

**AN EXPOSITION OF THE
FULFILLED PROPHECIES OF THE
APOCALYPSE FROM THE FIRST
SEAL TO THE END OF CHAPTER
XIX. IN THREE PARTS. PART I**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649054886

An Exposition of the Fulfilled Prophecies of the Apocalypse from the First Seal to the End of Chapter XIX. In Three Parts. Part I by James Armstrong

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JAMES ARMSTRONG

**AN EXPOSITION OF THE
FULFILLED PROPHECIES OF THE
APOCALYPSE FROM THE FIRST
SEAL TO THE END OF CHAPTER
XIX. IN THREE PARTS. PART I**

AN EXPOSITION
OF THE
Fulfilled Prophecies of the Apocalypse,
FROM
THE FIRST SEAL,
TO
THE END OF CHAPTER XIX.

BY JAMES ARMSTRONG, A.M.,
CURATE OF ARDOYNE, DIOCESE OF LEIGHLIN.

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts."—2 Pet., i. 19.

IN THREE PARTS.

PART I.

DUBLIN:
JAMES M'GLASHAN, 50, UPPER SACKVILLE-STREET.
LONDON: SEELEYS, FLEET-STREET.
1851.

PRICE SIX SHILLINGS.

P R E F A C E.

THE Apocalypse has been always considered a most difficult and mysterious book. During the last two hundred years innumerable works have been written upon it, and many of them by men of the most distinguished learning and genius. But it does not appear to have been distinctly observed, or to have been kept steadily in view, that the Revelation requires *three* keys to open it; one of which is to be found in the Apocalypse itself; another in the prophecies of the Old Testament; and the third in history.

Now, as the first and second keys make known the scope of the prophecy, the mutual relation of its parts, the meaning of the enigmatic symbols, and the subject of many symbolic visions, they are so necessary to the Apocalyptic student, that, unless he hold them in his hands, and apply them constantly, the most piercing intellect and the best stored mind will endeavour in vain to penetrate and unfold the prophecy. Whereas, by steadily using them, any person who has assiduity and a competent knowledge of civil and ecclesiastical history, may understand so much of the prophecy as has been fulfilled, and explain it to all who take an interest in such inquiries.

Whether I have succeeded, is not for me to determine. But I may say, that I have pursued an independent course of study, and that by uniformly resorting to the Sacred keys, as well as to the historic, I have been led to results that are widely different from the views of every other commentator; in the division of the prophecy, in the relation of the parts to one another and to the whole, in the uniform signification of the symbols, in the scope of many symbolic visions, their time and order, and generally in the events by which they are fulfilled.

Induced by circumstances, which need not now be specified, I attempted, some years ago, to explain the seventeenth chapter of the Apocalypse; but I soon found it must be studied in connexion with many other visions. While engaged in these investigations I was gradually convinced that the Apocalypse, from the first seal to the end of chapter xix., is a great prophetic system, and that it can be understood only by being studied as a whole, and in connexion with the prophecies of the Old Testament. I was thus made to see the necessity of the uniform application of the Apocalyptic and prophetic keys, as well as of the historic.

I beg to direct particularly the reader's attention to the manner in which they have been used, and to the light that has thereby been thrown on visions that are, otherwise, so dark and inexplicable.

As the Apocalypse is a closely connected system, which ought to be viewed as a whole, and not in detached portions, I should have liked to publish the entire of my exposition at once, or at least to the end of chapter xii., where a very remarkable Apocalyptic and historic

period terminates. But I could not venture to incur the expense of a large book; so my exposition must end, for the present, with the fourth trumpet.

Of course it depends very much upon the reception of the first part, when the second shall appear. But I have a confident hope, that the reader will be satisfied with the soundness of the principles, and the fairness with which they are applied; and that he will feel, that no inconsiderable amount of information, not readily to be got elsewhere, has been communicated on the Apocalypse, on prophecy in general, and on some historical subjects of great interest.



CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.—PAGE 1 to 14.

	Page
The object of the work—Contents of the fulfilled prophecies of the Apocalypse from c. vi. to the end of c. xix.	1
Principles of interpretation—This part of the Revelation a system of prophecy, Its Scope—Revelation, xix., 10—Bishop Hurd,	2
Seeming ambiguity of many symbolic visions—The double kingdom of the Lord—Bishops Pearson and Butler—His double kingdom the subject of many prophecies—The prophecies referred to, or interwoven with, fix the scope of the symbolic visions—Reason, authorities, and examples,	4
Symbolic style of the Apocalypse—The general use of symbols in ancient times—Examples—Sacred symbols—The meaning of the enigmastic symbols fixed by scripture,	7
Prophecy interpreted by history—Necessity of, illustrated by Daniel, ii., vii., Place and time of the events a part of the prophecy,	9
The order of the prophecy, Rev. vi.—xix., not the order of the visions—The reason,	11
Difficult to determine with certainty when the Apocalypse was seen—The determination of it not necessary to understand the visions that have been fulfilled—If the Apocalypse were seen in the reign of Domitian, would the exposition be thereby invalidated that refers to an earlier date, the commencing chain of a series of events, which are supposed to fulfil a vision, because they correspond with its characteristic notes and the other conditions required by the Apocalyptic system?—The question examined—The Analogy of Daniel, vii.,	12
Summary of the principles of interpretation,	14
Their use to the expositor and the reader,	1b.

