17, 18. 1 JOIN. 871   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION. AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISE   
   
 dren, it is the last time:|and as ye heard that £ antichrist 27   
 and as ye have heard that cometh, § even now have there arisen ,}i   
 antichrist shall come, even   
   
 ,   
 readers, the tone of warning is slightly as a Jewish event [which it must be, on   
 struck by “ye have overcome the wicked the hypothesis here, as the word last would   
 one:” if indeed the whole form of as- only be true as addressed to Jews}, have   
 sertion of an ideal state in each case do to do with the subject of our Epistle ?   
 not of itself’ carry a delicate shade of And thus we have arrived at the views of   
 warning. Hence the transition is easy to those who recognize here the last age of.   
 actual warning. And this in vv. 15—17 the world, are anxious to get rid of   
 begins by general dehortation from the the idea that the Apostle, in thus speak-   
 love of the world as excluding the love of ing, regarded the coming of the Lord as   
 God, and now proceeds by caution against near at hand, and endeavour to give some   
 those in the world who would rob them of meaning to the expression which shall pre   
 Him by whom.alone walking in the light clude this [to them) objectionable notion.   
 of God is made both possible and actual to Among these may be mentioned Calvin,   
 us. The note of transition from the last and many of the elder Commentators, who   
 verses is “it és the time,” here taking understand the latter dispensation : the   
 up the term “is passing away.” The time from Christ’s advent in the flesh to   
 world is passing away: and those tempta- His coming to judgment. But, apart, from   
 tions and conflicts of which ye have heard considerations of the unfitness of such an   
 as belonging to its last period, are now idea in the context, in which the term   
 upon you: those adversaries who would « passing away,” vv. 8, 17,—and our ver.   
 endanger your abiding in Him and being 28, shew that it is the coming of the Lord   
 found in Him at His coming. 18. whivh is before the mind of the Apostle,—   
 Children (as before, addressed not to any this objection is fatal it: that manifestly   
 one class, but to all readers), it is the not this whole period itself, some time   
 last time (what is exactly the Apostle’s within its limits is from the nature   
 meaning by these words? Clearly, ix of the sign given below, whence we know,   
 some sense or other, that it is the last &e. If the whole Christian dispensation   
 period of the world. ' For we must at once were intended by the last time, it would   
 repudiate such views as that of Bengel, not be stated as a sign of presence, that   
 who, strange to say, seems to understand already there were many antichrists, but   
 it as “the last part of John’s own life- rather that already He was come who is   
 time,” and that of Steinhofer, who ex- to be the final revelation of the Father.   
 plains it to be John’s own time as the ‘The circumstance of there being already   
 close of the apostolic age: and even more many antichrists, corresponds with a pro«   
 decidedly that of Gicumenius, that the phecy delivered by our Lord, not of the   
 last is to be interpreted the worst, as general character of the whole of the last   
 when we say, the last degree of misery, dispensation, but of the particular cha-   
 for all other reasons, and on account of racter of the time preceding the end, to   
 the saying 2 Tim. iii, 1,‘ Zn the last days which prophecy and to which time the   
 there shalt come grievous times.” Apostle here beyond question alludes,   
 These then being cleared away, we come 1 believe that if we are to deal ingenu-   
 to the view of Grotius and otliers that, ously both with words and with facts, we   
 when spoken of to Jews, the last time is must understand the Apostle to be speak-   
 that close upon the destruction of the ing, as any one in any subsequent age of   
 Jewish polity; proceeding to interpret the the Church might have spoken, and as wo   
 antichrists to be the many false Christs may speak now, of his time as being the   
 who arose in that period, and Antichrist last time, seeing that the signs of the last   
 himself to be the chief of them, Barcho- time were rife in it. How long it may   
 chebas. But two sufficient replies be please God to prolong this Zas¢ ame, how   
 given to this view. First, that thus these long to pennit the signs to continue which   
 false Messiabs of the Jews must have gone demonstrate each age of the church to   
 forth from us, i.e. from the Christian have this character, is a question to which   
 Church, which’ they did not. Secondly, it was not given to him, and is not given   
 what would the approximation of the to us, to reply. To him indeed many pro-   
 destruction of Jerusalem, viewed merely phetic visions were given, and have been