

the other, without astonishment. To this early intimation from Moses, the predictions of the subsequent prophets agree. To transcribe all those predictions the brevity of our plan forbids. A specimen may suffice. The Lord, says the Hebrew lawgiver, *shall bring a nation against thee from far, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand. The people of the prince that shall come, says Daniel, shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.* Could any degree of human sagacity or political wisdom foresee, at so early a period, the tragical scene, which these prophets, in such an explicit manner, foretel? Must they not have been inspired by that omniscient spirit to whom all events, past, present, and to come, are equally known? In a manner still more full and circumstantial does our Lord, in the days of his personal ministry, predict the speedy approach of this unparalleled catastrophe. The fearful prodigies and signs, which were to precede it; the unexampled and unequalled sufferings, which the unhappy Jews were to undergo; the dreadful concomitants and consequences of the total destruction of the city; and the short time in which all these things were to be accomplished, he foretels, in a manner that has the appearance of a history of a past, rather than a prophecy of a future event. Thus he speaks, *there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. The days shall come upon thee, O Jerusalem! when thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and shall not leave thee one stone upon another. And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences, and fearful sights; and great signs shall there be from heaven. There shall be great tribulation, such as never happened from the beginning of the world, to this time. They shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down, of the Gentiles. This generation*