168 ST. MATTHEW. XXIV.   
   
 light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers   
 vDea.vil.18 of the heavens shall be shaken: 90 and then shall appear   
 w Zech. the sign of the Son of man in heaven: “and then shall all   
   
 ach. 97. the tribes of the earth mourn, \* and they shall see the Son   
 Bev. 7. of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and   
   
 "Healt, great glory. 81 y And he shall send his angels with a great   
 1 ‘Thess. © sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his   
 16, elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the   
 other. 82 Now learn £ a parable of the fig tree; When his   
   
 © render, Voice.   
 ! render, the parable from the fig-tree: When now his branch   
 becometh tender.   
   
 ing would lose their and significance. not the Son of Man Himself, as some   
 The physical signs shall (see Joel explain it Bengel, generally valu-   
 it. 831: Hagg. ii. 6, 21, compared with stle in explanations, says, Himself   
 Heb. xii. 26, as accompaniments and shall be the of Himself,” and quotes   
 intensifications the awful state things Luke ii. as confirming this view ;   
 which the description typifies. Sus there the clothes and manger   
 of this world and the church (Mal. iv. were the ‘sign,’ not the Child), any   
 Luke i. 78: Johni. 9: Eph. v. 14: 2 outward marks on His body, as His   
 i. 19) is Lord Jesus—the Lighé, is the hore for bree) Led oH ae   
 Knowledge of Him. The moon—human what the ecy keeps distinct—the   
 knowledge and science, which it is said seeing of the sige of the Son of Man,   
 (Ps. xxxvi. ‘In thy light shall see and all tribes of the earth mourning,   
 light :’ reflected and drinking the and afterwards seeing the Son of Man   
 beams of, the Light of The stars Himself. This is manifestly sign in   
 —see Dan. viii. 10—are the leaders and the Heavens, by which all ll that   
 teachers of the Church. The Knowledge the Son of Man isat hand. The Star of   
 of God shall be obscured—the Truth nigh the Wise Men naturally occurs to our   
 put out—worldly wisdom darkened—the thoughte—but a star would not be a sign   
 urch system demolished, her teachers which all might read. On the whole   
 cast down. And all this in the midst of I think no sign completely answers the   
 the fearful signs (and in Luke, vv. conditions, but that of the Cross:—and   
 25, 26, more at large) recounted: not accordingly we find the Fathers mostly   
 setting aside, but aocompanying, their thus ‘ing the passage. But as our   
 literal the powers of the Lord Himself not answer the question,   
 heavens] not the stars, mentioned ; “What is the sign of thine   
 —nor angels, spoken of by and by, we may safely leave the all   
 ver. 81: but most probably the greater the tribes of earth] See Zech. 10—   
 heavenly bodies, which rule the day and 14, where the mourning is confined to   
 night, Gen. 16, and are there also families of Israel it is universal:   
 tinguished from the stars. See notes on see Rev. i. 7; also 15—17. This com-   
 2 Pet. 10—12, where the stars seem ing of the Son of Man is not that spoken   
 to be included in elements. Typically, of ch. xxv. 81, that in 1 Thess. iv.   
 the influences which rule human society, 17, and Rev. xix. 11 ff.,—His coming at   
 which make the political weather fair the commencement of the millennial   
 foul, bright or dark; and encourage the to establish His Kingdom: see Dan. vii.   
 fruits of peace, inflict the blight 18, 14 The power is the of   
 desolation of 30.) This then, so thie Kingdom, not, the host heaven.   
 em| atically placed and repeated, is a 81.] This és the great Trumpet   
 definite declaration time,—not a mere of the general Resurrection (1 Cor. xv.   
 sign of sequence or coincidence, e.g. in 62), except so far asthat may be spoken   
 ver. 28:—when these things shall have of as including also first :   
 been somewhile filling hearts with see on this verse the remarkable opening   
 fear,—tTHEN shall &. It is quite of Ps. L, which is itself a prophecy of   
 uneertain what the sign be :— lalnly, these same times. 82, 83, 34.]