

and in the providence of God that occurred so that Paul and the other apostles could travel from one part to another of the Roman empire and carry the Gospel, and that came just ~~about~~ about the time when Jesus Christ came to this earth. And so, while during the next two or three centuries there were some wars on the borders of the Roman empire, and an occasional civil war in Rome, yet there were comparatively very few. There was a greater period of peace upon this earth than the world had ever seen. And there were Christian preachers during that period who said, "Here is the prophecy of Micah fulfilled." They said, "The Gospel extends its influence backward as well as forward, and so they said from the very time of Christ, peace has come upon the earth, and we have this great widespread universal peace, this is marvelously fulfilled; this is ^{a proof} ~~a proof~~ that the Bible is true." Well, I think that was rather weak thinking. ~~Because~~ Because it says here, this is going to come because He who reigns in Jerusalem will rebuke strong nations and judge among many people, and the peace they had was because a Roman emperor at Rome, and often a pretty brutal, cruel sort of fellow at that, was establishing a control throughout that big area that maintained a very large measure of peace, but there were Christian preachers who presented that as an argument for Christianity during that period or 200 or 300 A.D. And then that period came to an end, and civil ^{broke} war/~~broke~~ out within the Roman ~~empire~~ empire, ~~and~~ and they had many fightings ^{broke} within the empire, and then the Barbarians/~~broke~~ into the empire from outside and great hordes of them went across from one side ~~of the empire~~ to the other, and the Middle Ages began with war and fighting all over. And then the pagans said, "Oh, you Christians said that this peace showed Christianity was true, but now, look, there's no more peace. Does that mean Christianity isn't true anymore any more? Peace has come to an end. There's war and fighting all the time. And you know I think there's a warning in that to us. When you see conditions ~~that~~ seem to fit with a prophecy of the Scriptures, unless it's absolutely clear that that's the thing the Scripture refers to, let's not say, "Look, see what Russia and Germany have done." I remember their saying that back in 1939, when Hitler made his non-aggression pact with Stalin. They said, "Look, Germany and