

of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." We see that the water of life comes from the throne of God and of the Lamb. The tree of life grows in the midst of the street of this city, and by the side of this river. David, in the 1st Psalm, compares the righteous man to "a tree planted by a river, which in his season yieldeth fruit, and his leaf fadeth never." This figure is held up here. This tree grows by the crystal stream; its fruit is yielded every month; and its leaves are for the healing of the nations. You will easily perceive that the twelve manner of fruit, and the month (there being twelve in a year), are all figures of the twelve tribes of Israel. This figure plainly shows that the conversion of the world will require time. The church must be established, and in parity, on earth, and after that the nations will be healed. This explains the last period mentioned by Daniel, in ch. xii., v. 12: "Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and thirty-five days," viz., 1945. From the words, "Blessed is he," we have every reason to conclude that the gospel will be preached to every soul ~~on earth~~ at this period; and those who hear shall understand, or, in other words, the whole world will serve God. The word "blessed" is explained in ch. i. v. 3: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein." So the word "blessed" here shows that the whole world will both read and hear the word of God, and also keep it. The rest of this chapter (xiii.) shows the glorious union of Christ and his people on earth. They shall stand on that sea of glass, and ever see the reflection of his face. "And they shall see His face, and His name shall be in their foreheads." The light of heaven shall ever shine upon them. They shall reign with Him not only here, but in those realms of bliss beyond the grave, for ever and ever. "And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true; and the Lord God of the holy prophets hath sent His angel to show unto His servants the things which must shortly be done."

Now, take notice, that it is not to the prophet John alone that these words are sent, but to his servants—the plural servants—all who worship him in spirit and in truth. If you are His servants, let me tell you then, that God hath sent His angel to you to show unto you the things which will shortly be done. And I again ask you, Why has he sent His angel to show you those things? The answer is here: "Behold I come quickly; blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this Book." John gives his testimony that he heard and saw these things. He is cautioned not to seal the sayings of the prophecy of this Book, for the time is at hand. Again, "Behold I come quickly." Again, your authority for the certainty and truth of this prophecy is held forth, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." And again, "I, Jesus, have sent mine angel to testify unto you those things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star." Yes! the star is given, a figure of the spirit of the church of Christ. Yes! Christ is that spirit, that star. When we look to heaven we see the morning star looking down on our every action. Christ is the morning star, He is looking down from heaven on our every action. He has seen the sorrows of his people. He can sympathize with us, for He declares: "I am the Root and the Offspring of David." He has been one of us, "The Son of man." And now behold the invitation, "And the spirit and the bride say come;" Christ and his church as one say, "come;" "And let him that heareth say, come." Yes! you that hear and understand, put not your candle under a bushel, but say, "come," to all around you. "And let him that is athirst come, and whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." And now, though I were to search the works of all the poets and orators, from the creation of the world till this present day, I could not find a sentence to finish with so impressive as the last sentence of this prophecy, "He which testifieth these things saith, surely I come quickly. Amen!"