

Jerusalem and the Temple were, therefore, what I had to represent in addition to the data peculiar to each separate scene. I have done my best, carefully rendering in several pictures the general aspect and internal organization of that citadel of the very spirit of Judaism with all its devotion to formalism and to the letter of the law.

I have, moreover, endeavoured to bring out the characteristic modification which the facts recorded appear to indicate as having taken place in the state of mind of Jesus Himself.

No doubt that which He now willed, He had always willed, but He had not always manifested His will in the same manner. When He for the first time lends Himself to a popular demonstration; when He opens communications with the Gentiles; when, acting on His own authority alone, He cast out of the Temple those that bought and sold; when He openly predicted the destruction of the sacred edifice without which Jewish worship could no longer be carried on; when, lastly, He publicly attacked the sacerdotal caste, pitilessly scourging the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees and calling them a generation of vipers, does not His conduct seem to be instinct with an unusual audacity, which would appear to aim at precipitating events?

In His external appearance, also, a certain change has passed over Jesus. His personality now manifests itself under a different aspect, and I have endeavoured to bring this out in my work, by accentuating the sombre and mysterious purpose conveyed by His acts in the last period of His life.

I have endeavoured to shew the toils gradually closing in around Him; the tragic fate approaching more and more nearly, and becoming inevitable in such a manner that the action of Judas, with which this portion of my work closes, and which connects it with the series of scenes to follow, should seem to the spectator to take place exactly at the right point for the *dénouement* of a situation which had become impossible, so that the approaching *Passion* had long been shadowed forth and explained beforehand.

By this means I have hoped to remain faithful to historic truth and to give a legitimate interpretation to the accounts of the Evangelists, which, as is well known, has been my chief aim throughout this work.



Capital from the El-Aksa Mosque

J.J.T.