

Was your head swimming, as mine was? Did you want to awaken from the nightmare, as you were made sick to your stomach and wanted to vomit: sick of all the negativity, sick of the cancel culture, and lies?

*Come, and let us return . . . ; For He has torn, but He will heal us;*

*He has stricken, but He will bind us up.*

The Prophet Hosea (6:1)

**I**t was almost as if we had just experienced a “drive by” killing—right in front of the Supreme Court, and those inside its hallowed chambers were afraid to roll up the blinds: afraid to take a peek at what was going on, right under their noses. Or, perhaps the whole experience was more like a ship at sea (I’ve spent time in the Naval service)—when suddenly we lost control of the rudder and (especially) our bearings: as the ship’s deck started to roll so fast and furiously that it was all we could do to steady ourselves by laying hold to something, *anything* steady (a pole, a stanchion, a Book. . .) to “right ourselves” within the storm and instability of that titanic ship of state . . .

You certainly couldn’t hold on to what used to be available under *our* noses: they were tearing down all the statues of our nation’s founding fathers! And even shuttering churches!

Do you remember where you were, in that fast and furious season, just a year or so ago?

Do you remember the “Autonomous zones” and cries to “defund the Police”? It was like someone running into an emergency room—and removing all the doctors (and please, no nursing women in these halls)!

Speaking of which, did our venerable authorities really mean it, when informing us that our country would have to be shut down for just two weeks, to “flatten the curve” (so as not to overwhelm our medical facilities)—and a year later, we were still on lockdown, when the election took place? Oh, well, at least everyone could vote by mail! Is

*(continued . . .)*

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that why the Supremes seemed to turn a blind eye, when questions arose about the integrity of our (sh-h-h) last Presidential election (quick: draw the blinds, don't let the cancel culture get wind of what we are discussing!)??

Thank God for those brave souls willing to stand up and expose the Emperor's new agenda! Praise God for the parents, teachers, Sheriffs, and law enforcement personnel who still remember what truth is. ("Say, mom, the Emperor's 'new clothes' –are invisible. He's walking around naked!")

And then . . . the blinds started opening within that august corridor of Justice: first, by an unauthorized leak, seeking to signal to the Supremes to stay hidden, and keep their noses out of "woke" issues—with radicals doxing conservative ("dissident") Justices, while launching protests just outside of their homes. No matter, the sleeping giant in Washington was yet awakening, as the Supremes shook themselves and started to acknowledge the reality of what is happening in our world: The nightmare, in our country, is not a dream! The Supremes threw the doors wide open, and reminded us of how this na-

tion's checks and balances are supposed to operate, within our federal government—not only by refusing to address the abortion issue (which is not even mentioned in the Constitution) but by taking the time to remind us that we really are a Constitutional Republic: where elected officials are supposed to make the laws: not women and men in long black robes, who fabricate new rights out of thin air, and "legislate from the bench"!

"Legislators," the Supremes have said, "do your job! Debate the issues in your legislative chambers, and in the public square—while solving our nation's problems rationally (if it still be possible)!" And for myself? I really believe in the message of our opening quote; even the "politically incorrect" part that was omitted, which reads in full:

*Come, and let us return to the LORD;  
For He has torn, but He will heal us; He  
has stricken, but He will bind us up.*

Hosea 6:1

Yes, let us return to the Lord: for He alone gives wisdom (Proverbs 2:6) and as our Declaration states: He is the Source of our inalienable rights. It is time for us to return to Him, so that we may once again, receive wisdom from His hand, and once more experience a civil society, within our land. †

# A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

*... Therefore if you will not  
watch, I will come upon you as a  
thief, and you will not know what  
hour I will come upon you.*

Revelation 3:3

There can be no doubt, whatever, that when Jesus instructed His followers concerning what to look

for in the end times, the chief element and "smell" of the atmosphere that Jesus warns us of, is that of deception. Truth and faith, Christ warned, would be in short supply—and both are elements needed for maintaining our footing within an unstable environment! As incredible as it may seem, Christ Himself considered the absence of Christian faith to be one of the most disturbing elements of these last days. In fact, if I hadn't read it myself, I might have thought such a belief to be utter heresy (or insanity) to even consider. "... Nevertheless," Jesus said, "when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

Jesus had just been telling a story of a woman who had "nagged" an unjust judge into avenging her of her adversary (persecutor). Eventually, the unjust judge

takes up her case and grants her relief. Jesus is telling this story right after having shared some insights regarding His second coming (at the close of the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter). Thus, He is adding an appropriate commentary: first, noting that God is *not an unjust judge!* Even in a world gone totally nuts and lawless: God remains firm in His truth and justice!

