1042 REVELATION. . XIL. 17.   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED. AUTHORIZED VERSION.   
   
 the dragon was wroth with the dragon was wroth with the   
 woman, ‘and departed to make war woman, and went to make   
 with the rest of her seed, \* which war with the remnant of   
 keep the commandments of God, her seed, which keep the   
 . and have ' the testimony of Jesus t. commandments of God,   
 and have the testimony   
 + Christ omitted almost our MSS. versions: Jesus, the Christ. has   
   
   
 to answer the conditions: nor do we gain stand with regard to the other alternative   
 any thing by their combination, But any in its two forms? Granting for the mo-   
 thing within reasonable regard for the ment the year-day principle, will it us   
 analogies and symbolism of the text seems here? If we take the flight into the wil-   
 better than the now too commonly re- derness as happening at any time between   
 ceived historical interpretation, with its the Ascension, A.D. 30, and the destruction   
 wild fancies ‘and arbitrary assignment of of Jerusalem, .D. 70, 1260 years will bring   
 words and figures. As to the time indi- us to some time between a.d. 1290 and   
 ted by the 1260 days or 34 years, the 1380: a period during which no event ean   
 interpretations given have not been con- be pointed out as putting an end to the   
 vineing, nor even specions. We may ob- wilderness-state of the church. If again   
 serve thns much in this place: that if we we enlarge our limit for the former event,   
 regard this prophecy as including long and bring it down as late as Elliott does,   
 historie periods, we are driven to one of i.e. to the period between the fourth and   
 two resonrees with regard to these num- seventh centuries, we fall into all the diffi-   
 bers: either we must adopt the year-day culties whieh beset his most nnsatisfaetory   
 theory (that which reckons a day for a explanation of the man-child and his being   
 year, and consequently a month for thirty caught up to God’s throne, and besides,   
 Years,—and should reckon a year for 360 into this one: that if the occultation of   
 or 365 years), or we must believe the num- ligion [the condition of the invisible   
 bers to have merely a symbolical and mys- church] was the beginning of the wilder-   
 tical, not a chronological force. If [and ness-state, then either the open establish-   
 this second alternative is best stated in an ment of the Protestant churches was the   
 invorse form] we regard the periods men- end of the wilderness-state of concealment,   
 tioned as to be literally then the or those churches are no true churches :   
 prophecy cannot refer to long historic cither of which alternatives would hardly   
 periods, but must be limited to a succession be allowed by that author. And if on the   
 of incidents concentrated in one place and other hand we desert the year-day prin-   
 space of time either in the far past or in ciple, and say that these defined and con-   
 the far future. Of all prophecies about stantly recurring periods are not to be   
 which these questions can be raised, the pressed, but indicate only long spaces of   
 present is tle one which least satisfactorily time thus pointed out mystically or analo-   
 admits of such literal interpretation and gieally, we sem to incur danger of missing   
 its consequences. Its actors, the woman the prophetic sense, and leaving unfixed   
 and the dragon, are beyond all controversy that which apparently the Spirit of God in-   
 mystieal personages: one of them is ex- tended us to ascertain). And the dragon   
 pressly interpreted for us to be the devil: was wroth at the woman and departed   
 respecting the other there can be little (from his pursuit of her) to make war with   
 doubt that she is the Church of God: her the rest of her seed, who keep the com-   
 seed being, as expressly interpreted to be, mandments of God and have the testimony   
 God’s Christian people. ‘The conflict then of Jesus (as in ch. vi. 9: see note there.   
 is that between Satan and the ehureh. Its Notice as important elements for the inter-   
 first great incident is birth and triumph pretation, 1) That the woman has sced be-   
 of the Son of God and of man. \_Is likely sides the Man-child who was eaught up to   
 that a few days or years will limit the God’s throne [for this is the reference of   
 duration of a prophecy confessedly of such the rest], who are not only distinct: from   
 wide import? I own it seems to me that herself, but who do not accompany her in   
 this vision, even if it stood alone, is deci- her flight into the wilderness: 2) That   
 sive against the literal acceptation of the those persons aro described as being they   
 stated periods, Rejecting that, how do we who keep the commandments of God and