cH. ix. J] EXPOUNDED 183  
  
(2 Cor. xi. 14). Angels are described as stars in the  
Almighty’s, speech to Job (Job xxxviii. 7). Jesus  
describes Himself as “the bright and morning star”’  
(Rev. xxii. 16).  
Satan reaches earth not voluntarily, but as cast out of  
heaven : as the twelfth chapter of this book assures us.  
xii. 8, 9, 12. There he is cast out, as the result of his  
defeat by Michael. Here, therefore, he is described in  
reference to that, as already “a star out of the heaven  
fallen to the earth.” So the Saviour prophetically  
beheld him, “I beheld Satan as lightning fall from  
heaven ” (Luke x. 18).1  
The key was given to this fallen star. Our transla-  
tors have rightly put “to him” instead of “to it,” as  
seeing that an intelligent being is necessarily supposed.  
That word ‘“ was given” connects this plague with all  
the main incidents of the Apocalypse. Jt was by order  
of the throne. And this key, as we are informed in the  
first chapter of Revelation, belongs properly to Jesus.  
i. 18. The key now committed to him is the key of  
“ Death,” or of the bottomless pit. xx. 13, 14. As to  
Jesus is given the key of Hades, and at His opening  
of it His elect come forth; so to Satan now, at the  
opening of the Wild Beast’s kingdom, the key of the  
place of the lost is given, and his False Christ, False  
Prophet, and army come forth. Satan opens the pit :  
and throughout his time of empire it stands open.  
The angel shuts it while Jesus reigns: it is kept fast  
closed then, and Satan’s power is at an end. Men are  
made fearfully immortal during five months of Satan’s  
reign, as during the Saviour’s kingdom the days of man  
will be as the days of a tree spent in sunshine and in joy.  
“Hallelujah ” is the cry when God reigns: “ Woe,  
woe, woe,” when Satan does.  
  
1Tsa. xiv. 12 resembles this, but seems to be spoken of the  
False Christ.