

Theodosius left his empire to his two sons that separated it; it was the fact that the Western Empire was overcome and overrun by these invaders that made the ~~distinction~~,--~~dis-~~ distinction, and left the Eastern Empire standing for another eleven hundred years; the longest period that any empire has ever existed in history is the great Byzantine Empire. But the Westerners knew very little about it; it was far removed from them, and they were overcome by a new group which had little connection with the Eastern Empire, which had different languages and different customs, and the result is that we, in the western world, know very little about the history of the Eastern Empire in the next one thousand years. But in the Western section, ~~641~~/ this century is the time when these tremendous hordes of ~~641~~/ people marched, hundreds, yes, thousands of miles across the empire, in many instances pillaging and destroying, and it was an apocalyptic period indeed. During this century, twice the city of Rome was plundered and pillaged by invaders, something which had not happened for eight hundred ~~4~~ years before. It indeed seemed to the pagans as if the world was coming to an end, and they said, Everything has gone to pieces; civilization is decaying, and it is all because of Christianity had been allowed to come in and make the ~~pep-~~ people feeble and 4 1/2 , and unable to resist the invaders. But the Christians answered, No, this is that which is predicted in the Book of Revelation is fallen. She has ~~drunk~~ drunk the blood of the righteous; and she has committed terrible/^{sin}with all the earth, and now she is fallen. And according to Meyer's "Ancient History" it ~~is~~-- was this view which prevailed, the view that the "fall of Babylon" actually was the destruction of Rome. I think he is wrong. I think this ~~ve-~~ view prevailed with a good many, but a third view was the view which ultimately triumphed. And A. had a good deal to do with the establishment of that third view. We look at that under a separate section here. Right ~~4~~ now we are only interested in the political movement rather than in the interpretation of it. But it was a time, it was a century which, as a century, was