994 REVELATION. VG   
 AUTIIORIZED VERSION.   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED.   
 43 seal, I saw under 9 the altar tthe | seal, I saw under the altar   
 18, souls of them that have been slain| the souls of them that were   
 robexx, 4   
   
 tration) the wild beasts of the earth (the these four visions are to be regarded as con-   
 enumeration comprehends the “four sore secutive or contemporaneous, I have already   
 judgments” enumerated in Ezek. xiv. 21, expressed an opinion. In their fulness,   
 and in the same terms. This fixes the T believe them to be contemporancous, and   
 meaning of this second and subordinate cach of them to extend through the whole   
 death as above. This seal is lifetime of the church, ‘The analogy of the   
 interpreted as above by the earliest Com- whole four symbols seems to require this.   
 mentators: e. g. “ These same We read nothing implying that there are   
 also, nmong other means of death, the “days” of the opening of any particnlar   
 Lord had foretold, great coming pests and seal, as there are, ch. x. 7, of the sound-   
 mortalities.” But as on the third seal, ing of the several trumpets. The in   
 s0 here also, he off into vague allegory order that he may conquer of the first   
 about the latter part of the vision). seal speaks of a purpose which will not   
 Woe have now passed the four first seals, be accomplished till the earth be all sub-   
 after which the character of the vision jngated: and if I am right in supposing   
 changes. One feature common to these ‘the other visions subordinate to this,   
 fonr is, : the representation their agency is necessarily ineluded in its   
 of processions of events by the impersona- process. At the same time I would by no   
 tion of their leading features. Another is, menus deny that they may receive con-   
 the share which the four living-creatures tinually recurring, or even ultimate falfil-   
 bear in the representation, which after this ments, as the ages of the world go on, in   
 point ceases, as far as the seals are con- distinct periods of time, and by distinctly   
 cerned. In my mind, no interpretation assignable events. So far we may derive   
 can be right, which doos not take both benefit from the commentaries of those who   
 these common featnres into account. And imagine that they have discovered their fal-   
 this may hest be done by viewing, as above, filment in snecessive periods history, that,   
 these four visions the four solemn pre- from the very variety and discrepancy of   
 parations for the coming of the Lord as the periods assigned by them, we may verify   
 regards the visible Creation, which these the fact of prevalence of these announced   
 fonr living-beings symbolize. ‘The whole judgments, hitherto, throughout the whole   
 Creation demands His coming. COME, is lifetime of the Chnreh.   
 the cry of all its tribes. ‘This ery is an- ‘As regards w/fimate fulfilment, there can   
 swered, first by the vision the great Con- be no donbt, that all these judgments on   
 queror, whose arrows ave in the heart of the world without, as well'as the mani-   
 his enemies, and whose eareer is the fostation [of which they form a part] of   
 history. ‘The breaking of this first is the conquering career of the Kingdom of   
 the great opening of the mystery of God. Christ, will reach their culminating point   
 ‘This in some sense inelndes and brings in before the coming of the great and terrible   
 the others. ‘Those others then, as we might day of the Lord.   
 expect, hold a place subordinate to this. may add, that no account whatever is   
 They are, in fact, but exponents of the taken, in the eommon historic interpreta-   
 mysteries enwrapt within this conquering tion, of the distinctive character of the   
 career: visions of the method of its being four first seals, as introduced by the ery   
 carried out to the end in its operation on of the four living-beings: nor indeed is   
 the outward world. ‘That the world-wide any interpretation commonly given of that   
 declaration of the everlasting Gospel should cry itself.   
 be accompanied by war, by famine, by 9—11.] OrnNinG oF THe FIrTH STAT.   
 pestilence, and other forms of death, had We may at once observe, that the whole   
 been announeed by our Lord Himself character of the vision is altered. ‘The   
 [Matt. xxiv. 11}, and is now repeated in four living-beings have uttered each his ery   
 this series of visions. fultilment of of Come, and are now silent. No more   
 each of these judgments is, as it were, the horses and riders go forth upon the earth.   
 removing a seal from the hook of God’s 'Yhe scene is changed to the heavenly altar,   
 mysterious purposes: the bringing nearer and the cry is from thence. Any inter-   
 of the time when that book shall be open pretation which makes this vision of the   
 for all the redeemed to read. same kind with aud eonsceative to the four   
 With regard to the question whether preceding, must so far be wrong. In one