

"The holy people" are those who shall now engage in the service of the Lord, "to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel," and so to establish the kingdom of God, of righteousness, and of truth, in that part of the earth, at least, which God has set apart for that purpose, viz., the land of Israel, the holy land (see Interpretation, pp. 47-51).

The Interpretation of the Revelation is written in the hope that some of the best-disposed among men will perceive how many most interesting and important truths may be learned by studying the Bible, and so will be induced to "search the Scriptures" for themselves, comparing Scripture with Scripture; for "no prophecy of the Scripture is of any separate (*idiás*) interpretation" 2 Peter i. 20); and thus acquire a knowledge of the will and purposes of God, which will urge them to engage in the work of setting up his kingdom on the earth, so that his will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Though for good and wise reasons, *the particulars* of those things which are now about to take place in the earth during the next thirty or seventy-five years are not revealed, surely enough is revealed to induce the wisest among men to engage in a work which most certainly will eventually result in the kingdom of God on the earth.

Those who now engage in the service of the Lord are "the last [who] shall be first" to receive their reward, as shown by the parable in Matt. xx. 1-16, in connexion with the last four verses of the preceding chapter.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Then answered Peter, and said unto him, *Behold, we have forsaken all and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?* And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye shall also sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. *And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundred-fold, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first shall be last, and the last shall be first. For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vine-*