

**THE CITY, ITS SINS AND
SORROWS: BEING
A SERIES OF SERMONS
FROM LUKE XIX. 41**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649303748

The city, its sins and sorrows: being a series of sermons from Luke XIX. 41 by Thomas Guthrie

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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THOMAS GUTHRIE

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THE CITY:
ITS SINS AND SORROWS.

BEING A SERIES OF SERMONS FROM LUKE XIX. 41.

"He beheld the city, and wept over it."

BY

THOMAS GUTHRIE, D.D.

AUTHOR OF THE "GOSPEL IN EZEKIEL," ETC.

NEW YORK:
ROBERT CARTER & BROTHERS,
No. 530 BROADWAY.

1857



HV 5050
.G9

57161

STEREOTYPED BY
THOMAS E. SMITH,
82 & 84 Beckman-street.

S. E. THOMSON,
BINDER,
82 & 84 Beckman-st.

PRINTED BY
E. O. JENKINS
26 Frankfort-st.



ITS SINS AND SORROWS.

SERMON I.

"He beheld the city, and wept over it."—LUKE xix. 41.

ONE evening as Saul returned to Gibeah with his cattle from their distant pastures, the lowing of his herd was lost in a wail that grew loud and louder as he drew near the city. Some mischief has happened. Amazed and alarmed, he hurries forward to find the people all dissolved in tears—distracted by some public grief. What can have happened? Bathed in golden sunset, Gibeah from her mountain seat looked quietly down on the green vale of Jordan, away to the shores of the Dead Sea. He saw no occasion whatever for this terrible turmoil. He saw nor dead

nor dying. Why, then, do the men pluck their beards, the women with dishevelled hair and long loud wail beat their naked breasts, and the very children, moved by sympathy and infected with the general grief, mingle their own with their parents' tears? Since morning, when he left the city, a messenger, who sped on flying feet, had arrived, breathless, from Jabesh-Gilead. He brought alarming tidings. He tells Saul's townsmen that unless they and the country will rise to the rescue, the city must open her gates to the Ammonites, and submit to the most barbarous cruelties. Ignorant of this, nor seeing occasion for their sorrow, Saul, on whom the Spirit of the Lord was about to descend, that he might rise an avenger and deliverer of the oppressed, demanded to know the cause of this frantic grief. He said:—"What aileth the people that they weep?"

The same question may be asked regarding the Saviour's tears on the occasion to which my text refers. A mighty crowd was rolling down upon Jerusalem from the sides of Olivet.

On they came, rending the air with acclamations. With prophetic ear, and five centuries before, Zechariah had heard these shouts, and catching them, where he stood upon the heights of prophecy, he shouted back again to the jubilant multitude:—"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout, O daughter of Jerusalem, behold thy King cometh unto thee. He is just, and having salvation, lowly and riding upon an ass." Now I can fancy one of that crowd—who was near enough our Lord to see the tears upon his cheek—with greater surprise than Saul, asking John or Peter, or some other one of the twelve, who formed all the body-guard of this King, What aileth Jesus that he weeps? In such an hour, what makes him sad? Did ever king thus enter his capital—on the eve of his coronation thus present himself to a joyous people? What ails him? What would he have? The nation renders him every honor. His enemies being witnesses, the whole world is gone after him. The palm trees yield their branches, the men their robes, the women