

to read the Scripture in public services, but had treated him and others in a way that made him turn away from Christianity altogether and he decided paganism was far better. So he tried to turn the Roman empire back to paganism and Julian said, The best way to convince people that Christianity is not true is to show them that the predictions of Jesus Christ are false. So he quoted where Jesus said, Jerusalem will be trodden under of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. So Julian said, I am going to permit the Jews to rebuild their temple in Jerusalem. They had been under the Roman ban all these centuries. He said I am going to permit them to rebuild their temple, and he said, I am going to give them help from the Imperial treasury to do this. Then everybody will see ~~XXXX~~the Jews in control of the temple at Jerusalem and see the temple rebuilt and they will know that Jesus Christ was a false prophet when He said that Jerusalem would be trodden under foot of Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. So he sent word out through all his empire and the Jews, wealthy Jews, brought gold shovels to start the ~~XXXX~~ digging for the temple. They brought great sums of money in order to help in building it. There was great preparation made. And the day came and they began digging into the soil in order to carry it away for rebuilding the temple, and immediately there came the sound of explosions and fire shot into the air and the workmen fell in terror and he could not persuade them to come back and do anything with the work.

St. Chrysostom who was Archbishop of Constantinople refers to this repeatedly in his sermons that year as an evidence of the truth of the Scripture.