His wrath is more terrible, because of His long previous  
patience.  
 The nations in our day are in general quite indifferent  
about God, and His Gospel. But at the close, hatred to  
Him and His Christ will burst forth. In the new  
earth, the nations are all holy. It is because of the  
sin of the nations, that the opening of the kingdom, and  
the manifestation of the covenant, take place in wrath.  
 “And the season of the dead to be judged.” This  
is put in close connection with the coming of God’s  
wrath, and the time of His reign. It must include,  
then, the general judgment of the dead after the  
millennium.  
 By a “season” is meant a brief period which does not  
return again. The nations are never thus angry again;  
the reward of the saints is but once; after the judgment  
of the dead there is no more death; the eternal state of  
all is fixed. As the season of harvest occurs but once  
in the year, so this takes place only once in God’s great  
year. There are those who are already risen from the  
dead and in heaven (chap. vii.). Those are already  
judged by Christ, and their places decided. They are  
not reckoned among the dead yet to be judged.  
 2. “And of giving the reward to thy servants the  
prophets.” When Christ takes the kingdom, the  
saints are to take it too. John was waiting in patience  
for it; till then affliction was to be the lot of the Christian. i. 9. Many of his servants have risen ere the  
seventh trumpet sounds; but the kingdom is still to be  
waited for by them.  
 The words are very important. It is not merely the  
giving of “reward,” but of “*the*” well-known and long-promised “reward.” And what is this, but the kingdom? That is the subject of the heavenly voices, and  
of the elders’ joy. The “reward” and the “kingdom”  
are nearly equivalent expressions. It is so seen in the