

(a). They hear first of all these three in conversation. Surely this is an important theme about which they are talking. As they listen they understand; the subject of conversation is His death which He must accomplish at Jerusalem. For six days He spake of this great matter to them; its importance was beginning to dawn on their minds. Now with the heavenly visitors He is entering further into the same subject. Peter afterwards in referring to the attitude of the prophets to His great salvation said, "of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you; searching what or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory which should follow." Further he tells us that the angels desire to look into these things. They could not understand why their King should come to earth and die, taking not on him the nature of angels. Peter and John afterwards made His death their theme. The former preached Christ crucified when three thousand were added to the church. The loudest note of the golden harp of John was "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." As we read over the Old Testament and the New, we cannot but be struck with the almost constant reference to the death of the Son of God. The explanation of all the temple ritual is found in this fact. The prophets pictured the coming one, but the clearest picture is Isaiah 53, where he is represented as a suffering Saviour. Jesus Himself always kept this thought in the foreground in His own mind. His teaching on the subject might be summed up in the saying, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone, but if it die it bringeth forth fruit." The apostle Paul was determined to know nothing but Christ and Him crucified, and his glory was only in the cross of Christ. In a vision of heaven by John, in his rapture he heard the shout of acclamation in heaven, "Worthy is the Lamb who is slain." The death of Christ is