2 THE APOCALYPSE [cu. i. 1  
  
\ family: but it is God on the throne of government,  
instructing the servants of Jesus.  
From the disclosure being given by God it is rendered  
certain, that some part of the book contains new truth :  
though it appears also (as the sequel will show) that a  
considerable portion of it had more or less been dis-  
covered to the prophets and apostles. But even where  
they were permitted to declare something of the same  
times, this prophecy is far more complete. ‘This is the  
golden thread, on which may be strung all the pearls of  
former prophecy.  
They are things which must take place “ shortly.”  
From this word some have argued that the book must  
have begun to be accomplished soon after it was written :  
and hence that it contains a continuous history of the  
Christian Church. But the very same expression is used  
of an event, which, as all acknowledge, has yet to be  
accomplished. ‘‘ The God of peace shall bruise Satan  
under your feet shortly’ (Rom. xvi. 20). But this pro-  
mise is in the very manner of prophecy ; the style of  
Him with whom a thousand years are as one day.  
A point of deep importance lies couched in the next  
words. “ Unto His servants.” First, this warns us  
that we are not on the ground taken by the Epistles of  
Paul, where the writer addresses the saints as the sons  
of God: and the Most High is discovered to them as  
their Father.  
The angel was sent to “ show’ unto the servants of \_—~  
God the future. The word employed denotes generally  
the manifesting a thing to the senses. And hence, after  
the admonitory addresses to the churches are finished,  
andthe future begins to be treated of, the style changes.  
Events are seen to transpire.  
I have chosen the word “ represented,” in preference  
to “ signified.” The Greek expression intends that the  
Revelation is peculiar in its mode of making known the  
  
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