a Zoar from Sodom, a number who do  
not worship the wild-beast and his image,  
who are not defiled with women, &c.  
And so of the rest.—6) It will then be  
on this principle that I shall attempt:  
the exposition of this difficult prophecy.  
Regarding it as a summary of the more  
detailed one which follows, I shall endeavour to make the two cast light on one  
another: searching for the meaning of the  
symbols here used in their fuller explanation there, and gaining perhaps some  
further insight into meanings there from  
expressions occurring here.

**1, 2.**] *Command to measure the temple, but not the outer court, which is  
given to the Gentiles.* {1} **And there was  
given to me** (by whom, is not said, but it  
is left indefinite, as at ch. vi. 11, viii. 2) **a  
reed like to a staff** (see reff.), **saying,**(this word, **saying**, is out of the construction, and indefinite: as in ch. iv. 1),  
**Arise** (this word does not necessarily imply  
that the Apostle was kneeling before) **and  
measure the temple of God and the altar**(apparently, the altar of incense: as that  
alone stood in the temple, properly so called.  
But perhaps we must not be too minute in  
particularizing), and them that worship in  
it (see the previous remarks on this prophecy. The *measuring* here is evidently for  
the purpose of taking account of, understanding the bearing and dimensions of,  
that which is to be measured: see ch. xxi. 15,  
where the heavenly Jerusalem is measured.  
by the angel. But here two questions  
arise: 1) What is that which is measured?  
and 2) when does the measuring take place?  
1) have no doubt that, as above hinted,  
*the temple of God* and its *altar* are to  
be here taken symbolically, as the other  
principal features of the prophecy: and to  
one believing this, there can be but little  
further doubt us to what meaning he shall  
assign to the terms. Thus understood,  
they can only bear one meaning viz. that  
of the Church of the elect servants of God,  
every where in this book symbolized by Jews  
in deed and truth. The society of  
these, as a whole is the *temple*, agreeably to  
Scripture symbolism elsewhere, e.g. 1 Cor. ii.  
16, 17, and is symbolized by the inner  
or holy place of the Jerusalem temple,  
and among which they as true Israelites and priests unto God, have a right to worship and minister, These are they who,  
properly speaking, alone are *measured*:  
estimated again and again in this book by  
tale and number—partakers in the first  
resurrection,—the Church of the first-born.  
Then as to our question 2), it is one which,  
so far as I know, has not engaged the  
attention of expositors. When a command  
is elsewhere in this book given to the Seer,  
we may observe that his fulfilment of it  
is commonly indicated. He is commanded  
to write, and the writing before us proves  
his obedience. He is ordered to take the  
little book, and he goes and takes it. But  
of the fulfilment by him of this command,  
**Arise and measure**, no hint appears to be  
given. The voice goes on continuously, until  
it melts imperceptibly into the narrative  
of the vision, and we are startled by “*and  
I heard a loud voice*,” in ver. 12, when  
we had thought it to be still speaking.  
After that, we hear no more of the measuring, till another and more glorious building is measured in ch. xxi. This being so,  
either 1) which is inconceivable, the measurement does not take place at all, or,  
2) which is hardly probable, it takes place  
and no result is communicated to us, or  
3) the result of it is found in the subsequent prophecies: in the minute and  
careful distinctions between the servants of  
God and those who receive the mark of the  
wild-beast—in all those indications which  
point out to us the length and breadth and  
depth and height, both of faith, and of unfaithfulness). {2} **And the court which is  
outside the temple** (i.e. apparently, every  
thing except the **temple** itself: not merely  
the outer court or court of the Gentiles.  
That only the temple itself, in the strictest  
sense, is to be measured, is significant for  
the meaning above maintained) **cast out**  
(of thy measurement. But these strong  
words, conveying so slight a meaning,  
doubtless bear in them a tinge also of the  
stronger meaning, “reckon as profane,”  
“account not as included in the sacred  
precinct”), **and measure not it** (it has a  
slight emphasis: otherwise, it need not have  
been expressed in the original), **because it  
was given** (viz. at the time when the state  
of things subsisting in the vision came in:  
or, in God’s apportionment) **to the Gentiles**