CH. i, 4] EXPOUNDED 5  
  
pondered. Hereby then is destroyed the unscriptural  
idea, that prophecy is only intended to benefit us, by the  
perception of its fulfilment, ater its prophetic aspect is  
past.  
What season and time is at hand? That of ‘‘ tempta-  
tion,’ against which we shall do well to watch and  
pray; that of “ harvest,” in which the ripe shall be  
taken, and the unripe left; that of “refreshing,” in  
which the long-stored promises of the prophets shall be  
fulfilled ; that of ‘‘ judgment,” when every work shall  
come into notice, whether it be good or evil; and the  
time of “‘ reward” to the saints.  
The prophecy is not to be put off, as something not \_  
demanding our present study, because relating to things fe  
immeasurably remote. ‘The season is near.” Long  
as the time is which has clapsed since that was written,  
there was then, and is now, no necessary interval to  
arise ere the prophetic part begins to be fulfilled. In  
this it is contrasted with Daniel, who is dismissed from  
study of his prophecies, because the book is sealed up,  
and a long time must pass ere it be fulfilled.  
It is practical. Hear that, all you who think that  
nothing is worthy of study which is not so! Yes ; the  
prophecy is practical! ‘‘ Blessed ... they who keep |  
the things written in it.” In order rightly to under-~  
stand it, we must be right in our spiritual position before  
God; and of a single eye, willing to follow the truth  
wherever it may lead us.  
Reader, do you love to set yourself where the God of  
all pronounces you “blessed”? Is that a sunshine  
wherein to bask ? Then are you in it while reading and  
hearing ‘“‘ the prophecy of this book.”  
  
4. “‘ John to the seven churches which are in Asia; Grace be  
unto you and peace, from Him who is, and who was, and who is  
to come, and from the seven Spirits that are before His throne ;