Scripture traces the latter-day transgressions to *them*.  
The *people* are always sound-hearted for Christ in the  
main; but for the influence of corrupted kings they  
would never have been leagued against the Lord Jesus,  
as we see, at His coming.” Scripture shows us that  
when there are no kings of earth but the perfect governors of Christ’s appointing, the *people* go astray. Satan  
deceives the nations, even when the weight of government is all against him. No! no! the mischief lies  
deeper far than any form of government.  
 They assail also “the beloved city.”  
 Their encompassing at once the camp and the city,  
and filling the breadth of the land, shows something of  
their immense multitudes. For the land of Israel near  
Jerusalem, where it is hemmed in by the Dead Sea, is  
fifty miles broad. And the distance between the  
millennial temple and the millennial Jerusalem of  
Ezekiel is something like forty miles. They assail the  
two, then, from north, south, and east, perhaps from the  
west also.  
 It is not named Jerusalem, it is not called even “the  
*old* Jerusalem”; a name of greater tenderness distinguishes it. But it is entirely supplanted by the New  
Jerusalem, as soon as its day is over. “The slave  
[Ishmael] abideth not in the house for ever: but the  
son [Isaac] abideth ever” (Greek). John viii. 35.  
 “Fire came down out of the heaven from God, and  
devoured them.”  
 For the offence of not coming up to Jerusalem to  
worship, God threatens the withholding of rain: a slow  
punishment, which would, at any time, admit of repentance on the nation’s part. But, for the crime of  
coming up in warlike array against His city and king,  
the stroke of wrath is instant, and there is no room for  
penitence. Offenders are cut off in their sin in a  
moment.