O R, A

PLAIN DESCRIPTION

OF

JERUSALEM.

- From Joshua's time to the Year 1517, both from Scripture and ancient History.
- I. The antiquity of the city, and number of inbabitants, with the depth and breadth of the trenches, height of the wlals, and the number of the towers that flood thereon.
- II. The greatness of the people, and glory of the Sanctum Sanctorum, or the Holy of Holics; with a description of the birth, life, and death of our blessed SAVIOUR, and the miraculous wonders that happened about that time.
- III. The fad and lamentable destruction and desolation of Jerusalem, by fire, sword, famine and pesilence.

EDINBURGH

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PLAIN DESCRIPTION

OF

JERUSALEM.

JERUSALEM was a principal city in Joffnua's time, when Adonibezek was king, who was flain by him; yet the Jebufites held it for four hundred years after, till David won it; though the inhabitants boaffed that their blind and their lame would defend it, 2 Sam, v. 6. David firengthened it with a caffle, and beautified it with palaces; after this, Solomon enlarged it, and further beautified and fortified it; the palace gates and walls could not be matched in all the world. It had within the walls one hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants, besides women and children.

The trenches about it were fixty feet deep cut out of the rock, and two hundred and fifty broad. Not long after Shifhak king of Egypt took, it, and became mafter of Solomon's riches, and of all king David's fpoil, which he had taken from many nations, 2 Kings xiv, It was again plundered and part of the wall broken down by Joash king of Ilracl, in Amaziah's reign, 2 Kings xvi. Not long after, Ahas, the 14th king of Judith, impoverished the temple, to present Tiglath-pilnezer with the treasures thereof, and Mannafelt loft what remained, 1 Chron. 5,

And Nebuchadnezzar laid this glorious city with the temple, palace walls and towers, even with the ground, 2 Kings xix. month which was in the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, the princes of Babylon furprized and took this brave city; prefently after Nebuzar-aden, general of the Babylonian army, sommanded by Nebuchadnezzar, spoiled the temple, carrying away the vessels of gold and filver, and the great laver, given by king Solomon, and burnt the temple the first day of the next month, which was twenty-one days after the furprifal, 470 years, fix months, and ten days after the foundation; 963 years, fix months and ten days after the departure of the people out of Egypt; 1760 years, and fix months after the flood; 3516 years fix months, and ten days after the creation. Thus, and then was the city of Jerufalem taken, and for feventy years the Jews remained in this captivity.

It was built again by Nehemiah, 2 Chron, i, ii, iii, iv. The temple and city was fpoiled again by Burgofes, lieutenant to Artaxerex-

es, then by Ptolemeus the first, then by Antiochus Epiphaneos, and again by Appollonius' deputy; after which, it was taken by Pompey, and robbed by Craffus, in his Pare thi an expedition. Yet all the losses the temple and city suffained, were repaired by Herod the Great, who enlarged the city, newbuilt the temple, and left it both flately and glorious; It was compassed with three strong walls, the third wall had ninety towers, the fecond wall had fourteen, and the old wall had fixty. Agrippa built a fourth wall ten cubits high, but did not finish it, lest Claudius Caesar should think he designed to rebel; yet the Jews afterwards built it twenty cubits high, and raifed a battlement two cubits; and built three towers thereon: all their towers were built of white marble, each flone being twenty cubits long, ten broad, and five thick, fo curioufly joined, that they feemed but one stone, and the compass of the city from the north to the west, was forty-three furlongs.

Within the city was the King's palace, furpaffing all in the world for largeness and workmanship, environed with a wall, which was thirty cubits high, adorned with towers, and beautified with houses to an hundred of the nobility; and in every room were many veffels of gold and filver, and porches adorned with curious pillars, and many pleasant walks, with all manner of trees and sour

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tains, which spouted out water, with cisterns and brazen statues, from which water run.