We know that salvation is by faith in Christ’s finished work on the Cross, through God’s gracious love for us (Eph. 2:8,9). “All you have to do is believe”—but believing, Jesus informs us, is like a delicate garden that must be nurtured. Sometimes the seeds of faith begin to spring up—but are starved to death by stony hearts, thorny issues in life, and sometimes just plain wicked thoughts that descend like ravenous birds upon the minds of those trying to bat them away, so that they can think clearly (Matt. 13:18-23)! That’s why we really need to “forsake not the assembling of ourselves together”, as some do—and why “virtual” fellowship (via the internet) may not be “nutritious enough” to feed the souls of those under attack.

This is why church is so important: we need that “personal contact” within our love relationships: it is difficult to conceive children “over the phone” if you know what I mean. . . .

To get back to our “thief in the night” and Christ’s warning about what conditions to expect just prior to His returning. The term, “thief in the night” refers to the matter of “house breaking” (burglary) within the first century. The burglar would wait until the unsuspecting target went to sleep, and then silently “go to work”—very similar to house breaking, in our day. The burglar did not “leave a note” on the door, the prior evening, or knock on the front door, to announce his arrival. Someone had to stay awake, and be attentive to the nefarious actions of this unwanted guest.



This is what Jesus was referring to, at the close of His rather straightforward explanation of how He will return, in the Matthew’s famous 24<sup>th</sup> chapter, as the disciples were marveling over the amazing architecture of the Jerusalem temple. **First, Jesus tells them that their iconic temple would be destroyed, and secondly, to beware of deception (vss. 2-4).** What kind of deception?

- False messiahs (vs. 5)
- Wars and rumors of wars (vs. 6)

This is the onramp to a merry-go-round of troubles in every generation—which intensifies with:

- Ethnic strife, famines, and pestilences (like COVID) – vs. 7
- Followed by rampant persecution (& an escalating cancel culture) – vs. 8
- And “in fighting” (within the church) – vs. 9 & 10
- “Lawlessness” abounding (like *defunding the Police!*) –vs. 12
- Yet in the midst of all of this—the gospel *will be getting out*, through the faithful throughout the whole world: Only then, will the end come (vs.14).

It is right after describing all of the

flash points mentioned above, that Jesus makes an amazing, summarizing statement: almost as if “those in the know” should expect what happens next. Says Jesus:

*15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. . . . For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

Matthew 24:15-17,21

Of course, because it was a Jewish audience that He was addressing at the time (for Jesus was, after all, the Jewish Messiah, who came to save the world – John 3:16, 4:24)—they *thought* they understood what Jesus was referring to, when He said that there would be an “abomination that makes desolate” in verse fifteen. For had they not seen all of this before, within the period of the Maccabees, specifically foretold by the prophet Daniel (Dan. 11:31)? Yet, let us not ignore the obvious, **while taking note of a blatant omission**

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# MAKING ROOM for

## an “AWAKENING”

<sup>8</sup> *But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.* <sup>9</sup> *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

2 Peter 3:8-9

**W**e are now confronted by a conundrum: for since, in earlier UP-LOOKs, we have clearly demonstrated that when willing to open our eyes and behold all that the Lord has made available to us within that amazing book at the end of the Bible (the Apocalypse, or more accurately *the Revelation of Jesus Christ*)—it begins to dawn upon us that the Lord has indeed laid out the entirety of the New Testament era within its broad strokes, and open symbolisms of both Daniel and John’s revelations: showing from two chapters of the several chapters (or three, if we count Daniel’s vision) this truth of a general overlapping of the mapping of the present era—as it maps out our western civilization (if you will) from the cradle of Christ’s birth in the Holy Land—and continues to trace the arising of the world’s #1 religion; unquestionably dominating the religious scene while standing head and shoulders above all others (until others started to declare “I am Christ” in copycat religions of this era; with Islam, for example, hailing significant passages similar to the Christian scriptures, or Mormonism . . . (Matt. 24:5))

