

Judges corresponds with 2 Timothy. The church, not having kept its first estate, there are, as for Israel, divine documents which prove its unfaithfulness, and which shew the people of God abandoning their first love and following a path of declension which ends in utter and irremediable ruin.

The history of man—blessed of God, but responsible—is ever the same. Adam, Noah, Israel, the nations ^{and} of the church—the sad picture never varies. Ah! how the Word of God depicts to us what we are, but blessed be His name, we also learn to know God. He exhorts and entreats us without ceasing. Beware, says He, not to let slip from your hands the blessings with which I have filled them! Return to me when you have turned aside! Neither does He limit Himself to warnings, but unfolding before us the riches of His grace, He shows us that He has resources, when we have lost everything; that His voice can awaken those who sleep among the dead (Ephes. v. 14); that His arm can deliver those whom unbelief has replaced under bondage; that there is a fight of faith for perilous times; that in the midst of the rubbish accumulated by man, there is a path which the vultures' eye hath not seen, well known to faith, accessible to the simplest believer; in a word He shews us, that in a day of ruin, God can be as fully glorified as in the church's brightest days.

(To be continued, D. V.)

ERRATUM.—On line 10 of this page, read, "the nations, the church," for "the nations of the church."