It is literally. ‘the day, that great day.”  
This name, if properly considered, should  
have kept expositors firm here to the great,  
verity of this part of the Apocalyptic  
visions, and prevented them from going  
into all sorts of incongruous interpretations, as they have done) **of His wrath  
is come, and who is able to stand** ?—  
We are thus brought to the very threshold itself of the great day of the Lord's  
coming. It has not yet happened: but  
the tribes of the earth are troubled at  
its immediate approach, and those terrible signs with which all Scripture  
ushers it in, have taken place. We are  
now then arrived at the time described in  
Matt. xxiv. 30: the coming itself of the  
Son of man being for a while kept in the  
background, as hereafter to be resumed.  
He is seen as it were coming: but before  
the vengeance is fully accomplished, the  
elect of God then living on the earth must  
be gathered, as Matt. xxiv. 31, out of the  
four winds of heaven, from among the inhabitants of the earth. To this ingathering the sealing in our text is the necessary  
preliminary. The correspondence between.  
the series of prophecies holds even in the  
minutest particulars, and where they do  
not correspond, their very differences are  
full of instruction. See these pointed out  
as we proceed.

**CH. VII. 1—8.**] THE SEALING OF THE ELECT. {1} [**AND**] **after this** (these words  
shew that the opening of the sixth seal is  
complete, and that what is now to follow,  
—viz. the two visions each introduced  
with similar words, **after this** [or, these  
things] **I saw**,—comes in by way of  
episode. They represent two great events,  
the sealing of the elect on earth, and the final assemblage of the saints in  
heaven, The great day of the Lord’s  
judgment is not described ; it is all but  
brought before us under the sixth seal,  
and is actually going on in the first of  
these episodes [see below]: but only that  
part of it which regards the saints appears  
to us, and that only by its result—their  
gathering in to heaven) **I saw four angels**(not, as many interpreters, *bad* angels  
nor does it necessarily follow that we are  
to adopt the analogy of ch. xvi. 5 and to  
regard them as “angels of the winds:”  
but simply angels, to whom this office is  
committed. This is all that is declared to  
us in the text, and it is idle to enquire  
beyond it. All allegorizing and all individualizing interpretations are out of the  
question) **standing upon the four corners  
of the earth** (i. e. North, South, Fast, and  
West, the cardinal points from which the  
winds blow) **holding the four winds of  
the earth, that the wind may not blow  
on the earth nor on the sea nor against  
any tree. {2} And I saw another angel** (as  
before, simply an angel: not as has  
fancied, our Lord, nor the Holy Spirit;  
compare the words, **of our God**, below)  
**coming up from the rising of the sun**(**coming up**, because the rising of the sun  
is low on the earth’s horizon, whereas the  
Apostle was in heaven, looking down on  
the earth: and **from the rising of the sun**,  
as naturally agreeing with the glorious and  
salutary nature of his employment. Compare Ezek. xliii. 2; Mal. iii, 2. The allegorical interpretations which have been  
given are entirely uncountenanced in the  
text), **having the seal of the living God**  
(**living**, as giving to the seal solemnity  
and vital import); **and he cried with a**