

In this present instance the scene of messengers sent upon a message is suddenly closed with this second verse, before the messengers set out—before even the message is given to them. But the new objects which are immediately brought in view evidently represent under the usual emblems of sacred prophecy, other parts of the same entire action—and declare with the greatest perspicuity the purport, the season, and the effect of the message. An ensign or standard is lifted up upon the mountains;—a trumpet is blown on the hills;—the standard of the cross of Christ, the trumpet of the Gospel. The resort to the standard, the effect of the summons, in the end will be universal. A pruning of the vine shall take place after a long suspension of visible interpositions of divine Providence, just before the season of the gathering of the fruits. Fowls of prey and wild beasts shall take possession of Jehovah's dwelling place. But at that very season when the affairs of the Church seem ruined and desperate, a sudden reverse shall take place. The people to whom the message is sent shall be conducted in pomp as a present to Jehovah, to the place of his name, to Mount Zion."

Ver. 3. "*See ye—Hear ye, or shall see—shall hear.*" The prophecy announces a display of God's power and providence which should be notorious to the whole world, and particularly, I think alludes to a renewed preaching of the Gospel with great power and effect in the latter ages.

Ver. 4. For thus the Lord said unto me, &c. This verse seems to describe a long suspension of the visible interpositions of God in the affairs of this world and in favor of his people, during which, however, his providence is not asleep: he is all the while regarding his set dwelling place *i. e.* Zion, directing every thing to the ultimate prosperity of his people: and to the universal establishment of true religion.

"*The Lord takes his rest like a clear heat upon herbs,*" or "*a parching heat just before lightning.*" The stillness of that awful pause is described under the image of that torpid state of the atmosphere in hot weather which precedes a thunderstorm, when not a gleam of sunshine breaks for a moment through the sullen gloom; not a breath stirs; not a leaf waves; not a blade of grass is shaken; no rippling wave curls upon the sleeping surface of the waters: the black ponderous cloud covering the whole sky seems to hang fixed and motionless as an arch of stone. Nature seems benumbed in all her operations. The vigilance of God's silent providence is represented under the image of his keeping his eye, while he thus sits still, upon his prepared habitation. The sudden eruption of Judgment threatened in the next verse, after this total cessation, just before the final call to Jew and Gentile, answers to the storms of thunder and lightning which in the suffocating heats of the latter end of summer; succeed the perfect stillness and stagnation of the atmosphere. And as the natural thunder at such seasons is the welcome harbinger of refreshing and copious showers, so it appears the thunder of God's judgments will usher in the long desired sea-