The temple was built upon a rocky mountaid, and the place at the top, was not at first big enough for the temple and court, the hill being very steep, but the people every day brought earth thither, and they at last made it plain and large enough, with wonderful curiofity and labour, enclosed with three walls, which were many days labour, with the cost of all the holy treasure offered to God from all parts; the foundation of the temple was laid three hundred cubits deep; the porches were double supported by many pillars twenty cubits high, all of one piece of marble; the tops of cedar fo exactly wrought, as aftonished beholders, the porches were thirty cubits broad, and the compass of the temple was fix furlongs: The courts were curiously paved and wrought with all forts of frones, and the gates were covered with weighty plates of gold. only one with the others, dazzling the eyes of the fnecta-

Then the SANCTUM SANCTORUM, or Holy of Holies, fituated in the midft, had twelve stair's to go up to it, the fore-part of it was an hundred cubits high, and as many broad, and backwards it was forty cubits on each fide. It had as it were two fhoulders twenty

cubits high, and twenty-five wide, and had no doors, to fhew that heaven was always open. All the fore parts were gilded within and covered with fine gold, the inner part was divided into two rooms, whereof the first only might be feen, which was in height ninety cubits in length forty, and in breadth twenty. Round about the wall was a golden vine, whereon hung grapes in clusters, being fix feet long; it had golden gates fiftyfive cubits high, and fixteen broad, and curious hangings of the fame length, wrought with purple, velvet, fcarlet, and filk. All the fabric was fo exquisite and rich, that none could imagine any workmanship to be wanted, for it was all covered with maffy plates of gold, which aftonished the beholders; the top also was fet with rods of gold, fharp at the ends, left birds should fit thereon, and defile the holy place.

Our SAVIOUR was born in the year of the world 4004, and in the 43d year of Augustus Caesar; .many remarkable things were feen in the heaveus, which caufed the wife men to conclude, that fome more than an ordinary person would appear upon the earth: The learned thought it to be Augustus Caefar, who then reigned prosperously; but others thought it to be he whom the prophet Isaiah speaks of, that would have the government on his shoulders, even the Saviour of the world, whom the Evangelists

mention.

mention, that the angels declared to the shepherds, and the star directed the wife men of the east to find out the place of his birth.

As the new earth with a new fun was bleft, So beaven with a new glorious star was dreft.

At Chrift's birth, the temple at Rome, dedicated to the god Pan, fell to the earth; and when it was built, the Romans addrefsed the oracle of Appolla, to know how long it fhould endure; who answered, "Till a "Virgin fhould bring forth 'a fon," which they judged impossible, therefore they believed that their temple flould last eternally.

The night that Christ was born, there appeared in Spain at midnight, a cloud with fo great a light, that it feemed like mid-day, St. Jerom writes, that when the virgin fled with her fon into Egypt, all the images of the God's tumbled from their alters to the very ground: and that the Oracles, or Antwers which these Gods, or rather Devils, used to give them, ceased, and never answered a steamers.

In the first year after CHRIST's birth, many strange things happened in Germany, and in Rome, and a terrible eclipse of the sur. At the twelfth year of his are he disputed with the doctors, and at that time there appeared a terrible comet, so

that the fight of the fun apparently failed, the heavens feemed to burn, and fire beams jell from them. In the twenty-feeond year of his age, feveral bloody comets were feen, and the river Tiber overflowed the city of Rome.

PUBLIUS LENTULLUS' Epifile to Rome concerning CHRIST. "There appeared in those days a man of

"great virtue called JESUŞ CHRIST,
"who is yet living among us, and by the
"people is called a prophet; but his own
difciples call him the SON'of GOD,

" he raifeth the dead, cureth all manner of "difeases; a man of stature, somewhat tall " and comely, with a reverend countenance. " fuch as the beholders may both fear and " love; his hair is of the colour of a chef-" nut full-ripe, and plain down almost to " his ears, but from thence downward fome-" what curled, but more orient of colours " waving about his fhoulders; in midft of " his head goeth a feam of hair, or parting, " like that of the Nazarites; his forehead " very plain and fmooth; his face without " fpot or wrinkle, beautified with a comely " red; his nofe and mouth fo formed, that " nothing can be reprehended, his beard "thick, in colour of the hair of his head; " his eyes grey, clear and quick; in reprov-

" ing he is fevere, in counfelling, courteous " and fair fpoken; pleafant in fpeech, mix-" ed with gravity: it cannot be remembered "that any have feen him laugh, but many " have feen him weep; in proportion of bo-" dy well shaped and straight; his lands and " arms very delectible to behold, in speaking " very temperate, modest and wise; a man, " for his fingular beauty far exceeding the

" fors of men.

