

of the Most High and the disobedient, there is an assurance given that those loyal souls, who in times of degeneracy had "kept the faith," were registered in God's "book of remembrance," and should be His peculiar treasure in the great coming day of trial; and that He "shall spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." And then, even those who had denied that there was any advantage in God's service, shall "discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not."

In this reply a great admonitory truth is set forth, which is adapted to our day as well as to that time. Sin blunts and blinds the moral perceptions of its slaves. Persons and things appear different in the eye of Heaven from the way they appear to the children of this world. The false judgments, formed in the fogs of unbelief, shall be reversed in the chancery of heaven. They shall shrivel into deformity in the light that flashes from the throne of purity and love. In the day when, as St. Paul expresses it, "the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is," there shall be terrible awakenings; for those who have not known the awakening of faith must know the awakening of despair.

THE CONVERSION OF THE GENTILES FORETOLD.

In a cursory reading of the prophets, we are apt to think that their outlook was too narrowly confined to Israel, that the brotherhood of man was not recognized, and that the choice of one people, to be the depositories of the divine law and counsels, was partial and exclusive. But it should not be forgotten that this election of Israel was not merely for their sakes, but that they should be witnesses and disseminators of revealed truth in the world. "The selection and training of a nation to be a divine agency to make known to the world the knowledge of God, and His glorious purpose for the redemption of humanity by Christ, is a more wonderful and sublime conception than can be found anywhere outside of the Bible."¹ The same principle is seen in God's dealings with men. The gifts He bestows upon individuals or communities are not partial favors

¹ Jesus the Messiah.