CHAPTER II.—PAGE 15 to 27.

The first seal, considered by itself, contains no notes to fix the time, place, or character of the events which fulfil it—The scope is to be ascertained by the symbols,	15
The white horse and rider, Rev. xix. 11, &c.—The Lord introduced twice in the Apocalypse on a white horse, why—Rev. xix. 11, &c., determines the scope of the first seal to be the propagation of the Gospel,	1b.
This, confirmed by the prophecies of the Old Testament, wherein the symbols of the seal are found—Psalm, xlv. 1, 9—Its evangelical character and scope—The translators of the Bible—Augustine—Bishop Horaley,	16
The bow expressly given to the Lord, Zech. ix. 13—The subject and scope of this prophecy—Ancient and modern expositors,	18
A crown the subject of many prophecies—The crown of Israel given to David, Solomon, &c.—Taken off from Zedekiah—Reserved for the Messiah, Ezek. xxi. 25, 27—The theocracy—A crown symbolically given to the Messiah, Zech. vi. 12, 13—Its evangelical character—The regal dignity claimed by the Lord while on earth, and exercised in its fundamental rights shortly after His ascension—The apocalyptic imagery of St. Paul,	21

	Page
He went forth conquering and to conquer—The propagation of the Gospel by the Lord, the subject of the seal, ascribed to Him in other prophecies, and in the New Testament, the Apostles and other missionaries being instruments in His hands,	23
Its rapid progress—Acts, xix. 17, &c.—Pliny,	25
Summary,	26

CHAPTER III.—REVELATION, xix., 11, &c.—PAGE 28 to 40.

Preliminary remarks and scope of the vision,	28
The earth, the Roman empire, from the Rhine to the Euphrates—Josephus, Plutarch, Virgil, Tacitus, Lactantius, Rev. xvii.—A woman sits on the beast—This woman, a great city, has the characteristic marks of Rome—She sits on, or is built on, seven hills—She is under her sixth form of government in the Apostle's time—She reigns over the kings of the earth,	29
The kings of the earth, the subject nations of Rome,	32
The beast, the Roman or fourth monarchy—Its proper territories on this side of Greece, Daniel, vii., 12—Sir Isaac Newton—Bishop Hurd,	ib.
The time when the symbolical war, c. xix., begins—Its coincidence with other apocalyptic periods and the "day of vengeance,"	33
The beast exists in two different states, Rev. xiii., xvii.; Daniel, vii., 7, &c.	34
The war begins against him in his first state, Rev. xix., 19, 20; xiii., 8, 12, &c.; Isaiah, lxiii., 1, 6; xxxiv.; Rev. xix., 11, &c.; vi., 14,	35
It began A. D. 66—Rev. xix., 16; Psalm ii., 9, 1, 2; Acts, iv.,	37
The same date by another line of argument—The day of vengeance, Is. lxi., 2—Vitrings' account of it—St. James, v., 8, 9—1 Ep. Pet., iv., 17—The dates of these Epistles—Luke, xxi., 20—The day of vengeance began A. D. 66—Its connexion with the persecution of the Church, Isaiah, xxxiv., 8—The unconscious testimony of Tacitus to it,	38

CHAPTER IV.—THE SECOND SEAL—PAGE 41 to 54.

The Greek article—The note of time—The place—The peace—Livy, Tacitus, and Gibbon—Taken from the earth	41
The Jewish rebellion, and the revolt of all the Roman armies,	42
Tacitus' account of this period,	43
The Jewish war,	ib.
The revolt of Vindex, his army slaughtered, and the Gauls devastated by the legions of the Rhine—Galba revolts in Spain and made emperor—Rejected by the legions on the Rhine, who proclaim Vitellius—The Prætorian cohorts revolt, murder Galba and Piso, proclaim Otho, and fill Rome with blood and terror,	45
War between Otho and Vitellius—The destructive march of 70,000 Vitellians into Italy—Otho's forces, as they advance to meet them, devastate the provinces,	46
Otho defeated and kills himself—The victors pillage Italy—The march of Vitellius—The devastation by his armies—They riot, uncontrolled at Rome,	47
The legions in Mæsia revolt, and the legions in the East, who proclaim Vespasian—The war renewed—The Vitellians defeated—Italy devastated by the Vespasians—The Capitol burned—Many battles fought before and in Rome—The Vitellians destroyed,	49
The revolt of Civilis,	ib.
Tacitus' account of the course of the civil war—Remarks,	ib.
The sword,	50
The Imperial system, a military government disguised by Republican names and the appearance of an election—Gibbon, Tacitus, Dion Cassius—The secret of the empire discovered by the death of Nero—Tacitus—Galba assumes the symbol of the seal—The military tenure of the empire and the	