after this manner, and another after that” (1 Cor. vii. 7).  
 “But so saying, you exclude Peter and the married  
apostles from the kingdom.” By no means. They are  
excluded only from this special song, and from moving  
about with our Lord in the kingdom; but not from the  
kingdom altogether.  
 The 144,000 are truthful, and in this respect like  
Christ. Isa. liii. 9. “He did no violence, *neither was  
any deceit in His mouth*.” “Who did no sin, *neither was  
guile found in His mouth*” (1 Peter ii. 22).  
 The word spoken of them is employed to describe  
Christ Himself. Christ as “a Lamb *without blemish*  
and without spot” (1 Peter i. 19). Thus the outward  
and inward purity meet: they are undefiled in spirit,  
as in body. The previously named virginity, then, is  
not spiritual; for that is asserted afterwards. It is, as  
we again conclude, to be taken literally.

FIRST ANGELIC MESSAGE.

6. “And I saw another angel flying in the mid-heaven, having  
the everlasting Gospel to proclaim over those seated on the earth,  
and over every nation, and tribe, and tongue, and people. 7.  
Saying, with a great voice, ‘Fear God, and give Him glory, for the  
hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made the  
heaven, and the earth, and sea, and fountains of waters.’”  
  
 An angel is now the preacher. This takes us back  
to the days of the Judges, or of Genesis, or of Exodus.  
“The word spoken by *angels* was steadfast” (Heb. ii. 2).  
 Here is a change in God’s plans, necessitated by the  
wickedness of man, and the power of Satan. Even  
inspired men, possessed of supernatural powers of  
miracle in order to defend themselves, have been slain  
by the energy of Satan. xi. An angel, therefore, who  
cannot be slain, is sent. He does not tarry on his