· Within the thirty-third year of Christ's life he was crucified by the wicked hands of the lews, which caused many miracles, attested both by Heathens and Christias. At his death there was a mighty darkness in the day time, from fix till nine, that is, from our twelve, to our three in the afternoon, and yet no eclipse of the fun, it being full moon; fo it was contrary to the order of nature, but the power of God deprived the fun of his

Dionysius the Areopagite, being that day in Athens, and feeing the darkness, cried with a loud voice, " either the world is at an " end, or the God of nature fuffers," Then the men of Athens, being aftonished, built an alter to the UNKNOWN GOD; and afterwards St, Paul declared to them, ' That 'Christ,' who fuffered that day, ' was the ' Unknown God; whereby he converted ma-

ny to the Christian faith.

It is likewife acknowledged by Plutarch, though a heathen, that after the death of Chrift, not only the oracles of Egypt ceafed but through all the world, for which he can give no reason, being ignorant of Christianity; however Satan did plainly acknowledge himself overcome by the death of Chrift, and could never give any answers afterwards.

The words of Plutarch to Emilius the orator concerning the matter are as follows,

" My father coming by fea towards Italy, " and coasting by night about an island not " inhabited called Paraxis: when most in "the ship were at rest, they heard a fearful " voice which came from that island, that " called upon Alaman, who was pilot of the " fhip, and an Egytian born; though this " voice was heard once or twice, yet no man " had the courage to answer it till the third "time when the pilot answered, Who is " there? Who is it that calls? What would " you have? Then the voice fpake more " high, and faid, Alaman, I require, that " when you pass the gulph of Languna, you " remember to cry aloud, and make them to " understand that the great god Pan is dead," "at these words all in the ship were asto-" nished, and concluded that the pilot should " not take notice of the voice, nor flay in s the gulph to unter fuch words if they could

" get beyond it. Now going on their voy-" age, and coming to the place before men-" tioned, the ship stood still, and the sea was " fo calm, that they could go no further; " whereupon they refolved, that Alaman 4 should perform his embassage, so he pla-" ced himself upon the poop of the ship and " cried aloud, Be it known unto you, that is the great god Pan is dead. When he had " uttered thefe words, they heard many " mournful cries, groans and lamentations, " that continued fome time, which furprifed "those in the ship: but having a prosper-" ous gale, they followed their courfe, arriv-" ed at Rome and told the adventure; and " told Tiberius the Emperor, all the truth

It is evident that Satan in all parts was banished by the death of Christ, and it is supposed that this god Pan is not to be understood only as the god of the shepherds, but was rather some master devil, who lost his power and empire, as they all did at the death of lesus Christ.

About forty years after the death of Jefus Chrift, the Jews had many warnings flown them from heaven. Before Vefpafian came in the feaft of weeks, the prieft heard a man walking in the temple, faying, with a terrible voice, "Come, let us go away out of this "place, let us make away from hence,"

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Now the figns of the Jews being come to the full height, who with cruel hands had crucified the LORD or LIFE, that innocent blood which they delived might fall on them and their children, began now to be avenged upon them; for the civil wars were begun by Jehohanan and Simon, who defroy ed all the corn and fruits without the city, and Jehohanan within the city ravifhed the citizens' wives and daughters, and flied floods of innocent blood. The citizens, being weary of this tyranny, delivered the city to Simon, thinking he would help them, but he joined the other rebel, and they reigned month about, till at laft they quarrelled be-

Then there was nothing but flaughter and bloodfled, fo that the blood of the Jews ran through the fireets, even to the temple of the LORD, like a flood! All that the feditious overcame they fet their houses on fire, fo that they burnt fourteen hundred florehouses, that were full of corn, wine, and oil, which caused a sudden famine in Jerusalem.

Thus GOD visited the city with four plagues at once, viz, fword, pestilence, famine and fire: to which the fifth was added, the ruin and destruction of all the glorious buildings fo that nothing but defolation, pollution of the Temple, and all holy things, and uproar without any rest; no help, no succour, but every corner was full of howling, yel-

ling, weeping, wailing, fobbing, and fighing of women, children, and aged men, starving for want of bread, and others roaring in their wounds; fo that all manner of miseries oppressed the inhabitants, and he was thought a happy man who was dead before that day.

