

any rogue or blockhead can extract whatever meaning pleases him. I have myself spoken with some of these persons, who, when cross-questioned, have confessed that they were impostors. If prophets like these were to foretell that God was to fall sick and die, must God fall sick and die because they say so? What is incredible and unworthy may not be believed, though all mankind go mad and prophesy it. The Jewish prophets, inspired by God, you say, foretold that Christ would come to do this and that, and the prophets could not err. God through Moses promised the Israelites temporal prosperity and earthly dominion; He bade them destroy their enemies, sparing neither old nor young, and threatened them with destruction themselves unless they obeyed Him. The Son of God condemned riches, condemned ambition; men were to care no more for food or raiment than the ravens or the lilies; they were to offer the cheek to be smitten. It seems that either Moses was wrong or Christ was wrong; or are we to suppose that God changed his own mind?

You dream, perhaps, of another and better world, another existence, as in some Elysian fields, where all riddles will be solved and all evil be put away. You say unless God can be seen in the form of a