with the locust-army of the pit. Jesus, rejected by man,  
and put to death by him, returned to heaven. Antichrist, after committing suicide, went to the place of  
the lost below, and shall return to perdition, as soon as  
his brief reign is over. As it is said of Jesus (Eph.  
iv. 9) that His predicted ascent to heaven implied a  
previous descent to earth and to its lower regions; so  
Antichrist’s ascent to earth implies a previous descent  
from it. The False Christ was a man, and he *ascends* from  
the abyss of the lost. Then he previously descended  
thither.1  
 He overcomes them and kills them. From these  
words being used to describe the result, it would appear  
to be an event requiring some little time. It is by the   
exertion of a power superior to theirs that he prevails.  
It is designed of God, and therefore foretold, that His  
people’s faith may not fail. It is purposed of God,  
that His foe’s time of power shall occur at the Witnesses’  
time of weakness. He designs to give His enemies an  
apparent victory, to bring out their heart of enmity  
visibly to light. “The foolishness of God is wiser than  
man; the weakness of God is stronger than man.”  
They are indulged with a seeming triumph, that the  
repressing influence of fear being taken off, their emotions of bitter hatred to God in the persons of His  
ministering prophets may be made manifest. And  
their refusal of the Witnesses’ testimony ripens them  
for the full energy of the Wild Beast’s delusion.  
There is also a third reason. The Witnesses’ death brings  
in God as the God of resurrection. It identifies the God  
of the Old Testament with the God of the New. The  
miracles of judgment under Moses and Elijah, and  
  
1 The height of the ascent is the earth. Therefore previously  
he was below it. But he ascends out of the abyss. Therefore  
the bottomless pit is below the earth.