ST. JOHN. II. 18—25.   
   
 . 182 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, ! What   
   
 sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these   
 m Matt, things ? 19 Jesus answered and said unto them, ™ Destroy   
 OL: xxvii this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. ?? Then   
 XV.   
 said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in   
 2 render, The Jews therefore answered.   
   
 that passion-Psalm, was the marring and is an instance in point. (2) The words   
 wasting of the Saviour’s frame by His zeal I will raise it up—seeing that the resur-   
 for God and God’s Church, which resulted rection of the Lord is ever spoken of as   
 in the buffeting, the scourging, the Cross. the work of the Father. Yes,—but by   
 18.) On the demand of the Jews, power committed to Christ Himself ;—see   
 sec Deut. xiii. 1—3. It was not only to ch. x. 18, where this is distinctly :   
 justify His having driven out the abomina- and ch. vi. 39, 44, where it is implied,   
 tion; this any one might have done ;— for He is the first-fruits of them that   
 but to justify the mission and the whole sleep,—and (though the whole course of   
 course of action which the words my His working was after the will of the   
 Father’s house implied. They used the Father,—and in the Spirit, which wrought   
 same expression at the end of His ministry, in Him) strictly and truly raised Himself   
 Matt. xxi. 23. 19.] This answer of from the dead in the sense here intended.   
 our Lord has been involved in needless (3) The utterance of such a prophecy at so   
 difficulty. That in uttering the words, early a period of His official life. But it   
 this temple, He pointed to His own Body, was not a prophecy known and under-   
 is inconceivable ;—for thus both the Jews stood,—but a dark saying, from which no   
 and His own disciples must have under- one could then draw an inference as to   
 stood Him, which (see vv. 20, 22) neither His death or resurrection. The disciples   
 of them did. That He implied in saying, did not understand it; and I cannot agree   
 Destroy this temple, that their lawless with Stier that the Jews could have had   
 proceedings in the temple would at last any idea of such being His meaning.   
 bring it to an end, is inconceivable ; Chrysostom says, ‘‘ speaks many such   
 both on account of the latter part of His things, which were not plain to men at the   
 declaration, which would thus have no time, but to those who should come after.   
 meaning,—and because of the use in this Why does He do this? that He might be   
 case of the peculiar word,— which signifies shewn to Lave foreknown future events,   
 the holy and the holiest place, the temple when the accomplishment of the prophecy   
 itself,—as distinguished from the whole should have come: which has come to pass   
 enceinte of the sacred buildings. Stier has in the case of this very prophecy.” Liicke   
 well remarked that our Lord in this saying remarks, that the circumstance of the   
 comprehended in the reality,—His own words being spoken so long before his trial   
 Body, its type and symbol,—the temple by the Sanhedrim, would make it more   
 then before them. That temple, with all easy for the false witnesses to them.   
 its ordinances and holy places, was but This they did, but not so as to agree with   
 the shadow of the Christian Church ;— one another. They reported it, ‘I can de-   
 that, the type of the Body of the Lord, stroy,’ &e. which makes a wide difference,   
 represented the Church, which is veritably and represents our Lord as an enemy   
 His Body. And so the saying was ful- of the temple (Matt. xxvi. 61), and some   
 filled by the slaying of His actual Body, added to this temple the epithet “ which is   
 in which rejection of Him the destruction made with hands,” and that He would   
 of the Jewish temple and city was in- raise another “made without hands” (Mark   
 volved,—and the raising of that Body xiv. 58). 20.] The building of the   
 after three days, in which resurrection temple by Herod the Great is stated by   
 we, all the members of His new glorified Josephus in one place to have been begun   
 Body, are risen again. The difficulties in the eighteenth year of his reign; in   
 attending the interpretation are,—hesides another, in the jifteenth; the ditlerence   
 the double meaning which I have treated being made by counting his reign from the   
 above,—(1) the use of the imperative, as death of Antigonus, or from his appoint-   
 applied to the death of Christ. But this ment by the Romans. Reekoning from   
 surely may be understood as used hypo- this latter, we shall have twenty years till   
 thetically, and not by way of command. the birth of Christ, and thirty years since   
 Matt. xii. 33 (“muke the tree good, &e.”) that event, from whieh fifty, however, four