

all such prophetic statement of facts or reliance on Scripture is unfounded. That Pentecost was a fulfilment of Joel—this is all a mistake. Pentecost was a comparatively modern invention; faith in prophecies—a delusion of the Jews. I refer to these cases to shew that the Lord and the apostles systematically, constantly, and as of Divine obligation, refer to the Scriptures as of authority, as inspired prophecy, and make Christianity a fulfilment of them. Its truth is inseparably involved in it; its character is a fulfilment of them, though there be more in it. Christ Himself is declared to be “a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers” (Rom. xv. 8). But all this is a mistake. That is, the promulgation of Christianity, as alone it was promulgated, was all error. Christ, Peter assured them (Acts iii.), was the prophet that Moses had spoken of. This was all a mistake—Moses never wrote it—it was a legend; and he never spoke of Christ at all. Peter was misleading the Jews when he called them the children of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with Abraham. All was delusion. It was no true history at all—not authentic; and prophets were patriotic, but deceived themselves, persuaded themselves, like any modern fanatic, that they were inspired.

But this is the only promulgation of Christianity which we have; and what comes of it and of Christ Himself, too, when it is the only testimony? So