At this time Vespasian with his army was lying in Galilee, and from thence he went to Rome to receive the Imperial Crown, and left his fon Titus, with the half of his army to beliege Jerufalem, the other to tarry at Alexandria till further orders " That I " fhall do (faid Titus) dear father, for unto " you it belongeth to command, and for me

" to obey."

In the first year of the reign of Vespasian, Titus mustered his army, and found them fufficient for the siege of Jerusalem. He then marched to Samaria, and from thence to Atelonia, thirty furlongs from Jerufalem, where he pitched his camp, and the next day he brought his whole army to Jerufalem a little before the feast of unleavened bread, which was April the 14th, fo that an infinite number of people, who came to celebrate, were all shut up in the city, which raised a famine; oxen's dung was fold at a dear rate, fo was old leather; and fome women; for want, boiled their children and did eat them.

Now Titus approached the walls of the city.

city, and pitched his camp upon the river Poleponina, raifed a mount, and with a battering ram broke into the city. May 7th. and afterwards he raifed four other mounts, and made himfelf mafter of the fecond wall. and built twelve castles thereon, so that none could pass in or out, whereby the famine and pestilence raged within, and the sword without the city, fo that multitudes perished; for, from April the 14th, to July following, there were buried, by the common charge of the city, fix hundred thousand carcafes, and multitudes thrown into empty houses, and over the walls, which filled the houses with dead bodies.

Titus intended to fave the temple from fire, when some of the city was in flames, by fetting a guard on it, but the feditious who raifed the fire, llew every man of the guard which Titus hearing, brought his whole army thither. At that time a foldier of the feditious took a flaming fire-brand, and cast it through the golden window into the Temple, and others fet fire to the doors, and after the gold grew hot, the Temple began to burn, and immediately the whole fabric was in a flame, and the HOLY of HOLIES was laid open to the view of all there prefent.

This happened in the fecond year of the reign of Vefpafian, and the fame month that it was burnt by Nebuchadnezzar.

drew his fword to fave the holy place, but the flames rufhed through all parts of the Temple in a moment, fo that none could fave it. The Jews feeing all go to destruction before their eyes, then they threw themfelves into the flames faying, " Why flould " we live any longer? Now there was no "Temple," After the Holy of Holies was burnt, Titus entered it, and faw the glory of it and faid, " I well perceive that this is no " other than the house of GOD, and the " dwelling place of the KING of Heaven: " The God of heaven who is God of this " house, take vengeance on the feditious, " whose he mous deeds have brought this e-" vil upon themselves and this holy place."

On the 7th of September. Titus commanded all the lower city to be fet on fire, and affaulted the upper city, breaking over their fences, and defroying all before him with fire and fword; then he commanded the city and temple to be razed to the fundation, and the ground to be forthwith plowed.—And Jehohanan and Simon were fent priloners to Rome, with feven hundred of the Jews: The book of the law, and the purple veil of the Sanctuary were taken in triumph to Rome. About that time neither fun nor moon appeared for fifteen days as Chrift foretold, Matth xxiv, 15.

St. Jerom writes, that in his time, on that day of the year wherein Jerusalem was taken by the Romans, you might have feen aged men and women, and feveral other, wretched people, who, with blubbered cheeks and dishevelled hair, went howling and lamenting for the ruin of the Temple and Sanctuing for the ruin of the Temple and Sanctuary, wearing and bearing in their habits and bodies, the fad character of divine vengeance, of whom the foldiers exacted a fee for liberty of weeping; and they who formerly fold the blood of Jefus, were now foreed to buy their own tears, without being

pitied.

The Roman foldiers, being now quite fpent with doing execution, and having a great deal more of their work yet to do, Titus ordered his men to hold their hands, faving only to those whom they found armed, or in a posture of resistance, and to give quarters to all the rest. But the soldiers went beyond their commissions, and put the aged and sickly to the fword, promiscuously, with their companions; and for those that were strong and ferviceable, they shut them up in the temple, in the women's quarter. Caefar appointed Fronto, one of his friends and freemen to inform him of the people, and to do by them as they deserved. As for the ruffians, and the feditious, that impeached one another, he had them all put to death; but for men of comely and graceful persons, and in the prime of their youth, he referved them for the triumph; fending away all above

above feventeen years of age of the remainder of them in chains into Egypt, to be employed in fervile offices and drudgery; befides those that were distributed up and down the provinces for the use of the theatres in the quality of swords-men or gladiators; and all under seventeen he exposed to sale,

