

jealous defenders of his trustworthiness. This should aid us in the interpretation of the apocalyptic sayings of our Lord.

The same key to the interpretation of prophecy may be found in the usage of the New Testament writers. Take, for instance, their application of the sublime prophecy of Isaiah :

" Make ye ready the way of the Lord,  
Make his paths straight,  
Every valley shall be filled,  
And every mountain and hill shall be brought low,  
And the crooked shall become straight,  
And the rough ways smooth ;  
And all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

The synoptists had no hesitancy in applying this to John the Baptist, although we should regard it as rather an exaggerated description of the Baptist's work (19).

Or take the lofty prediction of Joel :—

" And I will show wonders in the heavens above,  
And signs in the earth beneath ;  
Blood and fire and vapor of smoke ;  
The sun shall be turned into darkness,  
And the moon into blood,  
Before the day of the Lord come,  
That great and notable day ;  
And it shall be that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord  
shall be saved."

The Apostle Peter applies this to the phenomena at Pentecost (20), although we might think it rather a grandiloquent description of the Pentecostal occurrences. But Peter and his hearers are witnesses as to how such language was used and understood in those days. Here then is an official interpretation of the language used by our Lord with reference to his Coming. Jesus prophesied his Second Advent in terms which seem to us to favor an apocalyptic advent—a catastrophic coming to judgment ; but Peter applied that language to his Coming with spiritual power at Pentecost. Here surely is the clue to the interpretation of Jesus' apocalyptic utterances.

(19). Luke 3 : 4.

(20). Acts 2 : 16.