

begun in exactly that way in this particular case. If anybody 5 years ago had left Jerusalem ^{to come} ~~from~~ here and had gone over to Damascus, you would know that he was completely crazy. It would be absolutely senseless, there would be no purpose in it, but today if you stood with me in Jerusalem and you saw a barbed wire entanglement for a block ~~and~~ the other side ~~of~~ there was another barbed wire entanglement, the other side of the block and there were a lot of destroyed houses between and men marching on both sides with guns, and if you started to walk across there whether the Jew or the Arab would shoot you first would be who saw you first, you could readily understand why instead of coming in the natural direction, I went up to Damascus. That situation didn't exist three years ago. That exact situation has never existed there in the history of the world. It may never exist again for all you know and a person ~~reading~~ reading five years ago about me making that trip or a person reading fifty years from now about my making that trip will think that it is perfectly preposterous to start from Jerusalem to Wilmington and go in the opposite direction, to go over to ~~and~~ up to Damascus and all that disagreeable tiresome trip which I made up there. There are factors that enter into it that you could not possibly know from my statement and that is true of ~~of~~ every single statement in the word of God. In fact, it's true of every single statement that anybody can possibly make. There are things that are absolutely clear and definite in this statement but when you get beyond those and you attempt to determine what method of transportation was used and what line you went on or what direction you started in, or whether you came straight thru or broke your journey at some place and in a hundred other questions, the statement doesn't say and I believe that 99 % of the disputes of most Christians, and 99% of the heresies and of the misunderstandings and difficulties, that arise in the Christian world will come from people reading into statements and conclusions about matters with which the particular statement does not deal. Now this at first sight might seem rather negative, and when we take up a study of some of these statements in the Scripture, it may at first seem rather negative to you to take up the state-