standing of the churches of Christ before the last of  
the apostles died; and we see from the Saviour’s words,  
how likely they were to have their candlesticks removed. *Abounding grace still spares the churches*,  
but they have not continued in God’s goodness, and  
*are soon to be cut off*. Rom. xi.  
  
 12. “And I turned to see the voice which was speaking with  
me. And being turned, I saw seven golden lamp-stands.”  
  
 He beheld then *seven golden lamps* upon their stands.  
On this point I must differ from most or all who have  
preceded me. They speak of the lamps, altars, censers,  
etc., beheld by John, as mere *images* and allusions to the  
utensils of the tabernacle. But such a conclusion is not  
derived from Scripture. Scripture would assure us, that  
the things which John *beheld were the* REALITIES, of  
which the Mosaic tabernacle contained only the *copies*.  
It were strange indeed, if, while the law of Moses gave  
only the *copies* of the things in heaven, John saw only  
the *shadowy appearance* of those *shadows!* If Paul may  
be trusted, *there is really a tabernacle in heaven, in  
which are the originals* which Moses, and John, were  
permitted to see. What other conclusion should we  
gather from such passages as these?—“A minister  
of the Holiest, and of the TRUE TABERNACLE, which *the  
Lord pitched and not man*.” The priests of Aaron’s line  
“serve the *example* and *shadow of the heavenly things;*  
as Moses was admonished when he was about to make  
the tabernacle.” For “see (saith He) that thou make  
all things according to the *pattern showed thee in the  
mount*” (Heb. viii. 2, 5). If the person of Jesus be a  
reality, why not the lamps amidst which He moves?  
 *There are then real vessels in heaven*, about which  
the ministry of Jesus as high priest is at present engaged; things which were purged with His blood. Heb.  
ix. 23. Besides their *reality*, they are *significant* of