

**THE DAYS IN
PARADISE: IN
SIX LECTURES**

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The Days in Paradise: In Six Lectures by John N. Pearson

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JOHN N. PEARSON

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Six Lectures.



BY THE

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A VOLUME OF "SERMONS DOCTRINAL AND
PRACTICAL," ETC.

Thrice happy men
And sons of men, whom God hath thus advanced!
Created in his image there to dwell
And worship him.

Thrice happy, if they know
Their happiness, and persevere upright.

PARADISE LOST.

LONDON:
THOMAS HATCHARD, 187, PICCADILLY.
1854.

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PREFACE.

It is with mingled feelings that we dwell upon *The Days in Paradise*. Of deep interest are the events which cluster round the cradle of mankind ; yet of an interest not less melancholy than joyous. How it gladdens us to think of our first parents, when radiant and unsullied was the Creator's image in them ; when their hearts beat in perfect unison with the Divine will, and all around them was peaceful and redolent of heaven. To picture them to ourselves, as they were originally, adorned

with such mental and bodily excellencies as rendered them worthy of angelic companionship, and to trace their early footsteps in the garden of Eden, is a delightful, and should be a profitable, employment. But sad, instead of delightful, though not less profitable is it to contemplate the reverse of this picture. We behold these godlike creatures despoiled, as in a moment, of their grand distinctions; overwhelmed with guilt and shame and horror; judged and sentenced by their Father; dispossessed of their blissful home in Paradise; and doomed to conclude a life, henceforth to be one of toil and anguish, by returning, sooner or later, "dust to dust." And then to reflect that *we*, who should have inherited the happy effects of their sustained innocence, are partakers now of their loss, disgrace, and ruin! Insupportable would such reflec-

tions be were it not for the consolatory assurance, which is indeed the marrow of the Gospel, that "as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."—that, "as sin hath reigned unto death" through the transgression of our first parent, "even so [doth] grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

It is the Writer's earnest hope that his readers may lay to heart these affecting considerations. And when "the darkness of this world" gathers over them, like the shadow of death, let them raise the eye of faith to that beaming prophecy, which assures us that, after the Gospel shall have accomplished its primary aim, the best days of Paradise will return, or still better and brighter days. For solemnly pledged is the Author of all things to "make all things new;"—to restore in full his fa-

therly blessing to this curse-stricken earth ; to reinstate man, but more securely than aforetime, in " life and immortality ;" and to reproduce that Paradise both spiritual and material, of which our feeble conceptions are so ravishing ; ay, to make " new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

" The world shall burn, and from her ashes spring
New heaven and earth, wherein the just shall
 dwell,
And, after all their tribulations long,
See golden days fruitful of golden deeds,
With joy and love triumphing, and fair truth."

Should these Lectures assist serious students in their meditation on this great subject, by presenting it as the key of God's subsequent dispensations to mankind, the Author will be satisfied and thankful. He is aware that in so slight a sketch very

much important matter is quite omitted, or produced in outline merely, and that outline a faint one. But it was not his ambition to collect whatever has been conjectured, or reasoned out, on the question of man's primal estate, and of the Lord's dealings with him in the three great stages of his existence, so quickly traversed,—of holiness, of debasement, and of incipient redemption. His object will be gained, should his readers be aided by these cursory hints to expand for themselves, into something like its due proportions, the document we possess of man's origin, his earliest position and circumstances,—points to which an unspeakable interest attaches. Not, however, in the mere spirit of literary inquisitiveness should such investigations be pursued, but with a devout craving to have those doctrines

written upon the heart, which are involved in the facts our Bible records, and which constitute the groundwork and the substance of religion.