

As Dr. Talmage stood on Calvary he grasped "an idea which prompted him to speedily remount his donkey and ride back to Jerusalem. His errand was to purchase, if possible, the piece of ground containing both the scene of the crucifixion and of the burial of Jesus." To this object he devoted the remainder of the day without avail, as no amount of money could purchase it. "Had he succeeded in his plan, he would have made over the property to the Christian Church at large."

The following morning after visiting Calvary, a journey was made to Bethlehem. Here Dr. Talmage was shown the exact spot where Christ was born, and after viewing it said: "The gate through which our Lord entered this world was a gate of rock—a hard, cold gate—and the gate through which he departed was a swing gate of sharpened spears."

After seeing Bethlehem a return was made to Jerusalem, where some time was spent viewing and reviewing the Holy City. Dr. Talmage preached here on the lamentation of our Saviour over the doomed city, "Jerusalem! Jerusalem!" During this discourse the great divine tells his hearers that he was "thrilled and overpowered with the remembrance that yonder where now stands a Mohammedan mosque, stood the temple, the very one that Christ visited." He also says: "Standing in this old city all other facts are eclipsed when we think that near here our blessed Lord was born, that up and down the streets of this city he walked, and that in the outskirts of it he died."

The whole history of Jerusalem seems to present itself to Dr. Talmage in cyclorama. Its history is a remarkable one. No other place has got such a record. It has seen the brightest and darkest days. Every particle of its dust has its tale to unfold, and there is evidently something about it that has never yet been revealed. Its future is a subject of discussion, and its origin is enshrouded in mystery. Its hallowed associations, however, are beyond all controversy, and the name "Jerusalem" is ever dear to the Christian, being synonymous with the Church of God, and an emblem of His eternal abode. To the Jew, Jerusalem is the most sacred spot on earth. Although it has been pillaged and destroyed seventeen times, and millions of his race been slaughtered within its walls, yet nothing can prevent him from turning his thoughts Zionward and desiring that his dust may repose in Jehoshaphat's Vale, under the shadow of the Temple Hill. Jerusalem has also a fascination for all people, and as the city bursts upon the view