

from street to street, till they suddenly appeared in the temple court in the middle gateway which opened directly on the great brazen altar. Never before had such a spectacle been seen in the sanctuary of Jerusalem. Then the sleeping city awoke. A clang and cry resounded throughout the silent precincts as if with the tumult of the great idolatrous festivals which had lately profaned the sacred place. The first victims were the Levites and priests, who were bound to defend the sacred shrine with their swords and their lives. The virgin marble ran red with blood like a rocky wine press in the vintage. Age and youth, men and women alike fell victims. The spoils of the temple, those sacred vessels, were carried away to adorn the temples or tables of the Babylonian court. Even the brazen laver and those two beautiful pillars which had remained uninjured through many devastations, and seemed the pledges of durability and stability, at last with all their delicate ornaments were broken in pieces and carried off as mere fragments of metal to Babylon never to return. The temple, the palaces and the houses of the nobles were set on fire, even the walls and the gates were broken down, and thousands of the inhabitants driven as slaves to Babylon, a few of the poorer classes only being left behind. Thus perished the most renowned building that ever graced the face of our globe.

The student of history cannot fail of being struck by the literal fulfilment of the prophesies of Isaiah in reference to the overthrow of Sennacherib, and of Jeremiah, more than ten years before the fall of Jerusalem, standing in the valley of Hinnom, hurling his burning invectives against the wicked priests and people, he takes an earthen vessel in his hand and dashes it in fragments on the ground with the warning cry "thus shall Jerusalem and its people be shivered in pieces.

After seventy years of captivity the Jews were permitted to return to Jerusalem, carrying with them such of the temple treasures as then survived. The temple was rebuilt on a more extensive scale but with greatly diminished splendor. It was completed in the year B. C. 516 and stood until some years before the birth of Christ, when Herod the Great, to propitiate his subjects whom most of the measures of his reign had tended to exasperate, undertook to rebuild it on a yet larger scale, and with greater magnificence. The whole of the structures of Herod's temple were a stadium square or half a Roman mile in circumference, and were capable of accommodating an assemblage of half a million of people. The porch was 100 cubits wide, whereas the temple was but 60 or 70 and 100 to 110 cubits long, and 100 cubits or 180 feet high. The Holy or sanctuary was 40 cubits by 20 cubits, and 60 cubits high, while the Holy of Holies was 20 cubits square, and 60 cubits high. This last was entirely empty except a stone in the place of the Ark of the Covenant, which had been burned or destroyed with the first temple.

The work was carried on with such vigor that the temple proper was finished in a year and a half, and the rest of the temple containing the outer buildings, colonades and porticoes, in eight years more so as to fit it for divine service, but the expense of finishing and adorning the whole continued to be long after carried on from the sacred treasury, until in fact the fatal year A. D. 62. It was thus that the Jews were able to say to our Saviour that the temple had been forty and six years in building. Thus in nine years during which 80,000 workmen were constantly employed, Herod accomplished his original design, and produced a fabric which whilst the same in its external characteristics much surpassed the temple of Solomon in extent and architecture, although the precious metals were much less lavishly displayed in its decorations. In it, however, were accumulated at times immense stores of gold and other treasures, for the pious Jews, now many of them scattered over Egypt, Arabia and Europe, continually sent contributions for the use of the temple. Josephus relates how Crassus, one of the Roman Triumvirate, plundered the second temple of 8000 talents of gold, besides a beam of gold concealed in a beam of wood, from which depended one of the veils of the temple. This beam of gold was said to be worth \$100,000. Herod also built the strong castle of Antonia, at once a palace, fortress and guard-house, on the north side of the temple, and communicating with it by secured passages, so that in case of any conspiracy or rising taking place in the courts of the temple, his Roman guard could be at once introduced into the midst of the tumult.

I need not dwell upon the oppressions suffered by the Jews under their Roman conquerors from the time of Pompey to that of Vespasian; on the numerous times when the sacred temple was profaned and plundered; or on the gross wickedness of the Jews themselves, who with suicidal perversity seemed determined on the completion of their own downfall, but will pass on to view the closing scenes of the temple—of Jerusalem as a city of the Jews—and of the Jewish nation itself.

A rebellion broke out in the city headed by one Eleazer, and the massacre of the