

be, and what shall be the *sign of thy coming*, and of the end of this world?" The phrase *end of the world* here is what has led many to conclude that our Lord blends with the subject of the destruction of Jerusalem the subject of the destruction of the *material* world. But this is a very great mistake. The word which is rendered *world* here, critical orthodox scholars tell us is not "kosmos," a word signifying the material world, but "aion," a word which is expressive of *duration*, and not of *substance*, and which signifies an *age* or *dispensation*. Hence, Campbell, Clarke, Wakefield, Whitby, Thomas, Newton, and others, render this phrase, "the conclusion of the age," "the conclusion of this state," "the end of the age," or "the end of this dispensation." But that the question of the disciples did not relate to the end of this *material* world is further evident from the fact that neither Mark nor Luke, in their account of the discourse, say anything about the end of the world. See Mark xiii: 1, 3, 4; also Luke xxi: 5-7. It is evident from these quotations that the disciples understood our Lord's discourse to relate solely and entirely to the destruction of the temple and city of Jerusalem. In the parable of the tares and wheat we find these two words "*kosmos*" and "*aion*." Our Lord explains the parable thus: The *field* is the world, (*kosmos*), and in speaking of the end of the dispensation He says, "So shall it be in the end of the world," he uses an entirely different one, *aion*. Can we imagine his motives in so doing? If he desired his audience to understand him, they were as well educated in the meaning of these terms as we are with the terms "world" and "age." These facts are very significant and show conclusively that our Lord's discourse in the 24th and 25th of Matthew had direct reference to the end of that age spoken of in Daniel, chapter xii. This twelfth chapter of Daniel commences thus: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, etc., and there shall be a *time of trouble* such as *never* was since there was a nation, even to that same time." In the 6th verse one asked the question, "*How long* shall it be to the *end* of these wonders?" and in the 7th verse an emphatic answer is given, "*When* he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the *holy people*, all these things shall be finished." The