

We will now proceed briefly to consider,

IV. PROPHECIES relating to various other NATIONS in the WORLD.

These prophecies respect the Ishmaelites; the Edomites; Nineveh; Babylon; Tyre and Sidon; Egypt; Daniel's vision of the ram and he-goat; Alexander's great dominion; Xerxes, the rich king of Persia; Seleucus, king of the North; and Ptolemy, king of the South. Daniel xi. 6. Antiochus Epiphanes, king of Syria, a vile person (Dan. xi. 21) and Ptolemy Philometor, king of Egypt, speak lies at one table, at an entertainment at Memphis. Dan. xi. 27. Prophecies concerning the Roman empire, and the pope of Rome. See Dr. Newton's Dissertations, vol. ii. p. 133, 139, 151, 155. Prophecies relating to the destruction of Jerusalem: on the signs preceding its destruction: of the circumstances which happened during the siege, and after it: and its final ruin, and the consequences of it. See Dr. Newton, dissert. xviii. xix. xx. xxi. St. Paul's prophecy of the man of sin, p. 337--403; and his prophecy of the apostacy of the latter times, p. 404--451. And, lastly, the prophecies, in a regular series, in the book of the Revelations.--- Thus you have, at one view, the outlines of the prophetic system of God.---We shall only give some short hints of the above system, and then proceed to consider the last great evidence of the

the inspiration and divine authority of the holy Scriptures, i. e. the divine character of the founder of christianity, and the excellent moral character of the penmen.

1. PROPHECY relating to the ISHMAELITES.

Gen. xvi. 12. He will be a wild man: his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him: and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.---Gen. xvii. 20. As for Ishmael, I have blessed him, and will multiply him exceedingly: twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.---See this admirably explained and demonstrated from the History of the Arabians, in Dr. Newton's Dissertations, vol. i. p. 37--63.

2. PROPHECIES relating to the EDOMITES.

Gen. xxv. 23. Two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels: the elder shall serve the younger.---See Dr. Newton, vol. i. p. 64--84.

3. PROPHECIES relating to NINEVEH.

Jonah iii. 3. Nineveh was an exceeding great city; much larger than Babylon: it was in the form of a long square, twenty miles long and twelve broad, and above sixty miles in compass: the whole number of inhabitants amounted to near six hundred thousand. Jonah is reckoned one of the most ancient of all the prophets: he preached to the Ninevites about the latter end of Jehu's

reign. Nahum lived about the time of Jothain's reign: he foretold the total and intire destruction of Nineveh: his whole prophecy relates to this SINGLE EVENT, and he describes and paints it in colours dreadfully sublime.---See it gloriously illustrated by Dr. Newton, vol. i. p. 246--275.

#### 4. PROPHECIES CONCERNING BABYLON.

Babylon was a very great and ancient city: it was very much improved by Nebuchadnezzar, and was one of the wonders of the world: it was fifteen miles square: the river Euphrates ran under the walls, through the middle of the city.---See a most striking and astonishing description of its walls, keys, bridge, the lake, ditches and canals made for the draining of the river, the palaces and the hanging gardens, the temple of Belus, with an account of its hundred gates, its fifty streets, each fifteen miles long, and the whole city laid out in six hundred and seventy-six squares, all described in a most lively manner in the eloquent Rollin's Ancient History, vol. ii. p. 10--28. And the prophecies finely illustrated by Rollin, vol. ii. p. 139--166; and in Dr. Prideaux's Connex. vol. i. p. 133; with Dr. Newton's Dissertations, vol. i. p. 276--313: where all the prophecies are displayed at large, and most charmingly illustrated from ancient history. Nothing can be a more delicious and instructive entertainment to young persons of genius.

genius and taste, than these admirable facts concerning the grandeur and destruction of Babylon.

5. PROPHECIES CONCERNING TYRE and SIDON.

Sidon was the ancient city, and Tyre was the daughter of Sidon: but in time excelled the mother, and became a mart of nations. In *Isaiah xxiii. 2*, we read of the merchants of Sidon; and in verse 8, Tyre is called the crowning city, whose merchants are princes, and the honourable of the earth. In *Ezekiel xxvi. 4*, God threatens to break down her towns, and scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock; that it should be a place for fishermen to spread their nets upon---and so it is at this very day.---Nebuchadnezzar besieged it for thirteen years: he began the siege in the year of the world 3419, before Christ 585, in the twenty-first year of his reign, and the fourth after the destruction of Jerusalem, and at the time when Ithobal was king of Tyre. And God gave Egypt as wages to Nebuchadnezzar and his army for this long and hard service against Tyre. See *Ezekiel xxix. 18, 19*. Son of man, the king of Babylon caused his army to serve a great service; yet had they no wages. I will give the land of Egypt, and it shall be wages for his army.---How clear and how admirable is this! and what light doth profane history cast upon the sacred predictions of God!---Tyre was besieged, and

