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(3) And lastly, it would include, apparently, the  
armies of earth, which go up at the end of the millen-  
nium under the leadership of Satan. These are in the  
  
strongest sense ‘“‘the destroyers of the earth.” It is  
for their heinous sin that the earth itself is at last  
burnt up.  
  
When these three purposes of God are accomplished,  
mystery and sin will be for ever past, and the new heavens  
and earth will be come. This war of God’s justice,  
unlike the wars of men, will destroy only the guilty,  
and cut off the incurabie from the earth. The previous  
judgments aimed at the reformation of the living ; but  
this speaks of the utter destruction of those who refuse  
to repent. The whole race of men, then, both the  
living and the dead, are judged under this trumpet ;  
unless we except the saints whose place has been  
adjudged before.  
The destruction of the godless living is here foretold  
in words; at the end of the fourteenth chapter it is  
presented in emblem, as the treading of the vintage ;  
at the end of the nineteenth chapter it is described  
literally as it will appear to a spectator.  
  
19. ‘“‘ And the temple of Godin the heaven was opened, and the  
ark of His covenant was seen in His temple ; and lightnings, and  
voices, and thunders, and earthquake, and great hail followed.”  
  
The manifestation of God goes on. The Temple is  
opened now: by and by heaven itself is opened. xix.  
ll. It would seem that this opening of heaven is  
with reference to those on earth. The results of the  
opened temple and ark displayed, as seen in the hail,  
thunder, and lightnings, are certainly directed towards  
those on the earth. If so, this is the time of the fulfil-  
ment of our Lord’s words to the Sanhedrim. Matt. xxvi.  
64. This opening of heaven appears to be the same  
with that mentioned in chapter xv. 5, as the prelude