to testify these things unto you in the churches”  
(xxii. 16).  
 God’s “servants” are to know these things, and to  
credit them before they come to pass. The difference  
between the standing of believers in Jesus throughout  
the Epistles of Paul, and that given in the Apocalypse,  
is very great. As members of Christ they are “sons  
of God.” Here they are only denominated “servants.”  
The reason of this is, as I suppose, because this book  
looks at final salvation as it affects both those of the  
Old Testament and those of the New. Hence it takes  
necessarily the lowest term which will apply to both  
classes alike.  
 The events here foretold “must” come to pass.  
God has said so: His word cannot be broken. The  
plagues must descend, because of sin. The joys must  
be granted, because of God’s purpose and promise in  
Christ. They must be done “shortly.” But the  
hours are calculated by God’s clock: and that moves  
much more slowly than man’s.  
 “Blessed the keeper of the prophecy of this book.”  
God would single out to especial notice and blessing  
this book: man in his folly, yea, even saints of God,  
despise it. Let us keep its sayings! Let us retain its  
truths in our understanding and heart! Where it is  
practical, let us beware! Babylon and her lures are  
around us: let us flee them! Let us beware of the Great  
Antichrist, and be kept from his day of temptation, by  
praying that we may be accounted worthy to escape it!  
 This prophecy may be understood, before its words  
come to pass.  
 How unlike is God’s book to the productions of man!  
Men’s books seek to glorify themselves. But here is  
John twice confessing his sin. How frail are the best  
of God’s saints! Twice does John worship the angel,  
within a very short period: twice is he rebuked.