

**ADVENT: IN
FOUR LECTURES**

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Advent: In Four Lectures by John Ayre

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JOHN AYRE

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• IN FOUR LECTURES.

A D V E N T :
IN FOUR LECTURES.

BY

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PREFACE.

. THIS little work does not claim attention on the score of novelty. Its merit, if it have any, consists in stating a broad truth in the plainest manner.

Perhaps on the subject here treated (as in most other things), men have run much into extremes. Either the future is altogether disregarded, or it is mapped out with the scrupulous minuteness of history. It has been the aim of the author to shew, that while, as has been well observed, the prophecies of Scripture were never intended to make *us* prophets, we might

gather from them the intimation, that an awful chapter in the history of the world is opening out,—a period approaching, in which the arm of the Lord will be remarkably revealed. This *general* truth he would insist on. Deprecating the thoughtlessness of many, as respects futurity, he would almost equally deprecate the rashness of those who curiously speculate on things unseen.

If this little book stir up any one, into whose hands it may fall, patiently to watch, and humbly to discern the signs of the times, the author will have abundant reason for gratitude to God.

Edmonton, April 10, 1835.

LECTURE I.

THE CERTAINTY OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING.

2 PETER, I. 16.

We have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eye-witnesses of his majesty.

IN the season of "advent" we are called on by the church to commemorate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ "in great humility," and are instructed to look forward to his coming again "in glorious majesty." The past may be to us a pledge of the

future. If the apostles found the ancient prophecies not "cunningly devised fables," but literally and exactly accomplished when he came to redeem the world, we shall find them as surely based, and as minutely fulfilled, when he shall appear to judge the world. To that future coming our thoughts should frequently go forth. In it are concentrated our hopes and prospects. In it is the consummation of our faith. With it Christ himself consoled his personal followers: "I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also." We are therefore to watch for and welcome its approach; and as it travels onward, we are to lift up our heads, for our redemption then draweth nigh.