

parables"—in figures and dark sayings—in order that, even though having the Bible before them, others than the consecrated may not really see and understand.—Mark 4:11, 12.

The world is not ignorant of the unprecedented events and circumstances of the present time, and their increasing noteworthiness with every passing year; but not seeing the grand outcome, these only fill their minds with dark forebodings of evil. As foretold, they are in fear, looking forward to those things that are coming on the earth; for already the powers of the heaven (the present ruling powers) are being shaken.

CONNECTING THE PROPHEPIC CHAIN.

In the preceding chapter we presented evidence showing that the "Times of the Gentiles," or their lease of dominion, will run fully out with the year A. D. 1914, and that by that time they will all be overturned and Christ's Kingdom fully established. That the Lord must be present, and set up his Kingdom, and exercise his great power so as to dash the nations to pieces as a potter's vessel, *before* A. D. 1914, is then clearly fixed; for it is "in the days of these kings"—before their overthrow—*i. e.*, before A. D. 1914—that the God of heaven shall set up his Kingdom. And *IT shall break in pieces and consume all these.* (Dan. 2:44.) And in harmony with this, we see all about us evidence of the beginning of the smiting, shaking and overturning of the present powers, preparatory to the establishment of the kingdom "which cannot be moved"—the strong government.

The next chapter will present Bible evidence that 1874 A. D. was the exact date of the beginning of the "Times of Restitution," and hence of our Lord's return. Since that date he has been verifying his promise to those in the proper attitude of watchfulness—"Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching: Verily, I

say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them." (Luke 12:37.) Even so, he has opened unto us the Scriptures, showing us truth concerning his present glorious nature, the object, manner and time of his coming, and the character of his manifestations to the household of faith and to the world. He has drawn our attention to the prophecies which definitely locate us on the stream of time, and has shown us the order of his plan of operations in this harvest time. He has shown us, first of all, that it is a harvest of the saints, a time for their full ripening, and for their separation from the tares; and secondly, that it is a time for the world to reap its whirlwind harvest—for the reaping of the vine of the earth, and the treading of its fruitage in the winepress of the wrath of Almighty God. He has shown us that both of these ripenings (Rev. 14:1-4, 18-20) will be completed in a period of forty years, ending with the year A. D. 1914.

But while the reader is thus informed of what will be proved in succeeding chapters, he must not expect to have passages of Scripture pointed out in which these matters and these dates are plainly written. On the contrary, he must bear in mind that all these things have been *hidden* by the Lord, in such manner that they could not be understood or appreciated until the due time had come, and then only by his earnest, faithful children, who esteem truth as more precious than rubies, and who are willing to seek it as men search for silver. Truth, like silver, must be not only mined, but also refined, separated from dross, before its value can be appreciated. The things here stated in few words will be proved point by point; and while many may prefer to take a statement without the trouble of verifying it from the Scriptures, this will not be the case with the real truth-seeker. He must, so far as possible, make