

The best thing I can do now, is to exhibit the *endings* of these four parallel portions side by side. In each we shall find an account

FIRST PARALLEL, CLOSING SCENE.

REV. xi., 15—19. THE LAST TRUMPET.

"And the seventh angel sounded ; and there were *great voices in heaven*, saying, *The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.*"

"And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, saying. We give thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come : because Thou hast taken to Thee Thy great power, and hast reigned. *And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that Thou shouldst give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great ; and shouldst destroy them that destroy the earth.* And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the ark of His testament : and there were *lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.*"

In this passage, observe, (1) the immediate prospect of the reign of Christ : (2) the battle with the nations that precedes it : (3) the outpouring of the Divine wrath upon this assembled host of enemies, with the earthquake and great hail : (4) the immediate prospect of the reward of God's servants, "small and great."

Passages that suggest comparison with the other columns in italics.

SECOND PARALLEL, CLOSING SCENE.

REV. xiv., 13—20. THE TWO REAPERS.

"And I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord *from henceforth* : Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours ; and *their works do follow them.* And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of Man, *having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.* And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in Thy sickle, and reap ; for the time is come for Thee to reap : for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And He that sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth ; and the earth was reaped."

"And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire, and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth ; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the *great wine-press of the wrath of God.* And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs."

Here, as in the former parallel, we see the Son of Man, coming upon the cloud to reward, and to punish. But the reward of His servants is presented under the well-known gospel simile, of gathering "His wheat into the garner." The destruction of His foes is as the "treading of a winepress." This figure we shall see again in the fourth parallel. But again the wicked are *brought together* to be punished. In St Mark, the Saviour speaks of "not knowing the hour." Here, the angel tells Him that "the hour is come." His sickle is sharp, but has no sharpness in its using. "When Thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, Thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers." There is sharpness in the sickle that cuts down His foes.