The False Prophet deceives his followers so that they  
believe the False Christ to be the True God. The False  
Prophet knows full well who the Wild Beast is: they  
two were for ages fellows in the pit of perdition. But  
it serves his purpose to bear false witness, and to ruin  
men. But for this supernatural deceit, they had hardly  
embarked on so desperate an enterprise.  
 There were two especially holy in Old Testament  
times, Enoch and Elijah; and God gave them peculiar  
honour, in preserving them from death, and lifting them  
to heaven. There are also two especially wicked  
among men; and these are permitted to come forth from  
the place of punishment to discover afresh their enormous wickedness, and in consequence to endure for a  
thousand years especial torment. With men there is  
nothing beyond a brief death for every offence. But  
God knows how to apportion punishment to sin.  
 The mark and the worship of the image are both  
accordant characteristics of the same religion of  
Satan. The same parties perform both acts. Why,  
then, are there two articles? one before the giving of  
the mark? one before the worship of the image? I  
cannot answer it satisfactorily to myself; though it be  
true that the acts are quite physically independent one  
of the other. But it may be because the least devoted  
worshippers of the Wild Beast may content themselves  
with the mark alone. That is all that is absolutely  
required by the False Prophet in order to buying and  
selling, and that may suffice them.  
 These are cast “*alive*” into the lake of fire. Great  
stress is laid on this in the Greek. It is a point  
worthy of especial notice. Their armies are slain.  
Why are not they? Because they *cannot* be slain.  
They have risen from the dead: they can die no more.  
Hence we see that neither of the two can be an empire,  
or a system, or a corporate body. Neither of the two