

scorched and blasted workmen; and the victorious element continuing in this manner obstinately and resolutely bent, as it were, to drive them to a distance, the undertaking was abandoned!"

Gibbon tries to dismiss the event by saying: "At this important crisis any singular accident of nature would assume the appearance, and produce the effects, of a real prodigy." In line with this remark, some have tried to explain away the event by saying that it was not a supernatural intervention, but was instead caused by the explosion of gas which, they say, would have accumulated in the chambers under the old temple. Thus Gibbon calls it a merely "singular accident of nature."

After this length of time we have no way of knowing what caused the event; far more important is the strong evidence that it did occur. We do not know whether God supernaturally produced something new, or whether He prepared natural forces through the centuries in anticipation of this event. The important thing is that God did what He had declared He would do. He caused that Jerusalem should remain trodden down of the Gentiles until within our own generation, and even up to the present the temple has never been rebuilt.

Perhaps the temple will be rebuilt one of these days. Perhaps the times of the Gentiles are nearly over; we do not know. The condition that has lasted through the centuries is still visible as evidence of the fact that God can predict the future and that He has done so in the Bible.

Today anyone can go to the cities of Babylonia and see the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prediction. Anyone can go to Tyre, to Thebes in Egypt, or to various cities in Asia Minor, and can see the various conditions that were predicted in the Old Testament. Dozens of Old Testament predictions were literally fulfilled in events connected with the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. We can trust the Bible. What it says is true.

Curiosity about the future has greatly increased in recent years. This is natural in view of the uncertainty of the times.

About a century ago Charles Dickens, who had no special friendship for our country, reported, after traveling extensively through the United States, that a woman could walk in perfect safety at any time of day or night in almost any part of the land. This is no longer the case.

Quite a few years ago, when I first began teaching and was not yet married, I lived in a room in the heart of Philadelphia. Every evening I would walk for an hour or two up and down the various streets in the inner city. It never occurred to me to fear that I might be attacked. Recently I happened to mention to a friend how much I had enjoyed those evening walks. He said: "You would not dare do anything of that kind today. Within two or three blocks you would probably be mugged. Certainly you would not go night after night like that without losing whatever property you had and perhaps also your life." All of us were greatly shocked recently to hear about the massacre in the Tel-Aviv airport, the atrocities in Munich, and the hijackings of numerous planes with great danger to the crews and passengers. Violence seems to be increasing everywhere.

Many Americans have now become somewhat accustomed to the danger of atomic warfare and are no longer thinking of it as a real possibility. Many think that such a war would be so terrible that we can be sure no nation would start it. Yet it is well known that one man, the American president, has the sole power to