Beyond that we may now begin to resign ourselves to the prospect of John’s Revelation giving us a roadmap reaching up from the first century when “the woman with a garland of stars” (Israel, not the church—for this woman gives birth to the Christ Child who builds church, not visa versa—Rev. 12:1)—and we are then able to track Israel’s flight into the wilderness, where she executes (or is executed?) in her destiny within a world wide diaspora as she seeks shelter within that wilderness for a period of time amazingly reminiscent of Daniel’s seventieth week (being a ½ week of years, which equals 1260 days, or 3½ lunar years).

One cannot help but wonder then, if the “lion with eagle’s wings” mentioned in Daniel’s prophecy (7:4) is not also the same country referred to in some way within the Apocalypse . . . since in a very real sense the Jewish community did indeed find to be a “home away from home” for well over a century, within these United States . . .

Further, following the same train of thought, we cannot help but wonder if that same woman (Israel, within the symbolism of the same chapter (Rev. 12:14))—was being given those “eagle’s wings” to fly *into her place*—which would soon be made available after that war that proceeds like a flood from the mouth of hell that we investigated within our last UP-LOOK (i.e. World War II)—and may not these eagles wings also refer to Israel being supported by the Christian element of this country in her later years (waning years??) as America’s wings are being

plucked (Dan. 7:4b)—and Christian elements within this country; realizing our eternal debt to Israel for having given us our faith, through their very own Messiah (which they do not yet fully recognize) . . . Now assists our maiden benefactor in her personal battles. Assisting our maiden faith both of flesh and spirit. For Israel is indeed our “mother” in a spiritual sense (loosely speaking)—and this factor now lays the groundwork for that most ominous declaration of Hell, as it is found written in the closing statements of the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Apocalypse:

*17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

Revelation 12:17

The rest of Israel’s “offspring,” my brothers and sisters—refers to us: those of us who embrace the Judeo Christian heritage that has been handed down to us through the Scriptures. It is this heritage that the opening curtain of the very next chapter of the Apocalypse now hovers over ominously: hoping to tear down all that has been built up for almost two thousand years within what may have once referred to as a “Christian civilization” or “the West” where its seat of secular power was utilized to maintain an “open door” of freedom. — In accordance with what the Lord Jesus has declared, to the next to last of the seven churches (or epochs):

*“These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”: <sup>8</sup> I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.*

Revelation 3:7-8

We must not assume that this declaration by Him who created the very Universe (Col. 1:16,17) refers to something so quaint as earthly wealth or fame—even as king Solomon appraised this truth, when pondering what to ask of Him. Solomon asked for an intangible: seeking something which would be able to under gird true greatness. Therefore he asked for (divine) wisdom.—And here, my brothers and sisters, I propose to you that the Lord, in granting His children an “open door” that no one could shut—was not speaking of some

mere earthly corruptible venue: but of a value that the world had never before beheld or fully fathomed: it was speaking of a door that would open to a nation that would hold these truths to be self evident; that all of us are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights: the right to life, liberty (and finally) the pursuit of happiness. —With the tail end of these blessings (happiness’ pursuit), now threatening to consume all others, and soon be all that is left of that noble beginning. . . .

Thus the question begs to be asked: Now that we stand on the brink of “the end” where every thinking individual must certainly be pondering the question of whether a nation, such as ours, conceived in liberty . . . will continue to prevail for more than a moment longer. Will we continue on in victory and true greatness on the prophetic timeline?

So now, please note with me the apparent contradiction of the apostle Peter’s admonition regarding the future, wherein our opening quote follows the mocking of those who question whether the world that we now enjoy will ever “come to an end” at all, and make way for the returning of our Lord. For, they say:

*. . . “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”*

2 Peter 3:4

Peter’s first answer to their mocking is to note the promise of God to preserve our present environment; that is, this present ecosystem that has been experienced just after the

“beginning of creation”, or more specifically—since the flood of Noah’s day, wherein the mockers were swept away by a cataclysm. “This they willingly forget,” Peter reminds us,

*“. . .that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, <sup>6</sup> by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. <sup>7</sup> But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

2 Peter 3:5-7

In other words, the apostle Peter is informing us that God is in no hurry to bare His arm in judgment, once more, as He did during the flood of Noah’s day! God is *longsuffering* towards us, and measures time and woeful offenses, with a very long ruler, where one day is as a thousand years (2 Peter 3:8)! Thus; Peter reminds us that God is now exercising great patience towards an

*(Continued on page 6)*

**The rest of Israel's  
“offspring,” my  
brothers and sisters,  
refers to us . . . who  
embrace the Judeo  
Christian heritage . . .**

ungodly world system, within our opening text.

