

interpret these signs? Simply by finding out the meaning of a sufficient number of them as they are separately interpreted in the other Scriptures; for it must be observed that the Revelation does not profess to be given in ordinary language, but in the language of signs. When Jesus received the revelation, it is not said that "he sent (and made it known in ordinary language) by his angel unto his servant John," but "he sent and signified it (*i.e.*, represented it by signs, ἐσήμανεν) by his angel unto his servant John." So the Revelation is not to be understood literally, but figuratively; when "fire" is spoken of, fire is not meant, but something else is signified by the word "*fire*;" so likewise with "*water*." Neither does "the sun" mean the sun, nor "the moon" the moon: neither does "the earth" mean the earth, nor "the sea" the sea. Then the question is, what do these words or "signs" mean? and how can we possibly be sure that we have found out the true meaning of each sign?

It is remarkable that the interpretation of some of the signs are contained in the Revelation itself; for instance, "the seven candlesticks" are said to represent "the seven churches;" and "fine linen, white and clean," is said to symbolize "the righteousness of saints."

Jesus himself interprets the meaning of another sign, viz., "fire;" when he says, "I am come to send *fire* on the earth; and what will I if it be already kindled? (But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!) Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather *division*," &c. (Luke xii. 49-51.) Jesus did not send *fire* upon the earth *literally*; neither was *literal* "*fire*" "already kindled" by his agency, or about to be kindled as soon as he should have accomplished the "*baptism*"