

lively imagination and considerable knowledge, proclaimed himself in Messina as the Messiah (1284), and put forth his claim in writing, making the year 1290 the date of his appearance.

The last of the false Messiahs to be mentioned here is Nissim Ben Abraham, who appeared in the town of Avila, Spain. His coming was waited with intense excitement by the Jews, despite the warnings of the venerable Rabbi of Barcelona.

### MESSIANIC WOES.

A time of terrible misfortune is to befall Israel in the period preceding the Messianic age, according to the prediction of the Zohar, and this prediction was firmly believed by the people.

In sight of all the nations of the earth a huge column of fire is to appear and to remain standing forty days. Then will Messiah the King be aroused to proceed from Paradise. He will come from the place which is called "The bird's nest." He will make his first appearance in Galilee, because that was the first province to be destroyed by the Romans. A brilliant star will then appear in the sky, surrounded by seven other stars, which will wage war with the brilliant star three times daily, for a period of seventy days, and be swallowed up by it every night, and ejected every morning.

After the seventy days the stars will disappear. The Messiah will be concealed in the column of fire invisible for twelve months, after the lapse of which he will be taken up into heaven, crowned King, and endowed with all the strength and dignity of a King. He will then descend to the earth and the column of fire will again be made visible.