

What I wish to attempt is to give some simple hints as to the way in which the book is put together ; such as will enable any one who can read to study any part of it, knowing what they are studying. And even when we know we are reading unfulfilled prophecy, still we shall not find it unpractical ; for it concerns " things which must shortly come to pass."

And none of those things can come without the personal appearance of Him, "whom having not seen, we love;" and whose appearing must, at the very first moment, bring to ourselves the joy of meeting Him "in the air," to "be for ever with" Him ; or else the unspeakable dread of being left to face those things that shall come to pass ; the terrors of THAT FINAL "WEEK" OF YEARS that shall complete the history of Israel, before they are established in the centre of Messiah's kingdom upon the earth. We cannot enter into the study of this book without constantly looking at the things of time in the light of eternity. And is not that just what we all ought to learn to do ?

First, then, to divide the Book. It is, all of it, "Revelation," Apocalypse ; that is to say, unveiling "of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass." Accordingly the text of the whole Book, so to speak, is this : BEHOLD, HE COMETH WITH THE CLOUDS ; AND EVERY EYE SHALL SEE HIM, all unveiling of Jesus Christ must begin with this. Because when He "ascended up on high" and left us for a time, He went up, as our High Priest, to enter "within the veil." Any teaching as to what He is yet to do, must take us within that veil ; and tell us what He is doing there, or what He will do when He comes forth. Now the Book of Revelation does both these things.

In the letters to the Seven Churches, in chapters ii. and iii., we see Him as He is now, while He "walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;" that is to say, while He by His Spirit, who is one with Him in the omniscience of Deity, beholds all of us, and understands all our works. By that Spirit He speaketh to us from heaven, as He spoke to St. John then, and says "He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches."

The Revelation then, first of all, being a "Revelation of Jesus Christ," shews to St. John a vision of the Lord Jesus, as He is within the veil. This vision fills the first chapter, and the Lord bids him write the book in three portions :