1026 REVELATION. XI   
   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED, AUTHORIZED VERSION.   
 a Ezek, XI. 2 And there was given me \*a XU ' And there was   
 Ke, 331.1 i reed like unto a rod, f saying, » Rise, given me a reed like unto   
 anda For saying, is the of the arod: and MSS, angel stood,   
 ‘angel all our 2   
 he'saith. ‘Numb, xxii 18.   
 this agreed meaning, there are many dif- as it is to the same circumstance in   
 ferent views as to the extent of the refer- Fzekiel’s eating the roll which was all   
 ence of the “little book” to that which Lunentation, mourning, and woe, doubtless   
 follows, and as to its relation to the seven- represents present satisfaction at being   
 sealed book of ch. v. As regards these informed of, and admitted to know, a   
 points, we may remark, 1) that the con- portion of God’s holy will: of those words   
 tents of the “little cannot. well be of which the Psulmist said, Ps. cxix. 103,   
 confined to ch. xi. or we should not “How sweet are thy words unto my taste,   
 haye had so solemn an inauguration of it, yousweeter than honey to my mouth 1”   
 nor so wide-reaching an announcement of But when the roll eame to be not only   
 the duty of the Apostle conseqnent on the tasted, but digested,—the nature of its   
 receipt of it: 2) that the oath of the Angel contents felt within the man,—bitterness   
 mnst necessarily he connected with his took the place of sweetness: the persecn-   
 bearing of the open book on his hand, and tions, the apostasies, the judgments, of   
 if so, makes it necessary to infer that the the church and people of the Lord, sad-   
 contents of the book are identical with dened the spirit of the Seer, and dashed   
 the mystery, respecting which he swears: his joy at the first of the mystery   
 8) that the episode which follows, contain- of God.   
 ing the first work of the Apostle under Cu. XI. 1—13.] The measurement of   
 that his new prophetic commission, inangu- the temple of God. The two witnesses:   
 rates an entirely new matter—the things their testimony, death, resurrection, and   
 which befall the Church of God and the assumption into heaven: the earthquake,   
 holy city, which new character of inci- and its consequences.   
 dents continues to prevail until the very ‘This passage may well be ealled, even   
 end of the book: 4) that the relation of more than that previous one, ch. x.1 ff,   
 this “little book” to the sealed book of the erue of interpreters ; as it undoubt-   
 ch. v. ean hardly be doubtful to the readers edly one of the most difficult the whole   
 of this Commentary, seeing that we have Apocalypse. Referring to the histories of   
 maintained that book to be the sum of the apocalyptic exposition for an account of the   
 divine purposes, which is not opened at all various interpretations, I will, as I have   
 within the limits of the apocalyptic vision, done in similar cases, endeavour to lay   
 bat only prepared to be opened by the down a few landmarks, which may serve for   
 removal of its seven seals. That this is guidance at least to avoid inconsistency,   
 not that complete record of the divine if we cannot do more. And I will remark,   
 purposes, nor, technically speaking, any 1) that we are not bound to the hard   
 portion of it, must. be evident tous. For “wooden” literal sense so insisted on in   
 it forms a small detached roll or yolume, our day by some of the modern German   
 lying open on the angel’s hand: it is Expositors. I would strongly recommend   
 destined for the especial individual behoof any one who takes that view, who will   
 of the Seer, into whom it, passes, and be- have Jerusalem mean nothing but Jerusa-   
 comes assimilated with himself, to be salem, and confine the two witnesses to two   
 given forth as he should be directed to persons bodily appearing there, to read   
 utter it. 5) That it contained more than throngh the very unsatisfactory and shuf-   
 wee posters in the remaining portion of fling comment of Diisterdieck here: the   
 book, is probable. St. Joen doubth result of which is, that finding, as he of   
 knew more than he has told us. Previ- conrse docs, many discrepancies between   
 ously to this, he knew what the seven this and our Lord’s prophecy of the same   
 thunders uttered: and subsequently to destruction of Jernsalem, he is driven to   
 this, we can hardly imagine that he was the refuge that while our Lord describes   
 ignorant of the name of the wild-beast, matters of fact, St. John idealizes the   
 whose number he has given us. catastrophe, setting it forth not as it   
 It remains that we say something on took place, but according to its inner con-   
 the cirenmstances accompanying the Apos- nexion with the final accomplishment of   
 tle’s reception of the mysterious book. the mystery of God, and correspondently   
 Its sweetness, when he tasted it, allusive to the hope which God’s Old ‘Testament