

any other body of water in the world, being thirteen hundred feet below that of the Mediterranean sea. During most of the year an intensely hot sun is shining upon it, causing a vast amount of evaporation, sufficient perhaps to exhaust the influx of the Jordan, and of several small streams. This often fills the air with hazy vapours adding to the sombre desolation that rests over it. Without any knowledge of its early history one would naturally feel that a blight and curse are here. And how well it still testifies to the great and solemn event that long ago changed its whole aspect!" Page 250.

In speaking of Jerusalem, where he spent some time, he says: "Around no city in the world do such hallowed associations cluster. No other spot has been so honoured of God. None has such a wonderful history. No city has been loved like this. The mountains in and round about it are unparalleled in the scenes they have witnessed. No hills or summits have such associations as Moriah and Zion, Calvary and Olivet. Every foot of soil is sacred; every rock has its story; every fountain its memories; and every path its footprints of God. I think of the glories of the past—the Temple and the throngs who came to worship in it—and I do not wonder that God's people should sing: His foundation is in the holy mountains. The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God!" Page 270.

In speaking of Bethlehem, and the Church of the Nativity, and the various caves, chapels and tombs under this church, which were all visited by Dr. Phelps, he says, "Whether Jesus was born and laid in a manger in this cave, no one is able to say with certainty. Tradition makes this the spot (the one pointed out to him), and it may be so. No doubt there are natural caves here, and such caves were then and are still used in the East as stables. At any rate, this is Bethlehem, and here, or in some spot near me, beneath my eye, my blessed Saviour was born. Here, a helpless infant, He was cradled in a manger—so humble and lowly was the advent of the Son of God. This wondrous fact was rendered deeply impressive as I wandered through Bethlehem, and knew that this great event *here* transpired, the new star was in this sky, shone over these hills, and directed the wise men to the humble abode, where they found and worshipped the young child—as I looked off upon and went among the hills and valleys where the shepherds heard the angel voice and the song of heavenly hosts—and as I saw in that very place shepherds now with their flocks reminding me of that momentous event and hour, when,

In that stable lay, new born,
The peaceful Prince of earth and heaven,
In the solemn midnight,
Centuries ago." Page 244.

In speaking of his visit to Gethsemane, he says: "After we had been nearly two hours in the garden, our little party got together in a retired place, near the western wall, where we might review more minutely