taken again by Alexander the Great, in the space of seven months only, in the year of the world 3672; and before Christ 332.---See these facts wonderfully described by Rollin, vol. vi. p. 186; and Dr. Newton, vol. i. p. 336--339; and Dr. Prideaux's *Connexion*, vol. ii. p. 692.---I declare that my pleasure in viewing these facts is unspeakable: and I feel such astonishment and satisfaction concerning the divine inspiration of the prophets, as no tongue can express, and no heart can conceive, unless a man reads with the same attention, relish, and seriousness. I would again exhort my dear young readers to this delightful work, which will give them unutterable profit and delight.

#### 6. PROPHECIES concerning EGYPT.

There is a remarkable prophecy of Ezekiel, which comprehends, in little, the fate of Egypt, from the days of Nebuchadnezzar to the present time. For therein it is foretold, that after the desolation of the land, and the captivity of the people by Nebuchadnezzar (Ezek. xxix. 14, 15) it should be a base kingdom: it shall be the basest of the kingdoms, neither shall it exalt itself any more above the nations: I will make the land waste, and there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt.---See a most beautiful demonstration of this prophecy in Dr. Newton, vol. i. p. 378.---Thus we see how Niveveh,  
Babylon,

Babylon, Tyre, and Egypt, the great adversaries and oppressors of the Jews, have been visited by divine vengeance for their outrages on the light and law of nature, as well as for their enmity and cruelty to the people of God.

7. DANIEL'S VISION of the RAM and the HE-GOAT.

Dan. viii. 20. The ram with two horns is the king of Media and Persia: and the rough goat is the king of Greece; and the great horn is the first king, i. e. Alexander the Great, who beat Darius in three distinct battles, at the Granicus, at Issus, and at Arbela.---See Dr. Newton's admirable Dissertations, vol. ii. p. 1--62.

Whilst Alexander the Great lay at the siege of Tyre with his army, he went up to Jerusalem in Person, where the high priest produced and laid before him the prophecies of Daniel, wherein it was written, that a king of Grecia should overthrow the Persian empire, which he interpreted of himself. After this he granted peculiar privileges to the Jews, and proceeded in his expedition with full confidence and assurance of success. Four horns succeeded to this great horn, Alexander. Dan. viii. 8. These four horns were four of Alexander's great captains, who divided his empire amongst them, when he died of a drunken debauch at Babylon, about the thirty-third year of his age. These four captains were CASSANDER, who held Macedon and Greece, and the *Western* parts:

parts: **LYSIMACHUS** had Thrace and Bithynia, and the *Northern* regions: **PTOLEMY** possessed Egypt and the *Southern* countries: and **SELEUCUS** obtained Syria and the *Eastern* provinces. Thus were they divided towards the four winds of heaven. And all this is admirably expressed in that one single verse, 8. Therefore the he-goat waxed very great, and when he was strong the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones, toward the four winds of heaven.---Reader, are you not filled with unutterable astonishment and delight?---Out of one of these four horns came a little horn, which waxed exceeding great. Dan. viii. 9. This little horn is thought to be Antiochus Epiphanes, king of Syria, who was a great enemy and cruel persecutor of the Jews. Sir Isaac Newton and Dr. Thomas Newton are rather inclined to apply this to the Roman empire, which was then rising in the world. We must refer our inquisitive readers to them for farther light and satisfaction on this head.---We must proceed to give short hints of the remaining prophecies just so far as to be a pleasing and instructive introduction to larger works, which illustrate and evince the faithfulness of GOD in the fulfilment of his predictions.

#### 8. PROPHECIES concerning the four **KINGS** of **PERSIA**, especially **XERXES**.

The fourth, who was the most rich and powerful.

