

Jerusalem was Encompassed with Armies

The Roman armies, with their idolatrous ensigns, which were an abomination to the Jews, surrounded it—but, instead of being a signal for flight, this would naturally have implied the impossibility of escape, and the warning would have been in vain.

Yet the words of Jesus did not deceive his disciples. Cestius Gallus, the Roman general, besieged Jerusalem; but immediately after, contrary to all human probability, an interval was given for escape. He suddenly and causelessly retreated, though some of the chief men of the city had offered to open to him the gates.

Josephus acknowledges that the utmost consternation prevailed among the besieged—and that the city would infallibly have been taken. And he attributes it to the just vengeance of God, that the city and the sanctuary were not then taken, and the war terminated at once.

He relates also how many of the most illustrious inhabitants departed from the city, as from a sinking vessel; and how, upon the approach of Vespasian afterward, multitudes fled from Jericho into the mountainous country.

Thither, and to the city of Pella, fled all the disciples of Jesus, as credible historians assert. And amid all the succeeding calamities, *not a hair of their heads did perish.*

(Evidence of the Truth of the Christian Religion... by Alexander Keith, New York: Harper & Brothers, 1840, 59, e-book, Text and Paragraph Structure Modified)