CHAPTER XV

THE VIALS OR BOWLS

1. “And I saw another sign in the heaven, great and wonderful;  
seven angels, having the seven last plagues, for in them was  
finished the wrath of God.”  
  
THIS sign is “great and wonderful.” It is “great”  
in its extent. Before, only the third or fourth of earth  
were smitten; now the whole earth is stricken. It is  
“wonderful,” and therefore the plagues are literal and  
supernatural. It is not the ordinary course of wars  
and famines, etc. It is the completion of “the covenant  
of marvels.”  
 John sees “seven angels having the seven last plagues.”  
 The seven angels are the priests of heaven, pouring  
out the drink-offerings of wine over the sacrifice, ere it  
is slain.  
 These plagues follow, apparently, the sounding of  
the seventh trump. The six first trumps bring plagues:  
this inflicts sevenfold wrath. It is the third woe,  
poured out as the result of the testimony of the Two  
ascended Witnesses against the iniquity of the earth.  
 “For in them was finished the wrath of God.” This  
gives us the title of the present series. Wrath has  
been tarrying and accumulating till now: till these  
are poured out, the glory cannot come. His wrath is  
completed, and in it the mystery of God. The plagues  
become more evidently supernatural, and openly from