In the mean time, while the prifoners were under Fronto's charge, there were eleven thousand of them flarved to death, betwixt the churishness of the keepers, that would give them no meat, and the squeamishness of their flomachs that would swallow none. But in truth the mouths were too

many for the provisions-

The numbers of prisoners in this war was ninety seven thousand. The number of the dead was eleven hundred thousand: the greater part of them Jews by nation, though not natives of Judea; For it was only a general meeting of them at Jerusnlem, gathered together from all quarters to celebrate the feast of the passover; who were then furprifed into a war. There was fuch a prodigious multitude, and they fo straitened for lodgings, that the croud first brought the plague into the town, and then quickly made way for a famine. The city not being capable-of entertaining that vast body of people, . if the calculation of Cestius may at least pass for any thing: As follows,

Nero had fo great a contempt for the Jews, that Cestius made it his fuit to the highpriefts to bethink themselves of some way of numbering their people; and this he didout of a defire to give Nero to understand that the Jewish nation was not so despicable as he imagined; to that they took their time to enter upon the computation, at the celebration of their paichal feast; When offering up facrifice to be eaten afterwards, in the ninth hour of the day to the eleventh, and the facrifice to be eaten afterwards, in their families, by ten at leaft, and fometimes twenty to a lamb; they reckoned upon two hundred and fixty-fix thousand, five hundred oblations; which at the rate of ten to a lamb, amounted to two milions, fix hundred and fixty-five thousand persons, all pure and found. For neither lepers, fcorbutics, men troubled with gonnorhoeas, women in their monthly fickness, or people labouring under any malignant diffempers were admitted to any part, in this folenmity : No more were any ftrangers, but what came thither for religion. So that this mighty concourfe of people from abroad before the fiege, was afterwards by the righteous Providence of And the number of the flain in that fiege, was the heaviest judgment of that kind that ever was heard of. Some were killed openly, others kept in custody by the Romans,

who fearched the very fepulchres and vaults for them, and put all they found alive to the fword. There were upwards of two thoufand that had either laid violent hands on themselves, or killed one another by consent; The putrid corruption of dead bodies fent out a vapour to poifon as many as came within the reach of it. Some were not able to endure it, and so went out of the way; others had their hearts fo fet upon booty, that they rifled the very carcafes, and trampled upon the dead bodies as they lay foaking in their corruption: but avarice flicks at nothing. They brought out feveral prisoners also that the two tyrants had laid in chains there; for they kept up their cruelty to the laft: but God's justice overtock them both in the end; for John and his brethren in the vaults were now driven by the diffrefs of an unsupportable hunger, to beg that mercy of the Romans, which they had fo often despised: And Simon, after a long firuggle with an insupportable necessity, deed for the triumph, and the former made prithe remainder of the city, and threw down

The power of God on the one hand; and his goodness on the other, was very re markable on this occasion: for the tyrants

ruined

ruined themselves, by quitting those holds of their own accord, that could never have been taken but by famine; and this after the lews had fpent fo much time to no purpole upon other places of less value. By thefe means, the Romans became mafters of three impregnable forts by fortune, that could never have been taken any other way: For the three famous towers before mentioned were proof again, all battery.

Upon Simon and John's quiiting thefe towers; or rather, upon their being driven out of them, by the impulse of judicial infatuation, they hastened away to the vale of Siloa, where they took breath a while, and after some recollection, and refreshment, they gave an affault to the new wall there: But fo faint and weak, that the guard beat them off; for between fatigue, desponpency, dread, and mifery, their strength failed them, and they were then fcattered feveral ways in

finks and gutters.

The foldiers were now broken loofe all over the town, up and down in the streets, with their fwords drawn; killing all that fell in their way without distinction; and burning intire houses, and whatever was in them, in one common flame. In feveral places where they entered to fearch for pillage, they found whole families dead, and houses crainmed with hunger-starved carcafes: So that upon the horror of fo hidious a spectacle,

they came out again empty-handed : but the compassion they had for the dead, made them not one jot tenderer to the living; for they stabbed every man they met, till the narrow pa Tages and alleys were choaked up with carcafes; fo that the channels of the city ran blood as if it had been to quench the fire. In the evening they gave over killing, and at

night they fell afresh to burning.

