942 REVELATION. I.   
   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISKD. AUTHORIZED VERSION.   
 testified the word of God, and the foord of God, and of the   
 tsoomitting testimony of Jesus Christ, ¢ as much testimony of Jesus Christ,   
 8f Blessed is he that and of all things that he   
 readeth, saw. they that hear the saw. \* Blessed is he that   
 words of this prophecy, and keep readeth, and they that hear   
 are the words of this prophecy,   
 sltom.xii8-01. things € the which is at hand. and keep those things which   
 i 4Joun to the seven churches are written therein: for   
 the time is at hand.   
 4 JOHN to the seven   
 which are in Asia: Grace be unto churehes which arein Asia:   
   
   
   
 hook, see Introduction), \_ 2.] who testi- and they that hear and do. those   
 fied of the word of God and the testimony things which are written therein are the   
 of Jesus Christ, whatsoever things he several exhortations to repentance, faith,   
 saw (these words mst, in all fairness of patience, obedience, prayer, watchfulness,   
 construction, be referred to this present stedfastness, which are scattered up and   
 book, and not, as by some of the older down inthe prophecy. time being near   
 Expositors, and recently by Ebrard, to the She Gigietagedinams msciean   
 Gospel of St. John, ‘The reasons given by and the blessedness of reading and ob-   
 Ebrard for such reference will not hold: serving it greater. The nearness spoken   
 seo my Greek Test. Besides, the Evan- of is to he understood as alluding to the   
 gelist distinctly tells John xx. 80, that shortly of verse 1, which see. We know   
 in writing his Gospel, he did not set down little now of relative nearness and dis-   
 as much as he saw, but only a portion of tance in point of time: when the day of   
 the things which Jesus did in the presence the Lord shall have opened our eyes to the   
 of His disciples, whereas in the case of this true measure, we shall see, how near it   
 Revelation it was otherwise: he set down always was).   
 all which he saw, as a faithful transmitter Cu. I. 4—III. 22] Ixrropverion To   
 of the Apocalyptic vision to the churches). THE PROPHECY, in the form of a seven-   
 8.] Blessed is (or Ge, in the ordinary fold Epistle to the seven churches of   
 meaning of blessed: not necessarily ré- Asia, And herein, vv. 4, 5, address and   
 fering on to eternal blessedness, as greeting, ending with dozology. [Ebrard,   
 Hengst.) he that readeth, and they who seems to love singularity for its   
 that hear the words of the prophecy own sake, objects to the above arrange-   
 and observe the things written in it; ment, because the sevenfold epistle has   
 for the time is near (it can hardly be not yet begun, and prefers calling this   
 reasonably denied that in the terms, he a dedicatory title to the whole hook. But   
 that readeth, and they that hear, the the other view is far simpler and better.   
 Apostle had in his mind the one public The sevenfold Epistle is clearly before   
 reader and the many hearers. And so St. John’s mind, and, full of the inages   
 the great majority of Commentators. If of the vision which he had seen, he only   
 the words are to be thus understood as interrupts it by solemn ¢jaculatory refor-   
 above, they form at least a solemn rebuke ences to the glories of that vision and the   
 to the most unjustifiable practice of the sublime announcement of the Lord’s com-   
 Church of England, which omits with one ing, and then hastens on to introduce it by   
 or two exceptions the whole of this book a prefatory account of his own circum-   
 from her public readings. Not one word stances when the Epistles were entrusted   
 of the precious messages of the Spirit to to him, and of the appearance of the Lord   
 the Churches is ever heard in the public who thus entrusted them.] John to the   
 services of a Church never weary of appeal- seven churches which are in Asia (the   
 ing to her Seriptural liturgies. Surely it form of address is exactly that in the   
 is high time, that our timid rulers should Epistles of St. Paul: see Rom. i. 1 ff   
 gather conrage to face their duties, and 1Cor.i.1f, &e. That St. Paul, in Romans   
 such an omission should be supplied.— and elsewhere, is eareful to designate him-   
 Notice that not three classes persons, but self and his office, and St. John introduces   
 two only, are here indicated : he that reads, himself without any such designation, be-