However, we must be careful about taking that “open door” of grace & opportunity (and even of freedom) for granted! In fact, we must remember that Peter himself had never seen (or conceived) of the blessings that we enjoy today. In his day they were throwing the Christians to the lions! Therefore it is no wonder that the apostle, himself, seems to make a cautionary statement several verses down, when telling us to be careful to *always* pursue a godly lifestyle which pleases God. This we expect for him to say, of course. However, it is his closing comment, which seems most curious, and may even seem contradictory(?). First, he mentions that when the Lord *does* come it will be as a thief in the night (vs. 10, which we have already covered elsewhere in this UPOOK). However:

Please read his next question very carefully! For Peter is “dead serious” when he asks:

<sup>11</sup> *Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?*

2 Peter 3:11-12 [emphasis added]

This is something that we, ourselves, may have overlooked in the past—until starting to see the “door closing” within the West, these last two years, wherein a forcible shutdown was imposed across the whole planet, and people were being *forced* to take a vaccine (amazingly, similar to a projected *marking* of a said, “beast” in the near future (Rev. 13:17,18)?).

—And there is something that we may have also missed when reading statements recorded concerning the rapture within Paul’s writings, as well. Note the closing comment, after Paul’s description of the rapture in the following quote:

<sup>16</sup> *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 [emphasis added]

Some have mocked, when it is noted that the above event marks a post-tribulation event. “What kind of ‘comfort’ is that?” they question. What comfort, indeed. It is a comfort that may indeed be noted when we take the time to research the context of the above statement: It being written to a church that was *already* dealing with great tribulation, as noted within its first chapter (say, in verses 5 & 6?). But, if not, such

tribulation is most certainly reflected within the opening of Paul’s next letter to this same church at Thessalonica. Here, within the opening of Paul’s next letter to this church, the apostle of pain and tribulation, himself having been stoned and imprisoned, quite frequently *boasts* about this church’s battle scars . . . and more.

<sup>4</sup> *so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, <sup>5</sup> which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; <sup>6</sup> since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, <sup>7</sup> and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, <sup>8</sup> in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Thessalonians 1:4-8 [emphasis added]

There is “more, where this came from” in the verses that follow. Thus, we cannot deny the fact that when Paul wrote of the rapture, it was indeed a subject being presented to saints who were undergoing *tribulation*.

So, which approach are we to take? For the apostle also enjoins us to first of all pray for our leaders so that:

*. . . that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. <sup>3</sup> For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

1 Timothy 2:1-4 [emphasis added]

Do you see the option that is being presented to us, today? If we can see our way clear into an environment in which we may live a peaceable life (i.e. with our freedoms in tact) —*definitely pray for revival!!*

But if not, get ready for our departure!

For my part, I do believe that the “shutdown” of 2020 was an early wake-up call to a church that was sleeping on the brink Midnight (Matt. 25:4-6). I further believe that what we have just experienced, from Heaven’s perspective, is an invitation to pray for an *extension of our freedoms*. Yet this is truly an invitation for more than a revival: it is an invitation to have an *awakening* . . . such as was experienced just before the birthing of this nation.

The choice is ours. (What an hour to be living in!!)

Maranatha: Behold, He is coming!

