

various and terrible judgments upon it, till at last, in the reign of Zedekiah, it suffered a three years' siege from the Assyrians, and finally surrendered to them. Its conquerors set its beautiful temple on fire, razed its walls, destroyed all of beauty or magnificence that the city contained, and carried many of its citizens captive to Babylon. After lying in ruins seventy years, the city was re-built and restored in a measure to its former grandeur. The temple was re-built, but, though a beautiful building, it was greatly inferior to that erected by Solomon.

After this restoration the city passed through various changes. It was taken by Ptolemy, and many of its citizens were carried captive to Egypt. Then Antiochus Epiphanes plundered it, and desecrated the temple by placing in it an image of Jupiter. This so enraged the Jews that a rebellion broke out, which finally resulted in the recovery of the city by its rightful owners. In their possession it remained till about sixty-three years before Christ, when it was conquered by the Romans under Pompey, and 12,000 Jews were massacred in the courts of the temple. It was still under Roman sway when Christ was born, and continued so seventy years after, till in consequence of a revolt by the Jews, a Roman general was sent against the city, and, after a long and fearful struggle, it was completely destroyed. Nearly a hundred thousand persons were taken prisoners, and many more perished during the siege. Since that dreadful time it has never regained anything like its former magnificence. The city has passed through many hands, being at one time under the rule of Pagan, then of Christian Rome; in one age possessed by the Arabians, and changed to a Mahomedan city, then passing under the control of the Turks. In A.D. 1100, owing to the insults and persecutions heaped upon Christian pilgrims to the holy city by the Turks, attempts were made by European Christians to rescue Jerusalem from them. This was the beginning of the Crusades, or wars of the Cross. Thousands of zealous, though fanatical, persons united together in endeavors to wrest the holy city from the infidels. In these wars were enlisted many of the noble and mighty of Europe, and though we by no means approve of their doings, yet one cannot help sympathizing with their desire to redeem Jerusalem from the tyranny of the Turks, nor can we but admire