

of changes and revolutions in the heavens, or commotions among the celestial bodies. The fall of *Babylon* is represented by the stars and constellations of heaven withdrawing their light; and the sun and moon being darkened. Isaih. xiii. 9, 10. The destruction of *Egypt*, by the heaven being covered, the sun enveloped with a cloud, and the moon withholding her light. Ezek. xxxii, 7, 8. The destruction of the Jews by Antiochus Epiphanes is represented by casting down some of the host of heaven and the stars to the ground. Dan. viii. 10.

So Christ announces the passing away of the old dispensation, and the destruction of the Jewish state and church. "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heaven shall be shaken, and *then* shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven, &c." Matt. xxiv. And Peter speaking of the same event employs the same metaphors: "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night" (in the which the heavens shall pass away (the Jewish state shall be destroyed) with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein shall be burned up. . . . Nevertheless, we, (the believers) according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth (the Christian gospel kingdom) wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Pet. iii. And on a former occasion, years before, (Acts ii.) he had quoted similar language from Joel, as descriptive of the overthrow of the old law dispensation, secular and religious—"This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel (it was then being fulfilled,) . . . I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood and fire, and vapour of smoke; the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come." The wonders which the people then saw, were the heralds of the in coming of that great and notable day of the Lord, when the sun and moon, and the whole framework of the Jewish heaven and earth would be dissolved and pass away in blood and vapor of smoke, and give place to the new heaven and new earth of the Gospel.