

stupendous and sweeping, in the allusions to the end of all things, when the elements shall melt with fervent heat and the earth and heavens shall pass away

I have now I trust said enough to point out how some of the peculiarities which we find in the early Revelations of God's Will and Ways, are both natural under the circumstances in which they occurred, and wise and considerate to those who were the objects of them. I have shown that we must weigh all that is involved in the fact of the records being the most ancient in existence; that they relate to life and action in their beginnings and not in their full development; that the events narrated are so related out of millions of other events on the principle of their being connected with the history of man in his relation to God, and culminating in the life and death of Christ; that God always manifests Himself on the one broad rule of meeting the spiritual need of His creatures, the particular form of the manifestation being regulated by the condition and circumstances of the parties concerned; and finally, that we have in the New Testament Revelations important resemblances with those in Genesis.

I have done my work, imperfectly I know, for the subject is great and complicated. I have done it not to convince you of what perhaps you were not convinced of; for I have very little hope of convincing any one on the most sacred subjects apart from the influence of the Holy Spirit on the heart to make it lowly and penitent. My desire has been to furnish you with a few general principles, by the wise application of which you may be able to read that remarkable portion of the word of God with greater advantage. The longer I live the more am I convinced that young men and old men, maidens and mothers, cannot better promote their highest earthly interest than by a study and prayerful use of the Bible. I have known, as you may have known, lives almost thrown away for even this world, because they were not imbued with the Spirit that pervades this Book. We know it has fashioned some of the noblest characters that have adorned the world, has fired with a quenchless and holy enthusiasm, men and women who have by their blameless lives and beneficent deeds proved the greatest benefactors of their race, and has brought full and abiding consolation to orphans in their woe, widows in their desolation, heart-stricken parents in their bereavements, and strong and hale men whose spirit has been bowed down with a consciousness of guilt; and, consequently on these grounds; as on others, we have ample reason to hold by this blessed light, that it may guide our trembling feet through the dark and dangerous paths of our pilgrimage down to the over-shadowed valley, from which, under the leadership of One who has trodden the road before, we hope to emerge in a fair and lovely land where the glorious light that fills and gladdens all, shall, by its unfailing splendour and sweetness, obliterate from our thoughts the traces of days of darkness, danger and defeat.