

his word, or his law, with the solemn appointment of his worship, thus forming them into a church for himself, then it was that he instituted and finished *this new world, the heavens and the earth* spoken of. And, at the time when Peter wrote, *this world*—i. e., the Jewish Church, now apostatized, was about to be destroyed by fire, after the same manner in which that old world had perished in the deluge. It was by the conflagration of the temple and of the city, that the system of that world was dissolved. And the apostle commands the believers to look for another world, for new heavens and a new earth, according to the promise of God. That promise is found in Isaiah lxxv. 17, and likewise, in the same words, in chapter lxxvi. 32, 'Behold,' says he, '*I will create new heavens and a new earth, neither shall the former be remembered nor come into mind.*' In these passages the prophet describes the state of the church after the advent of Christ, when, as it is expressed in the 21st verse of the last chapter, God should take of the Gentile for priests and Levites, or, in other words, when he should institute the gospel ministry. This state of the church, therefore, was wont to be designated, before the conflagration of that second world, as the age to come, or the future world; even as St. Paul teaches us, in the epistle to the Hebrews, ii. v, saying, '*For unto the angels hath he not put into subjection the world to come, of which we speak*'; and likewise in chapter vi. 5, where he says, '*And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come.*' Therefore, that *first* or *old* world perished in a deluge of water; the *second*, or that existing in the apostle's time, he declares should perish by fire; but the future he intimates, was to endure even to the consummation of time. Thus for Owen in Theologuminus, Lib. iii, cap 1."

Other examples of these figures may be seen in Rev. vi., where "the stars fell *unto the Earth*," which, shows that it cannot be understood of the material heavenly bodies since the stars are suns millions of times larger than the earth, —in Psalm xi., where "God rains fire and brimstone and an horrible tempest on the wicked," where the metaphor is doubtless taken from the volcanic eruption and lightning tempest which caused the destruction of Sodom and