166 ST. MATTHEW. XXIV.   
 pDen.tx.%8: winter, neither on the sabbath day: 's1 for Pthen shall be   
 i.   
 great tribulation, such as >was not since the beginning of   
 the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 2% And   
 except those days should be shortened, there should no   
 alsa try'8.. be saved: ‘but for the elect’s sake those days shall   
 be shortened. % Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo,   
 F Dent: here is © Christ, or there; believe it not. % For \* there   
 git shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew   
 sjouns.37— great signs and wonders; insomuch that, ‘if it were   
 time: possible, they shall deceive the very elect. % Behold, I   
   
   
   
 have told you before. 26 Wherefore if they shall say unto   
 you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he   
 D render; hath not been. ° render, the Christ.   
   
 liar to and shew the strong sides the cutting in the Divine coun- .   
 Tewish tint which caused Aim alone to sels, which must be hidden from us, vari-   
 reserve such portions of Lord’s say- ous ene combined to shorten the siege.   
 nee. That they were not said as any 1) Her ippa had begun strengthen-   
 sanction of observance of Jewish Sab- § u the ar 5 ae in a way which   
 bath, is most certam: but merely as re- if finished have rendered them able   
 ferring to the impediments which to resist. human violence, but was   
 might meet them on that day, the shut- stopped by orders from Claudius, a.p.   
 ting of the gates of cities, and their or 43, Jos. Antt. 7.2. (2) The Jews,   
 own scruples about travelling than being divided into factions them-   
 the ordinary Sabbath-day’s journey selves, totally neglected any prepara-   
 a mile English) ; the Jewish Christians tions to a si (3) The magazines   
 adhered to the law and customary observ- of corn and provision burnt just be-   
 ances till the destruction of Jerusalem. fore the of Titus; the words of   
 21, 22.] In ver. there is sephus are remarkable on this: “Within   
 bly also an allusion the horrors of the “tion (Jewish corn was burnt, Titus him-   
 siege, which is here taken up by the for. have lasted them many fought of us, and   
 See Deut. xxviii. 49—57, which was lite- He Titus arrived suddenly, and the these   
 rally fulfilled the case of Mary of Pe- voluntarily for what could human   
 rece, related Josephus. Gar Lord hands or engines against these ?”   
 still has in view the prophecy of Daniel Some such providential shortening of the   
 (ch. xii..1), this citation clearly great days of tribulation, hastening   
 the intermediate fulfilment, the de- of God’s glorious Kingdom, is here pro-   
 struction of Jerusalem, of that which is mised for the latter 23-28.)   
 et future in its final for These verses have but a faint reference   
 Daniel is speaking of end of all (though an unmistakeable one) to time   
 Then only will words be accomplished of the siege: their reference ia   
 in their sense: although Josephus (but to the latter days. In their first   
 he only in a figure of thetorie} ex- ing, they would tend correct the idea   
 pressed himself in nearly the same lan- the Christians the Lord’s coming was   
 guage: “All calamities the beginning to be simultaneous the destruction of   
 of time seem to me to shrink to nothing Jerusalem: and to guard them against   
 in comparison with those of the Jews. the impostors who led people into the   
 .] If God had not in his mercy wilderness Acts xxi. or invited   
 shortened (by His decree) those (‘the to consult privately, with promise   
 days of vengeance,” Luke xxi. 22), the of deliverance. In their main view, they   
 whole nation (in the ultimate fulfilment, will the Church firm in her wait-   
 all would have perished; but for ing for Christ, through even the awful   
 sake of the chosen ones,—the believing,— troubles of the latter days, by   
 or those who should believe,—or perhaps   
 the preservation of the chosen whom   
 God hath not cast off, xi. 1,—they   
 shall be shortened. It appears that be-