ful.---Dan. xi. 2. And now, says the angel, I will shew thee the truth; behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia. Here the vision of the ram and the he-goat are again more clearly and explicitly revealed by an angel: so that this latter prophecy may not improperly be said to be a comment and explanation of the former, concerning the ram and the he-goat. Let it be observed, that the four kings are those which succeeded Cyrus the Great: the first was his son Cambyfes: the second was Smerdes, the magician, who pretended to be another son of Cyrus, but was really an impostor: the third was Darius, the son of Hystaspes, who married the daughter of Cyrus: and the fourth after Cyrus, who was far richer than they all, was Xerxes, the son and successor of Darius: this was he who stirred up all, both subjects and allies, against the realm of Grecia. Xerxes's expedition into Greece is one of the most memorable adventures in ancient history, and was the grand cause which afterwards provoked Alexander the Great to invade and conquer Asia, in the reign of Darius Codomannus. Alexander is thus characterized, ver. 3. And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will:



will: but his kingdom was soon to be broken, and divided amongst his four great captains, as we have seen above, and as it was foretold in ver. 4. His kingdom shall be divided towards the four winds of heaven; but not to his own posterity, which were soon cut off and rooted up from the earth. It was said of him in the prophecy, that he was a mighty king and conqueror: that he ruled with great dominion, not only over Greece and the whole Persian empire, but likewise added India to his conquests.----See Dr. Newton's Dissertations, vol. ii. p. 69, 70.

9. PROPHECIES concerning the KING of the NORTH and the KING of the SOUTH.

The king of the North was Antiochus Epiphanes, king of Syria; and the king of the South was his nephew Ptolemy Philometor, king of Egypt. Dan. xi. 27. And both these kings hearts shall be to do mischief; and they shall speak lies at one table, when they frequently eat and convened together at Memphis, in Egypt.---See this finely illustrated by Dr. Gill, in his Exposition on this chapter; and in Dr. Newton, in vol. ii. p. 119. See likewise Dr. Prideaux's Connexion, and Rollin's Ancient History. In these excellent authors the inquisitive reader will meet with the most exquisite satisfaction and delight.

V. PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE POPE OF ROME,  
and the RISE OF POPERY.

The very *first* VIEW of the pope we have in Daniel vii. 8. I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn: and behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things. Ver. 20. Even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. Ver. 25. And he shall speak great things against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time, i. e. 360 Years, and times of twice 360 years, that is 720 years, and half a time, i. e. half of 360 years, that is 180 years. Now 360, 720, 180, is just 1260 years; and so long popery is to last in the world.---See all this admirably explained by Dr. Gill, in his Exposition of the viiith. of Daniel; and by Dr. Newton, in his Dissertation on the Four Beasts, and the Little Horn, which sprang up from small beginnings out of the Roman empire. See vol. i. 8vo.

The *second* VIEW we have of the pope and popery you will find in Daniel xi. 36--39. And the king shall do according to his will, and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things

against the God of gods. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, i. e. the God of the primitive christian fathers; nor the desire of women, i. e. he shall pretend to great chastity, and forbid all the thousands of his priests to marry; nor regard any god, i. e. he will set all divine authority at defiance, for he shall magnify himself above all.----This exactly corresponds with the apostle Paul's description of the man of sin, the son of perdition, who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. 2 Thes. ii. 3, 4.---These two pictures of Daniel and Paul were certainly drawn for the same man, that is the pope of Rome, in the several ages in which popery has flourished in its anti-christian usurpation and power. These things are treated of at large by Dr. Gill, in his Exposition of Daniel xi. by Sir Isaac Newton, in his Observations on Daniel; and by Dr. Newton, in his Dissertations, vol. ii. p. 132--167: who proceeds to the remaining part of the xith. chapter of Daniel; where he shews that, after the account of the degeneracy of the church, there follows a prediction of its punishment, especially in the Eastern part of it, by the Saracens and TURKS, p. 167--171. Judea and the neighbouring countries to be subdued, but the  
Arabians

Arabians to escape. Dan. xi. 41. This was not verified by Antiochus Epiphanes, but by the TURKS, p. 171--174. The Turks could never subdue the Arabians; but, on the contrary, pay them an annual pension, p. 174--177. The total subjection of Egypt, together with Libya and Ethiopia, not accomplished by Antiochus, but by the TURKS, p. 177--181. The rest of the prophecy yet to be fulfilled, p. 181. Cannot be applied to Antiochus, but belongs to the Ottoman empire, p. 182--184. What the tidings from the East and North, p. 184--186. What meant by going forth to destroy, and utterly to make away many, p. 186, 187. What by planting his camp between the seas in his GLORIOUS HOLY MOUNTAIN, ver. 45. p. 187. The same things foretold by Ezekiel, in his prophecy concerning Gog of the land of Magog, p. 187, 188. An enquiry into the time of these events, p. 190. A conjecture about the different periods of 1260 years, 1290 years, and 1335 years, p. 191--194. Conclusion, to shew the vast variety and extent of this prophecy, which reaches from the time of Daniel quite down to the general resurrection and the day of judgment: and from this astonishing prophecy, we may clearly demonstrate that Daniel was a true prophet of God, p. 195.

