154 THE APOCALYPSE [on. vii. 4-8  
  
blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come.”  
This has already been seen under the sixth seal.  
As then the gospel was signalized by the bestowal of  
miraculous gifts, so will this new dispensation of the  
crisis just preceding the kingdom be likewise honoured  
thereby, previously to the breaking forth of super-  
natural power from Satan on behalf of his delusions.  
The origin of the expression, ‘“‘ the servants of God,”  
is to be found in the central object of the book—THE  
THRONE oF Gop. All throughout is in relation and  
subjection to that. Now the relation in which all stand  
to the throne is that of “subject.” But the Scripture  
expression for “ subject ” is “servant.” 1 Sam. viii.  
17; 1 Kings x. 5, 8; 1 Sam. xvii. 8.  
Now the throne of God abides throughout ; and hence  
this title of ‘‘ servants ”’ continues to the close. xxii. 3.  
  
4, ‘‘And I heard the number of the sealed: a hundred and  
forty-four thousand were sealed, out of every tribe of the children  
of Israel. 5. Of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand sealed ; of  
the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand ; of the tribe of Gad twelve  
thousand. 6. Of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand; of the  
tribe of Nepthalim twelve thousand ; of the tribe of Manasseh  
twelve thousand. 7. Of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand ;  
of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand ; of the tribe of Issachar  
twelve thousand. 8. Of the tribe of Zebulon twelve thousand ;  
of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand ; of the tribe of Benjamin  
twelve thousand sealed.”’  
  
They were twelve thousand “ out of every tribe of  
the children of Israel.” That the number 144,000 is  
to be exactly taken is proved, (1) By its standing con-  
trasted with an indefinite number, which is given imme-  
diately after. (2) The items which go to make up the  
sum, are given in detail. If this be not to be regarded  
as exact, what sum may be throughout the Bible ?  
Many have stumbled at the exactness of the number of  
twelve thousand in each case. And if the Lord left