4 THE APOCALYPSE [cn i. 3  
  
14. The Bride Wife of the Lamb = City of God, xxi.  
9, 10.  
The past tense is used,—he “ testified,’”—because the  
first ten verses of this chapter are a preface, added after  
the writing of the rest.  
“The Word cf God” in the division of the book  
stands first; because that is by pre-eminence “ the  
Revelation,” or the part which God gave to Christ, and  
which was chiefly a series of visible signs.  
“The testumony of Jesus” relates to things then pre-  
sent, and is His decision as to the state of the Churches.  
  
3. “ Blessed is he that reads, and they that hear the words of  
the prophecy, and keep the things written in it ; for the season is  
nigh.”  
  
The blessing is attached specially to the reader of  
“the words of the prophecy.” Many will admit the  
usefulness of the addresses to the Churches, who treat  
very lightly the prophetic part: yet the prophetic por-  
tion is that specially blessed.  
The intention of the book eatends much beyond the  
Churches of Christ. The whole is profitable to the  
Churches ; even the prophetic part, in which the Church  
is not directly addressed. The Seven Epistles will be  
useful to Israel also.  
With such a blessing attached to the study of this  
portion of God’s word, how sad it is to find this book so  
generally proscribed or neglected! But the Holy Spirit  
foresaw the undue neglect of it, and therefore deter-  
mined to compensate for it by the peculiar blessedness  
attached to it.  
It has been well observed by one, that this book is  
manifestly by these words designed to open our under-  
standings and to act upon our affections, whilst it still  
remains prophecy. It is while the season is yet “near,”  
and not actually arrived, that the book is to be read and