

thousands of Jews were killed, thousands sold into captivity. Jerusalem became a heathen city with heathen temples scattered through it. Sixty years later under Barcochba the Jews made another insurrection in Palestine. They seized Jerusalem, refortified it and held it for a few weeks until the Romans finally broke in and they fled to Batier, a town in the neighborhood, where the Romans caught up with them and killed every one of them. Just recently in the Dead Sea Scrolls they found letters written by Barchochba at that very time, and dated at that time. But then the Romans under the Emperor Hadrian made a law that no Jew could come within five miles of Jerusalem under pain of death, and they desecrated all the sacred spots within Jerusalem, even the temple. Jerusalem continued strictly a heathen city until the Roman Empire became Christian, then it became a Christian city, and continued so until the Mohammedans came. The Mohammedans conquered the city; it became a great center of Islam. When I was there in 1929 no Jew was allowed to enter the precincts of the temple of Solomon, In that area there was a great Mohammedan mosque. A Christian could go in on payment of five dollars at that time. A Jew could not enter it at all. Now Palestine has been partitioned. There is a city called Jerusalem in Israel, but it is strictly a new city. All of ancient Jerusalem, including the area of the temple and most of the sacred sites is in the hands of the Moslems today. Even the wailing wall next to the temple area where the Jews used to come and wail over the loss of the temple of Solomon, even that is no longer accessible to the Jews. "Jerusalem is trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." (This lecture was given before the 6-day war of 1967).

In about 360 A.D. there was a great-nephew of Constantine who became Emperor of Rome. This man, who was named Julian, had pretended to be a Christian, had been a reader in the church, but he was really very much against Christianity, and when he became emperor he decided to bring back paganism. Julian said, "If we persecute the Christians, as was done fifty years ago under Diocletian, we will only strengthen them. We don't want to do that. We want to prove they are wrong. And so, if we can prove that the Bible is a mass of lies that will put an end to Christianity." So Julian said, "This says that Jerusalem will be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled, so we will make Jerusalem a Jewish city, and put an end to it." Julian then sent word throughout the empire that the Jews could rebuild Jerusalem and that the emperor would give assistance for this work. So the Jews came from many countries or many sections of the Roman Empire which are today countries. They brought with them golden spades with which to start digging. They came and gathered on a certain day when the excavation would begin for the restoration of Solomon's temple. On that day the workmen began their digging, and on that day something happened which made it necessary for them to stop, and the workmen refused to continue with the work. From the very next year we have sermons given by John Chrysostom in which he presents this happening as a great proof of Christianity. He says that when the workmen began digging, fires came out of the earth and there was the sound of a great explosion, and that it frightened the workmen so much that they fled in terror. The Jews were unable to persuade the workmen to continue with the work, and it had to be abandoned. He used that as a proof of the truth of Christianity.

Gibbons, the author of The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, the skeptical writer who was anxious to deride Christianity in every possible way, accepts the historical evidence that this is what happened, but, of course, Gibbons says that it is ridiculous to think of it as a supernatural event. He says there was gas which had become imprisoned in those caves and holes underneath the old temple and when they dug into them the gas was released and the explosions occurred. Whether Gibbon's explanation as to the natural basis of what happened is all true or not is to me a matter of no importance whatever. The fact is that Julian, with all the resources of the Roman Empire, endeavored to prove the prophecy false by enabling the Jews to rebuild their temple and God caused something to happen that made it fail. And, of course, a year or two later Julian himself died in meeting the Persian armies, trying to prove he was a great conqueror as well as a great emperor, leading