spoken), **and** [**the time**] **to give their reward to Thy servants the prophets** (see  
especially Matt. x. 41, to which reference  
seems to he made), **and to the saints, and  
to them that fear Thy name, the small  
and the great** (the three terms together  
include the whole church), **and to destroy  
the destroyers of the earth** (all this looks  
onward to judgments and acts of God yet  
to come when the words are spoken. The  
thanksgiving is not that God hath done all  
this, but that the hour is come for it all to  
take place. Before it does, another im-  
portant series of visions has to be unfolded).

19.] *Concluding, and transitional*.  
**And the temple of God was opened in the  
heaven, and the ark of His covenant was  
seen in His temple** (the episode of ch. xi.  
1 ff. began with measuring the temple of  
God, the shadow of things in the heavens:  
and now, when the time is come for the  
judgments there indicated to be fulfilled,  
that temple itself in the heavens is laid  
open. The ark of the Covenant is seen,  
the symbol of God’s faithfulness in bestowing grace on His people, and inflicting  
vengeance on His people’s enemies. This  
is evidently a solemn and befitting inauguration of God’s final judgments, as it is  
a conclusion of the series pointed out by  
the trumpets, which have been inflicted in  
answer to the prayers of His saints. It is  
from this temple that the judgments proceed forth [compare ch. xiv. 15, 17, xv.  
3 ff., xvi. 17]; from His inmost and holiest  
place that those acts of vengeance are  
wrought which the great multitude in heaven recognize as faithful and true, ch.  
xix. 2. The symbolism of this verse, the  
*opening* for the first time of the heavenly  
temple, also indicates of what nature the  
succeeding visions are to be: that they will  
relate to God’s covenant people and His  
dealings with them): **and there were  
lightnings, and voices, and thunderings,  
and an earthquake, and a great hail** (the  
solemn salvos, so to speak, of the artillery  
of heaven, with which each series of visions  
is concluded : see this commented on above,  
at the beginning of this section).

**CHAP. XII.**] THE VISION OF THE WOMAN AND THE GREAT RED DRAGON. On the nature of this vision, as introductory of the whole imagery of the  
latter part of the Apocalypse, I have already remarked at ch. xi. It is only needful now to add, that the principal details  
of the present section are rather descriptive than strictly prophetical: relating, just  
as in the prophets the descriptions of Israel  
and Judah, to things passed and passing,  
and serving for the purpose of full identification and of giving completeness to the  
whole vision. {1} **And a great** (important in  
its meaning, as well as vast in its appearance) **sign** (one of those appearances by  
which God signified to John the revelations of this book, ch. i. 1) **was seen in  
heaven** (heaven here is manifestly not only  
the show-place of the visions as seen by the  
Seer, but has a substantial place in the  
vision: for below, ver. 7 ff., we have the  
heaven contrasted with the earth, and the  
dragon cast out of heaven into the earth.