

Our Lord also has * foretold that his Gospel should be preached among all nations, which event took place, in part, previous to the first establishment of Christianity; but the prophecy remains to be completely fulfilled, when the converted Jew shall, by confirming the evidence, and by illustrating the doctrines of the Gospel, silence all objections, and bear down all opposition to its truth.

In the predictions both of Daniel and of our Lord, dreadful calamities are the prelude to those distinguished blessings which they announce; and, what is remarkable, certain awful circumstances of the last Judgment are by each interwoven with their respective prophecies. To this grand consummation, the whole œconomy of Providence (we may presume) refers, and as temporal sufferings become nothing when they are preparatory to eternal bliss, our Maker will inflict them in his mercy on a people, whom gentler admonitions do not reform. Our wisdom, therefore, if we would avoid these sufferings, must consist in observing the signs of the times, and in accommodating our conduct to the will of God.

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* Matt. xxiv. 14.