

struck dead by a stone from a sling. Were those extraordinary appearances insignificant or unmeaning? Far from it. They were, as our Lord had foretold, only the beginning of sorrow; omens and forerunners of calamities and miseries unexampled in the annals of the world.

The Roman army, under Vespasian, having entered Judea from the north-east, desolated city and country. In the seventieth year of the christian æra, on the Lord's day, this great army first encamped before Jerusalem. On the first arrival of it, the christians, crediting the predictions and following the directions of their divine master, fled from Jerusalem, and hid themselves in the mountainous parts of the country. But the Jews, judicially and awfully infatuated, instead of submitting to Vespasian, who is said to have been a merciful general, madly resisted; nay, bent on their own destruction, they, in many instances, encountered and massacred one another. At Jerusalem, especially, was the scene tragical and bloody beyond description. Its inhabitants, as an additional proof of their infatuation, were divided into factions and parties. These, though they occasionally united to make furious, but unsuccessful attacks on the Romans, often murdered one another. Nay, shocking to relate, they even massacred one another in sport; pretending to try the sharpness of their swords. The multitude of unburied bodies, corrupting the air, produced a fearful pestilence. Along with sword and pestilence, famine prevailed to such a degree, that they fed on one another. Ladies, otherwise delicate, broiled their sucking infants and ate them.

The first breach, it has been observed, was made, in the lower city, on the Lord's day. On that day the temple was burnt; on that day also, the upper city, otherwise called the citadel, was taken and burnt.

After an obstinate defence, for six months, the city was taken, and immense numbers of its inhabitants put to the sword. A Roman commander, that the words
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