are driven out into the open fields. Then comes  
the hail on those unsheltered. In the Egyptian plague  
the houses were spared, and there they were safe. But  
now God’s arm finds out His foes; and they are aware  
that the Wise One is aiming His strokes against them,  
and they curse Him. At the sixth-seal earthquake, men  
hide in the rocks and caves of mountains: here the  
mountains themselves are places of danger. But to  
what a pitch of sin have men now arrived!  
 How prodigious must be the effect of such masses of  
ice falling with great velocity! How can human  
bones withstand? Multitudes both of men and beasts  
must be slain outright, as was the case in Joshua’s  
battle.  
 But what is the answer to this terrific scourge?  
Do men bend, and own their sins, and seek pardon?  
No! None sealed with Antichrist’s mark ever repents:  
he is given up to judicial hardness. They blaspheme!  
They see God’s hand of wisdom and of power laying  
them bare of all shelter from His dread inflictions: but  
they curse *Him*, not *themselves*. Here is sin at its most  
revolting height. It was not so in the world’s younger  
days. Pharaoh confesses his sin, when stricken by the  
hailstorm; and asks Moses’ intercession with God,  
promising to deliver Israel to freedom. But these are  
ripe for hell: Antichrist has taught all his followers  
to curse God and die.