(continued from page 3—**A THIEF** . . .)  
at this point in Christ's discourse:

Remember: Jesus had just said that the temple (which was defiled in the Maccabean period, and had been given a "radical makeover" by Herod)—would definitely **be destroyed**, so that "not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." (vs. 2). And yet:

Jesus had *not* said that the temple would be rebuilt (in fact, the emperor Julian had made just such an attempt, to make void Jesus' words, in 363 AD—and that new temple had been destroyed by an earthquake &/or fire).<sup>1</sup>

I know, I know, those last two points are most disturbing—especially in light of what the apostle Paul stated in his letter to the church in Thessalonica, concerning the Antichrist:

<sup>3</sup> *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,*  
<sup>4</sup> *who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*<sup>5</sup> *Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?*

2 Thessalonians 2:3-5

—So then, if *the* Antichrist (at the end of the age) is to defile the temple . . . and the *physical* temple has been destroyed, HOW ON EARTH ARE CHRIST'S WORDS TO BE FILLED!?? Does Scripture give us any hint (or, outright statement)?

Indeed it does: in very plain language. Yet, we must be mindful that the greatest deception arises from that *which you refuse to consider* to be within the realm of possibilities. The US did not want to consider the real possibility of the Japanese bombing Pearl Harbor, for example, so we did

not fully prepare (or properly prepare) for that invasion. Nor did we want to believe that an attack could actually take place on American soil, at the turn of the century—so we were unprepared for 9/11.

Nor did the disciples want to believe that Jesus would go to the Cross and *die*, and then be raised the third day (Matt. 16:21). —So that Peter felt it appropriate to correct the Master:

<sup>22</sup> *Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"*

Matthew 16:22

Jesus response? To silence the devil!

<sup>23</sup> *But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*

Matthew 16:23

The key takeaway, here, is to keep our ears open to what Jesus *actually* says. Jesus' mission was much larger than what disciples imagined, while He walked among us. In the same way, the ending of this age will be determined by the desecrating of a temple far more glorious than that seen in the first century; being erected by a Builder far more qualified than king Herod.

It is a temple being built by the Lord, Himself:

<sup>12</sup> . . . *Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: "Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the LORD;*  
<sup>13</sup> *Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; . . ."*

Zechariah 6:12-13 (Acts 15:15-17)

Just in case you are wondering who the BRANCH is, it is the same person who identified Himself as the Vine in the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of John: the Lord Jesus Christ. And the temple,

that He is building? It is composed of true believers, as the apostle Paul noted:

<sup>16</sup> *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

Of particular interest, to us, is what the apostle states will happen to anyone defiling *this* temple:

<sup>17</sup> *If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.*

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

**I**s it any wonder, therefore, that Christ feels compelled to issue one last warning at the close of His Olivet Discourse, concerning His returning, by using an illustration that alludes to "house breaking" at the end of the age?

<sup>42</sup> *Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.*

<sup>43</sup> *But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.*

Matthew 24:42-43

Therefore I can say nothing more than what our Lord has said, by warning those "sleeping on duty" in the Night: Beware, for the target the devil is aiming for *is not a building* (of this world) -but your very soul. —And to the faithful: the Scriptures say clearly:

<sup>4</sup> *But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.*

<sup>5</sup> *You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.*

<sup>6</sup> *Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.*

1 Thessalonians 5:4-6

Amen. Let us be ready!

# What Must I Do?

*"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."*  
Acts 16:31

# How?

*... If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Romans 10:9,10

# In Other Words

**Acknowledge:** your need

—as a sinner (Romans 3:23, II Cor. 5:14-15)

**Accept:** His work on the Cross —to be your Savior

**Confess:** your acceptance of His lordship over you.

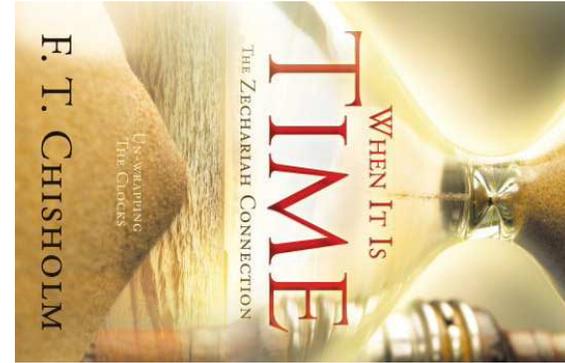
**Live for Him:** with your new life.

*For the scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be ashamed."*

Romans 10:11

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A Comprehensive Approach

—to end time events



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## ENDNOTES;

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<sup>1</sup>There is debate over exactly how the temple that the Emperor Julian wanted to rebuild was destroyed. See  
<<https://www.fisheaters.com/juliantemple.html>>

