

**SERMONS PREACHED IN  
LINCOLN'S INN CHAPEL.  
IN SIX VOLUMES. VOL. III**

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Sermons Preached in Lincoln's Inn Chapel. In Six Volumes. Vol. III by Frederick Denison Maurice

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**FREDERICK DENISON MAURICE**

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# S E R M O N S

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PREACHED IN LINCOLN'S INN CHAPEL

BY

FREDERICK DENISON MAURICE

IN SIX VOLUMES

VOL. III

NEW EDITION

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THE JUDGMENT DAY AN OBJECT OF  
INTENSE DESIRE

**Advent Sunday**

NOVEMBER 29, 1857

*“Arise, O God, and judge Thou the earth : for Thou shalt take all  
heathen to Thine inheritance.”—PSALM lxxxii. 8 (Prayer-book  
Version).*

IN the Collect for this day we give thanks that Christ has come in great humility; we pray for grace that we may be prepared to meet Him when He comes in glorious majesty to judge the quick and the dead. One of these Advents we are wont to represent as full of blessings, the other as full of terror. We bid men hope, because Christ was born of the Virgin and died on Calvary; we bid them tremble, because He will be revealed sitting on the throne of His glory, with all nations gathered before Him.

It was not thus that the Psalmists and Prophets of old spoke. They desired, earnestly desired, that God would arise to judge the earth. They desired it, not for their own sakes, because they counted upon some exemption from the tribulations that were awaiting others; but for the earth's sake. They looked for

this judgment as its deliverance from its miseries and its bondage. They desired this judgment, not chiefly because they thought that it would bring victory and blessing to Israel, though they had that expectation; they believed that God would then take the heathen to *His* inheritance, that this judgment would be the full establishment of *His* kingdom.

These differences are great and startling; there is another which causes scarcely less wonder to those who reflect upon it. We are wont to divide the Advent of Mercy from the Advent for Judgment by an immense tract of ages. There has been, we say, a long day of Grace since Christ was revealed as the Saviour in Palestine; when that day ends, then He will be revealed as taking Vengeance upon those who have rejected Him there and everywhere. On the other hand, when we read the Prophets, we are perplexed by finding these Advents brought together as if they were parts of the same transaction, as if one could scarcely be separated from the other. The instances are so numerous, that to gather them together would be to go over the whole field of Jewish Prophecy. I will mention two, because they both occur in him who is emphatically the Advent Prophet, and because they are both quoted in the Gospels. The first is in the opening of the 42d chapter of Isaiah. It is adduced by St. Matthew in his 12th chapter, when he is recording some of our Lord's acts of healing. "*When Jesus knew it*" (that the Pharisees were holding a council against Him), "*He withdrew Himself from thence: and great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all; and charged them that they should not make Him known: that it might be*