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and reasoning, by withdrawing the foundation on which  
it rests. From our earliest years we have been accus-  
tomed to consider the soil under our feet as firm and  
immovable. We have unconsciously connected this  
idea with all our conceptions, feelings, and actions ;  
and it thus becomes the basis of all our plans, intentions,  
and wishes. Our whole life, with all its events and  
operations, rests on this idea as on an immutable foun-  
dation. An earthquake, by turning it into a delusion,  
overthrows our whole system of thinking and acting.  
We are no longer able to collect our thoughts so as to  
form an idea; we cannot conceive any plan, nor take  
any resolution. The faculty of thinking is, as it were,  
paralysed, and our mind thrown into the utmost con-  
fusion. The difference between a strong and a weak  
mind disappears. We are no longer guided by prin-  
ciple or reason ; we follow only the involuntary impulse  
of instinct, or, in the most favourable circumstances, we  
are influenced from some feelings arising from some  
previous idea, which fortunately has been indelibly  
impressed on our mind.”  
There are two great occasions on which God will  
show signs in the sun, moon, and stars, together with  
signs on earth. One of these occasions is to PRECEDE  
the Great Day of Trouble: the other is to FoLLOw it.  
1. The following passages speak of the great commo-  
tions in heaven at the close of the Great Day of wrath.  
Isaiah xiii. 9-13. Isaiah xxxiv. 1-4. Joel ii. 9-17.  
2. The following texts speak of the signs in heaven  
which precede the awful day.  
Joel ii. 30, 31.  
It is to this passage that Peter refers, when he begins  
to proclaim the Gospel. ‘These terrible signs would  
precede the terrible day, and give notice that the Gospel  
was past.  
Our Lord speaks of two such occasions.