gill on the PROPHECIES concerning the MESSIAH fulfilled in JESUS, 8vo. 1728.

2. Bp. Kidder's DEMONSTRATION of the MESSIAH, in the BOYLEAN LECTURES.

3. Sir Isaac Newton's OBSERVATIONS ON DANIEL and the REVELATIONS, 2 vols. 4to.----Here you see the greatest geometrician in the world, who understood the nature and force of demonstration as well as any man that ever lived, bowing his understanding to the revelation of God, and studying that revelation all his days. We are assured that his Bible was always lying on the table or desk before him. The character and practice of this one great man is more than sufficient to weigh down to eternity all the Bolingbrokes and Humes, the Rousseaus and the Voltaires, that have ever lived, or shall live, to the end of the world. Let the modern free-thinkers, or rather half-thinkers, or no thinkers, stop their mouths and hide their heads in confusion and darkness, instead of standing up with impudence before so great a master of reason and philosophy!

4. The reader will observe, that I have made great use of Dr. Newton's admirable Dissertations on Prophecy: and let me boast a little that I have brought three volumes in octavo down to the capacities of young people, at the expence of one shilling. I believe this is the first attempt of the kind, and I feel a real pleasure in doing this service to the rising generation.

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**A C O N T E M P L A T I O N**

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**G O O D A N D B A D M E N I N A L L A G E S .**

The SCRIPTURE evinces itself to be inspired by GOD, from the clear ACCOUNT it gives us of the internal CHARACTER of bad MEN, in their PRINCIPLES and DISPOSITIONS of HEART towards GOD and RELIGION---in their ENMITY and HATRED to good MEN---in the worldly PROSPERITY of many bad MEN---in their WANT of TRANQUILLITY and PEACE of CONSCIENCE. The SCRIPTURE is wonderfully fulfilled in all GOOD MEN---it represents the CHURCH of CHRIST as lower in worldly CIRCUMSTANCES than many wicked MEN---as FEWER in NUMBERS,---as more exposed to TRIALS, CONFLICTS, and HARDSHIPS ---yet immoveably SAFE, SECURE, and VICTORIOUS---mixed with HYPOCRITES, or meer PRETENDERS to CHRISTIANITY---and in a great VARIETY of STATES and CHANGES in the WORLD, with respect to LIGHT and DARKNESS, JOY and SORROW. The SCRIPTURES are fulfilled in all CHRISTIANS in a special MANNER---in their  
CALL

CALL into the CHURCH---in their PRINCIPLES and DISPOSITIONS towards GOD and RELIGION ---in their IMPERFECTIONS and CORRUPTIONS of HEART---in the exceeding great and precious PROMISES TO BELIEVERS---in the THREATENINGS of fatherly CHASTISEMENT to BACKSLIDERS--- in their comfortable and happy DEATH, and joyful HOPES of GLORY.

X. The FULFILMENT of the SCRIPTURES in the two grand CLASSES of *good* and *bad* MEN in all AGES, and in all the PARTS of the MORAL WORLD.

**T**IS the singular glory of the revelation of GOD, that it marks out, with great precision and exactness, the internal character of every man in the whole world, as they may be ranged in two great classes of good and bad men, or those that fear GOD, and those that fear him not.

The Scripture is evidently fulfilled in describing the character of BAD MEN---their inward principles and frame of heart---their enmity and hatred to all good men---their outward and temporal circumstances---their inward dissatisfaction of mind, and want of peace of conscience. These particulars are all declared in Scripture, in a very surprising manner.

I. The