The eighth of the month Gorpieus put an end to the conflagration of Jerusalem, (A. D. 70.) and if all the bleffings it ever enjoyed, from the foundation of it, had been but comparable in proportion to the calamities it fuffered in this fiege, that city had been undoubtedly the envy of the world. But the greatest plague of all came out of its own bowels; in that infernal race of vipers that it brought forth to eat out the belly of the mother.

While Titus was now taking a view of the ruins of this glorious city: the works, the fortifications, and especially the turrets, which the tyrants had fo fottifhly abandoned: While Caefar, I fay, was entertaining himfelf in the contemplations of the height, dimensions, and fituations of these towers; the design, workmanship, and curiosity of the fabric, with the wonderful contrivance of the whole: He let fall this expression, " Well, fays be, If "God had not fought for us, and with us, " we could never have been mafters of these

"forts. It was God in fine, that affifted us and that fought against the Jews; for this was not an undertaking to be compassed

" with hands or machines."

This was in fine the islue of the fiege: And when the foldiers had neither rapine nor blood-shed for their spleen to work upon (as they would not have been idle, if they had had matter) Titus ordered them to lay the city and temple level with the ground; and to leave nothing standing, but the three famous turrets, Pafael, Hippicos, and Mariamne, that overtopped all the rest; and a piece of wall to the westward of the town, where he defigned a garrifon. The towers to remain as fo many monuments to posterity, of the Romans' power and conduct in taking them. This order was puctually executed and all the rest laid so flat, that the place looked as if it had never been inhabited. This was the end of the Jerusalem faction; a mad and feditious people: and also the end of the most glorious city in the universe.

What is here chiefly remarkable is this; that no foreign natiou ever came thus to defroy the Jews at any of their folenn feltivals, from the days of Mofes, till this time; but came now upon their apoftacy from God, and difobedience to him. Nor is it poffible, in the nature of things, that in any other nation fuch vaft numbers should be gotten together, and perish in the seege of

any one city whatfoever, as now happened

in Terufalem

Thus was Jerufalem taken and utterly deftroyed, in the fecond year of Vefpafian, and on the eight day of the month Gorpieus; having been five times taken before, i. e. by Azchaeus king of Egypt: Antiochus Epiphanes, king of Syria; Pompey and Herod, with Sofius; who/ did all preferve the city after it was taken. But Nebuchadezzor the king of Babylon, laid it waste one thousand three hundred and fixty years, eight months, and fix days, after the building of it.

The first founder of it was a Canaantish prince called Melchizedec, which in the Hebrew language signifies a just king; for such was he in an eminent manner. He first dedicated the city to God; erected a temple in it, and officiated in the quality of priest, giving it the name of Jerusalem, which be-

fore was called Solvma,

When David, the king of the Jews, came adverwards to drive out the Canaanites, he planted his own people there: and in four hundred and feventy-feven years, and three months after this, it was laid wafte by the

Baylonians.

From the reign of David there, to the deftruction of the city by Titus, it was one thousandone hundred and seventy-nine years; and two thousand one hundred and seventy-

nin

nine from the foundation of it. But neither the antiquity, wealth, fame, nor the honour of the religion itself, was any fecurity against the appointments of Fate: and those who afterwards faw it, could not believe that ever there had been fuch a city there; yet the defpifed Jews begged leave to build part of the city, but after fixty-five years, when they began to revolt, then Elius Adrianus the Emperor, flew many thousands of them; and when his fury was over, he took one part of the city within the wall, Mount Calvary and Christ's sepulchre, and made a spacious city which he called after his own name, Selia Capitolia, which was inhabited by all nations, but most by Christians for five hundred years; and in fix hundred and thirty-nine, it was taken by the Egyptians and Saracens who held it four hundred years; and in one thousand and thirty nine it was regained by Godfrey Bollogn, who, being elected king, refused to be crowned with a crown of gold, where CHRIST was crowned with a crown of thorns: It continued to him and his fuccessors eighty-eight years, till in one thoufand one hundred and twenty-feven, it was taken by Saladine king of Egypt; and in one thousand five hundred and seventeen, the Turks took it (who are still masters of it) and called it, in their own language, Gunembare, or the Holy of Holies.