

they did not understand what he meant. "They understood none of these things", the Evangelist declares. This declaration is significant, inasmuch as it shows that the things written by the prophets were not then supposed to refer to him personally, but were considered to be applicable to him typically and spiritually.

The disciples could not understand what he meant, because they are said to have regarded him as the promised Messiah; and, in common with the rest of their countrymen, they expected one who should conquer and rule, not one who should suffer and die. They were looking for a conquering, not a suffering, Messiah. The idea of a suffering Messiah was not merely foreign to their thoughts, but repugnant to their feelings, as Peter's remark to Jesus, "Be it far from thee, Lord", in Matthew XVI. 22, very plainly indicates. They could not think of him as a Messiah destined to suffer and die—first, for the reason already mentioned, that such a conception does not occur in any part of the Old Testament; and, secondly, for the additional reason, that such a Messiah could not have procured for them the national deliverance for which they were hoping and for which they had been hoping for a long time.

To see the correctness of the latter statement, we have but to read the account given in Luke XXIV. 13-21 of Cleopas and his companion journeying from Jerusalem to Emmaus after the crucifixion of Jesus.