At   
 1010 REVELATION. AUTHORIZED VERSION.   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED.   
 earth: and the third part of the|"pom the earth: and the   
 Soall our. earth was burnt up, and the thira|@i"@ part of trees was   
 oldeet   
   
   
 trumpets as setting forth the gradual sub- seem to me utterly to have failed; e.g.   
 jugation of the earth to Him whose king- that of Eliott, which would understand it of   
 dom it is in the end to become, by judg- a tripartite division of the Roman Empire   
 flicted on the ungodly, as regards at the time to which he assigns this judg-   
 1d destroying the ordinary ment. It is fatal to this whole chiss of   
 means of subsistence, and comfort, and interpretations, that it is not said the hail   
 knowledge. In the details of these judlg- &e. were cast on a third part, but that   
 ments, as also of the two following, there the destruction occasioned by them ex-   
 are many particulars which I eannot inter- tended to a third part of the earth on   
 pret, and with regard to which it may be which they were cast. And this is most   
 a question whether they are to be considered expressly declared to be so in this first   
 as other than belonging to the requisite case, by all green grass being also de-   
 symbolic machinery of the prophecy. But stroyed, not a third part: a fact of whic   
 in confessing this I must also say, that I this interpretation takes no notice. It is   
 have never seen, in any apocalyptic Com- this mixture of the fractional third with   
 mentator, an interpretation of these de- other designations of extent of mischief,   
 at all approaching to verisimilitude : which will lend us I believe to the right   
 never any which is not obliged to force the interpretation. We find it again under   
 plain sense of words, or the certain course the third trumpet, where the star Worm-   
 of history, to make them fit the requisite wood is cast ‘on the third part of the   
 theory. “Many examples of these will be rivers, and on the springs of the waters :”   
 found in the history of apocalyptic inter- the result being that the third part of the   
 pretation given by Mr. Elliott im vol. iv. waters was embittered. This lax usage   
 of his Horm Apocalypticw. wonld of itself lead us to suppose that:   
 7.) And the first blew his trumpet, and we are not to look for strict definite-   
 there took place hail and fire mingled ness in the interpretation. And if we refer   
 in blood (i.e. the hail and the fire were to the. prophecy in Zech. xiii. 7 f., where   
 mingled together in blood, as their flux the import is to announce judgment on a   
 or yehicle; the stones of hail and the greater part and the escape of a remnant,   
 halls of fire [not lightning] fell in a we find the same tripartite division :   
 shower of blood, just as hail and fireballs it shall come to pass, that in all the land,   
 commonly fall in & shower of rain. ‘There saith the Lord, two parts therein shall   
 is here manifestly an allusion to the plague be cut off and die, but the third shall be   
 of hail in Egypt, of which it is said that left therein. And I will bring the third   
 “the fire ran along upon the groun part through the fire, gc.” Nay, in the   
 “there was hail and fire mingled with ‘Apocalypse itself, have the third part   
 the hail,” Exod. ix. 24: but with the used where the sense can hardly but be   
 addition of the blood. With regard to this similarly indefinite: e.g., under the sixth   
 latter, we may remark, that both here and trumpet, ch. ix. 15, 18, and xii. 4, where   
 under the vials, where the earth, seas, and it is said that the dragon’s tail “draveth   
 rivers are again the objects of the first the third part of the stars of heaven:”   
 three judgments, blood is a feature com- , the use of the present shewing that it   
 mon to was cast into It appears rather to is rather a general power, than a par-   
 the surface general earth): and the judg- ticular event which is designated. Com-   
 ments, than to require any occurring inter- pare again the use of “the fourth part 0)   
 it will be in each particular ease, In blood the earth,” in ch. vi. 8, of \* the tend   
 its meaning the shedding, or in the appear- part of the city,” in ch. xi. All these   
 ing, of blood, is implied the destruction seem to shew, that such prophetic ex-   
 of life, with which, as a consequence, all pressions are to he taken rather in their   
 import as to amount, than in any strict   
 fractional division. Here, for instance, 1   
 would take the pervading third part as   
 signifying, that though the judgment is   
 undoubtedly, as to extent, fearful and   
 sweeping, yet that God in inflicting it,   
 spares more than he smites: two-thirds