

his armies against the Persians and they were defeated and he died. There is a tradition that he died saying, "Thou has conquered, Galilean." Whether he did or not cannot be absolutely proved. But his attempts which were forceful and carried on every possible way to put an end to Christianity failed, and he was succeeded by men who gave their support to the rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire, and some of them were very earnest-hearted Christians.

So here is a case where Jesus made a prediction that Jerusalem would be trodden down under the Gentiles until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled, and you can go there today and see that temple area under Moslem control with some Christians coming into it, but a Jew could not go into the area today without danger of death. In fact, I was near Bethlehem and was walking with a young Arab who was translating for me. We stopped to rest, and a group of Moslems came up. They began to talk to him rapidly in Arabic and as they talked to him he got excited and waved his arms and talked, and they talked a lot! I know some Arabic, but I couldn't keep up with that at all. Then they stopped and pretty soon they began talking to each other, arguing vociferously. Then they left. (This was in 1950). I said, "What were they talking about?" "Oh," he said, "they asked if you were a Jew, and I told them you weren't, you were a Christian." "Well," they said, "how do we know he's a Christian, how do we know he isn't a Jew?" He said to them, "Well, do you think I'd be walking with him if he were a Jew?" "And," he said, "that seemed to satisfy them." "Then," I said, "they got to arguing among themselves. What was that about?" He said, "They were saying, 'Suppose he is a Jew; what should we do with him? Should we kill him or capture him?'" That is the situation today between Israel and Jordan, Israel and the Arab nations around about. Luke says, "Until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." We don't know when this situation will come to an end, but it has lasted for nearly 2000 years.

So we have these evidences from the situation as it is today in Babylonia, as it is in Memphis in Egypt, as it is today in Tyre, as it is today there in Jerusalem. Surely physical events which have occurred, in ways that no man could possibly have predicted, hundreds of years after the time of the statements made in the Bible, but which exactly fit these statements, statements which are made specifically of certain places and which would not be true if we attempted to apply them to other places. Here is evidence which shows that in the writing of the Bible there was a power behind the writers, a power directing them, directing what they said, keeping them from error and enabling them to make predictions that went beyond what they understood or knew anything about, not that we should be able to write history in advance of the fact, but to give a little indication here and there, a little seal of the fact that this is indeed God's Word.

Of course, the greatest seals that we find of this type are in the predictions of the Lord Jesus Christ. We find dozens of predictions in the Old Testament which point to Him. And we find instance after instance where something in his life was predicted years in advance. We find the manner of his birth predicted, we find the place where he would begin his preaching predicted, we find the nature of his healing ministry predicted, we find the manner of His death predicted, and many other details about Him. Prediction after prediction specifically point to the Lord Jesus Christ as the One toward whom all the Old Testament points, and the One from whom all of our blessings come, the One who is the center of the Bible, the center of history, the One who is the very foundation of our salvation, for it is only through faith in His shed blood that anyone can be saved, and the One who must be the center of our lives after we are saved if our lives are to worth anything for Christ.