

## INTRODUCTION.

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THIS volume treats upon the themes of Bible history, themes not in themselves new, yet here so presented as to give them a new significance, revealing springs of action, showing the important bearing of certain movements, and bringing into stronger light some features that are but briefly mentioned in the Bible. Thus the scenes have a vividness and importance that tend to make new and lasting impressions. Such a light is shed upon the Scripture record as to reveal more fully the character and purposes of God; to make manifest the wiles of Satan, and the means by which his power will be finally overthrown; to bring to view the weakness of the human heart, and show how the grace of God has enabled men to conquer in the battle with evil. All this tends to encourage, warn, and strengthen the followers of Christ, and is in harmony with what God has shown to be his purpose in unfolding to men the truths of his word. The agency by which these revelations have been given is seen — when tested by the Scriptures — to be one of the methods God still employs to impart instruction to the children of men.

While it is not now as it was in the beginning, when man in his holiness and innocence had personal instruction from his Maker, still man is not left without a divine teacher, which God has provided in his representative, the Holy Spirit. So we hear the apostle Paul declaring that a certain divine "illumination" is the privilege of the followers of Christ; and that they are "enlightened" by being made "partakers of the Holy Ghost." Heb. 10:32; 6:4. John also says, "Ye have an unction from the Holy One." 1 John 2:20. And Christ promised the disciples, as he was about to leave them, after a personal ministry with them of three and a half years here on earth, that he would send them the Holy Spirit as a comforter and guide to lead them into all truth. John 14:16, 26.

To show how this promise was to be fulfilled to the church, the apostle Paul, in two of his epistles, presents a formal declaration that certain gifts of the Spirit have been placed in the church for its edification and instruction to the end of time. 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:8-13; Matt. 28:20. Nor is this all: a number of clear and explicit prophecies declare that in the