

selves; therefore they have no Christian knowledge, neither have they Christian experience, nor Christian faith, and so are wholly unprepared to meet their Lord when he shall suddenly and unexpectedly "send his angels, . . . and they shall gather together his elect" (Matt. xxiv. 31).

There are some great truths plainly stated in this little book, and proved also to be in accordance with the Scriptures; yet they are so wonderful that probably many people will find great difficulty in either comprehending or believing them; and some may say, If these wonderful and almost incredible things are really true, how is it that they have not been generally understood when they seem to be so clearly revealed in the Bible? Solomon answers, "*It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honour of kings is to search out a matter*" (Proverbs xxv. 2). And God, by the prophet Isaiah, tells us the reason why he allows us to remain totally ignorant of many things which yet seem to have been revealed to us centuries or even millenaries ago, inasmuch as these things were then clearly and plainly written in the Bible: "*I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I showed them; I did them suddenly, and they came to pass. Because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass; I have even from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I shewed it thee: lest thou shouldest say, Mine idol hath done them; and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them. Thou hast heard, see all this; and will not ye declare it? I have shewed thee new things from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them. They are created now, and not from the beginning; even before the day when thou heardest them not; lest thou shouldest say, Behold, I knew them. Yea, thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time that thine ear was not opened: for I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb*" (Isa. xlviii. 3-8).