VI. PROPHECIES concerning the DESTRUCTION of JERUSALEM, given by our LORD JESUS in MATTHEW, chap. xxiv.

Dr. Newton views these prophecies in four parts, vol. ii. p. 199--336. My design is to introduce my readers to his most judicious and striking Dissertations. I shall therefore only hint at the SIGNS preceding its destruction---the TIME itself marked out by our Lord and favour---the dreadful distresses and horrors of the siege---and the consequences of its destruction to this very day.

1. The SIGNS of the DESTRUCTION of the CITY and TEMPLE of JERUSALEM.

Our blessed favour treats of his coming by his awful justice and the destruction of Jerufalem, from the 4th to the 31st verse inclusive. See Matth. xxiv. Mark xiii. and Luke xxi. which I desire you would read attentively in their connexion and harmony, as these chapters relate to one of the most terrible events that ever happened in the world ; and can never be read too often, nor without the utmost astonishment and conviction.

*False* Christs was the first sign of the approaching ruin of Jerufalem.---Matth. xxiv. 4, 5. Take heed that no man deceive you : for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ ; and shall deceive  
deceive

deceive many. And it is well known, from Josephus and other writers, that, after our Lord's ascension to glory, false Christs rose up to delude the Jews for forty years together, even till the ruin of Jerusalem.

The second signs of the destruction of Jerusalem, are several terrible calamities, as wars and rumours of wars, famines, pestilence, and earthquakes in divers places, ver. 67.

Thirdly, Fearful sights and great signs from heaven, p. 224--228. The doctor relates many awful ones from Josephus, who treats of them at large in his History of the Jewish War, book vi. chap. v. sect. 3. Hudson's edition. Let the English reader see the new edition just published by Fielding and Walker, 4to.---Let me intreat my dear reader to fix an idea of these dreadful signs of the ruin of the Jews deeply in his mind, and compare them with the signs of the present times in Great-Britain.

2. The TIME of the destruction of Jerusalem was marked out by our Lord. He affirmed that it would be in the present generation; and that some then living would behold and suffer these calamities, p. 318. Matth. xxiv. 34. Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Matth. xvi. 28. There are some standing here, who shall not taste death, till they see the son of man coming in his kingdom.

3. The

3. The DISTRESSES and HORRORS of the SIEGE are described in striking colours by our Lord, forty years before the event, and displayed by Josephus, who was an eye-witness of them, and who was preserved by the providence of God on purpose to record them in his History of the Jewish War with the Romans. See also Dr. Newton, vol. ii. p. 288--290. We can only remark, that women boiled and eat their own children: and that the number who were slain, and perished by famine in this dreadful war, amounted to above thirteen hundred thousand, besides ninety-seven thousand who were taken captives, and sold for slaves.

4. The CONSEQUENCES of the DESTRUCTION of the CITY and TEMPLE of JERUSALEM.

These are various and astonishing; but we shall only select out two, that must strike every man of a wise and serious understanding.

That the Jews are rooted up from their own land, dispersed into all nations, and yet kept a distinct people. This is a standing MIRACLE before all worlds.

The utter ruin of the TEMPLE, and the impossibility of re-building it.----Julian, the apostate, a little after the year 360, out of spite at our saviour, and contempt of his prediction, "That Jerusalem should be trodden down of the

Gentiles, and that not one stone of the temple should be left upon another," resolved that he would defeat the prophecy, and restore the Jews. He proposed to begin with re-building the temple at Jerusalem, with the greatest magnificence: Alypius, his lieutenant, was appointed to superintend and hasten the work: but horrible balls of fire bursting out near the foundations, burnt the workmen several times, and rendered the place inaccessible; and thus the enterprise was laid aside. What a signal providence was this, that all attempts to build Jerusalem should be frustrated; and that, rather than the prophecies should be defeated, an astonishing work was wrought by providence, even by the testimony of a faithful heathen historian.\*---See Dr. Newton, vol. ii. p. 300; and Dr. Warburton's Julian; where the evidence for the miracle is set in the strongest light, and all objections are clearly refuted, to the triumph of TRUTH, and the confusion of INFIDELITY.

By tracing the history of Jerusalem, from the destruction by Titus, in the year of our Lord 70, to this very day, Jan. 1, 1779, it will evidently appear, that as the Jews have been led away captive into all nations, so Jerusalem hath been trodden down of the Gentiles. There are now 1700 years, in which the Jewish nation have been  
a standing

\* Ammianus Marcellinus, lib. xxiii. chap. i.