INTRODUCTION. ] REVELATION. [on xxu.   
   
   
 34, It now remains that I say somewhat respecting my own view of   
 the character and arrangement of the prophecy, which may furnish the   
 reader with a gencral idea of the nature of the interpretation given in   
 the notes.   
 35. And first for the principles on which that interpretation is based.   
 a) The book is a revelation given by the Father to Christ, and im-   
 parted by Him through His angel to St. John, to declare to His   
 servants things which must shortly come to pass: in other words, the   
 future conflicts and triamphs of His church; these being the things   
 which concerned “ His servants.”   
 36. 4) Of all these, the greatest event is His own coming in glory.   
 Tn consequence, it is put forward in the introduction of the book with   
 all solemnity, and its certainty sealed by an asseveration from the   
 Almighty and Everlasting God.   
 37. c) Accordingly, we find every part of the prophecy fall of   
 this subject. The Epistles to the Churches continually recur to   
 it: the visions of seals, trumpets, vials, all end in introducing it:   
 aud it forms the solemn conclusion, as it did the opening of the   
 book.   
 38. d) But it was not the first time that this great subject had been   
 spoken of in prophecy. The Old Testament prophets had all announced   
 it: and the language of this book is full of the prophetic imagery which   
 we also find in them. 'The first great key to the understanding of the   
 Apocalypse, is, the analogy of Old Testament prophecy.   
 39. ¢) The next is our Lord’s own prophetic discourse, before in-   
 sisted on in this reference. He himself had previously delivered a great   
 prophecy, giving in clear outline the main points of the history of the   
 church, In this prophecy, the progress of the Gospel, its hindrances   
 and corruptions, the judgments on the unbelieving, the trials of the   
 faithful, the safety of God’s elect amidst all, and the final redemption in   
 glory of His faithful people, were all indicated. ‘There, they were   
 enwrapped in language which was in great part primarily applicable to   
 the great typical judgment on the chosen people—the destruction of   
 Jerusalem. When this book was written, that event had taken place:   
 completing the first and partial fulfilment of our Lord’s predictions,   
 Now, it remained for prophecy to declare to the church God’s eourse of   
 dealing with the nations of the earth, by which the same predictions   
 are to be again fulfilled, on a larger scale, and with greater fulness of   
 meaning.   
 40. It is somewhat astonishing, that many of those who recognize to   
 the full the eharacter of the prophetic discourse of our Lord as apply-   
 ing to the last days, should have failed to observe in the Apocalypse   
 the very same features of arrangement, and an analogy challenging   
 continual observation.   
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