

## THE THRONE OF DAVID.

"My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before me. It shall be established forever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven." Psalm 89:34-37.

QUESTION. Have I not at different times heard you express views touching the promises made to David, which are not exactly in harmony with the generally received opinions?

ANSWER. Very likely, as I have always been free to confess that the ordinary way of explaining these scriptures is very unsatisfactory to me, so much so that it seems like trifling with the Bible rather than explaining it.

Q. Would you object to an explanation here, as it is not clear to me, wherein our expositors have been in error touching these covenant promises?

A. I will cheerfully do so, and I am glad to find you willing to look into the subject. So many treat prophecy as if it were specially given to entangle the mind and obscure truth that it is quite refreshing to find one who is willing to investigate. Prophecy was given for the purpose of making plain, *i. e.*, telling beforehand what should take place. The only really prophetic book of the New Testament is called *Apocalypse*, which is the very reverse of mystery.

Q. Why then have the prophecies been and still are regarded as obscure and generally shunned by preachers of the gospel?

A. For various reasons. Some have not the capacity or historical information to enable them to enter on so wide a theme; others are too indolent and would rather not have their minds disturbed or stirred up to study anything; still others are so jealous of old opinions that any new interpretation fills them with fear if not with envy.

Q. This may all be true, but you have gone aside from the question. There have been able and pious men who gave much thought to this subject of prophecy. Can you show where they went astray and why?

A. I have, it is true, gone a little aside, but not because I feel unable to answer your question. These expositors, though great and good men, were only men and *uninspired* men too. They were not free from the influence of those schools of thought which preceded them. About the third century after Christ a great teacher called Origen arose, who wished to explain the Bible in harmony with philosophy. The philosophers laughed at the unfulfilled promises of God's word.