

The Jews and Romans are taking Him to the place of crucifixion. A multitude of women, weeping and lamenting, follow the innocent sufferer. He turns to them and says, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me." While they were pitying Him, He was pitying them. And in truth they were the real objects of pity. They saw only the shame and sorrow of His death,—He felt the glory that would follow. They thought Him bound by the will of others,—He felt Himself bound by His own will. They beheld Him in the hands of his murderers,—He felt Himself in the hands of His Father. They looked at the present,—He looked beyond at the future. "Weep not for me, but weep for yourselves and your children." They weep at the sight of His judgment, but He bids them weep at the thought of their own. For Christ points out two great judgments coming upon them, the latter greater than the former. The future is darkened by the smoke of two fearful conflagrations: the one the fire of Jerusalem; the other the burning of the world. He further tells them when men feel the heat of God's vengeance they shall change their minds; some things they call blessings now, they shall call curses then. Now, they long for children and cling to life; then, they shall envy the childless and the dead. And He closes the whole narrative with one of the most solemn sayings the Son of Man ever uttered:—"For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?" The green tree is Christ, the dry tree is the Jewish nation. The first judgment was to fall upon the Jewish people, and the last judgment will come upon the unconverted world.