

Another nearly 200 yrs. passed and Constantine, the Emperor became a Christian and Jerusalem became a great Christian center. Then Constantine was succeeded by his three sons who shared the empire and then one of them died and then the other two had it and eventually only one of them was living who had Constantine's empire. When he died he was succeeded by a nephew who hated Christianity. This man who is generally referred to as Julian the Apostate set to work to try to destroy Christianity. He did not want to persecute it. I think if he'd lived a little longer he would have started persecution but he didn't want to persecute. He wanted to convince everybody that paganism was right and Christianity wrong. So Julian said, I will set out to prove the Bible is wrong. It says in the OT that if a prophet predicts ~~sometime and xxx~~ something and it does not come to pass you will know he is a false prophet. Now, he said, Jesus said Jerusalem will be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. Now, he said, if I can change this situation it will prove ~~xxxxx~~ Jesus is a fraud and it will prove the Bible is a fraud and that Christianity is nonsense.

So Julian sent out the word that the Jews were to be allowed to rebuild their temple. He promised them help from the imperial treasury toward the building, and wealthy Jews came from many parts of the empire. They had golden spades to make the first beginnings of the excavation ~~andz~~ as they were going to rebuild the great temple as Julian had given them permission and in fact was giving them assistance from the imperial treasury. The day came when the work was to begin. ~~Gibbon~~ Gibbon, the great historian of the decline and fall of ancient Rome, Gibbon, a man who hated Christianity and who does his best to criticize Christianity at point after point in his book, found the evidence of it so clear that he gives it as established fact. That when they began the excavation they had not dug very much before fire began to come out of the ground. There was a series of explosions and fire shot into the air and the workmen rushed back in terror and it was absolutely impossible to persuade them to continue with the work. The work was given up then for the time being and within a few months Julian was killed in battle and the attempt to rebuild the temple came to an end.

Many centuries have continued since and there has never been since any opportunity up to the present for the Jews to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. We don't know how long it has yet to go that Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, but even today this site of Solomon's temple is occupied by a Mohammedan Mosque. Jews are not allowed to enter it, and Jews have declared they are going to respect the rights of all religions in Jerusalem. This place where Solomon's temple was is under Mohammedan control at present. So here is a case where men set to work deliberately to try to prove the Bible wrong by making its predictions proved ~~xxxxx~~ false. Now Gibbon, of course, hated Christianity. He gives this as