

of the closing scene of the great year-week which ushers in the Millennium.

THIRD PARALLEL, CLOSING SCENE.
REV. xvi, 14—21. THE LAST VIAL

"The spirits of devils, working miracles....go forth unto the kings of the earth, and of the whole world, to gather them....to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.... And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air. And there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, *It is done.* And there were voices and thunders and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent (114 lbs.!) and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great."

In the third parallel, we see, as in the first, the gathering of the nations to the great battle....The voices and thunders and lightnings recall the very words of ch. xi. The hail mentioned there, is described here. The wrath of God is represented as the wine of the *winepress*, mentioned in the second parallel. In both the third and fourth, as in the second, Christ's coming is spoken of. "Behold I come as a thief." "And He is seen coming from the opened heaven. The fourth parallel contains a most vivid description of the overthrow of the vast host of Satan assembled against the Lord.

FOURTH PARALLEL, CLOSING SCENE.
REV. xix, 11. CHRIST COMES TO TREAD THE WINEPRESS.

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness doth He judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean."

"And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He hath on His vesture and on his thigh a name written KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of men that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse and against His army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. *These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of Him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of His mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.*"

Who that reads the foregoing passages, can doubt, that they are parallel accounts? But these, remember, are the *closing passages* of the four divisions of the chief portion of the book; that is, the middle portion, which prepares the way for the reign of Christ itself, and tells the story of the great week which precedes it.