

# "Let us go from here"

## Josephus (Whiston)

...Besides these, a few days after that feast, on the **twenty-first day of the month Artemisius [Jyar], a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared**; I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those that saw it, and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for, before sunsetting, **chariots and troops of soldiers in their armor were seen running about among the clouds**, and surrounding of cities. Moreover at that feast which we call Pentecost, as the priests were going by night into the inner [court of the] temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, **they felt a quaking, and heard a great noise, and after that they heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, "Let us remove hence."** [Josephus. *Complete Works*. Translated by William Whiston. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel Publications, 1971. *Wars* 6:296-300 (6.5.3)]

## Josephus (Thackeray & Hurtado)

...Again, not many days after the festival [**Passover**], on the **twenty-first of the month Artemisium, there appeared a miraculous phenomenon, passing belief**. Indeed, what I am about to relate would, I imagine, have been deemed a fable, were it not for the narratives of eyewitnesses and for the subsequent calamities which deserved to be so signaled. For before sunset throughout all parts of the country **chariots were seen in the air and armed battalions hurtling through the clouds** and encompassing the cities. Moreover, at the feast which is called Pentecost, the priests on entering the inner court of the temple by night, as their custom was in the discharge of their ministrations, reported that **they were conscious, first of a commotion and a din, and after that of a voice as of a host, "We are departing hence."** [Josephus in *Nine Volumes*. Volume 3. *The Jewish War, Books 4-7*, with an English translation by H. St. J. Thackeray. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, and London: William Heinemann Ltd, 1928 originally, reprinted 1968. *Wars* 6:296-300 (6.5.3)]

## Josephus (Cornfeld)

Then again, not many days after the feast [**Passover**], on the **twenty-first of the month of Artemisium, a supernatural apparition** was seen, too amazing to be believed. What I am now to relate would, I imagine, have been dismissed as imaginary, had this not been vouched for by eyewitnesses, then followed by subsequent disasters that deserved to be thus signaled. For **before sunset chariots were seen in the air over the whole country, and armed battalions speeding through the clouds and encircling the cities**. Then again, at the feast called **Pentecost**, when the priests had entered the inner courts of the Temple by night to perform their usual ministrations, they declared that **they were aware, first, of a violent commotion and din, then of a voice as of a host crying, "We are departing hence."** [Gaalya Cornfeld, Gen. Ed. *Josephus: The Jewish War*. Grand Rapids, Michigan USA: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982. *Wars* 6:296-299 (6.5.3) p. 427]

## Josephus (David Warren)

At night during the feast which is called Pentecost, as the priests entered [aor. ptc] the inner court of the Temple, as was their custom in order to perform their duties, they said that at first they were **overtaken by a shaking and by a loud noise, and after that by a voice that cried out in unison, "We are leaving this place."** [Prof. David H. Warren, Turner School of Theology, Amridge University, Montgomery AL 36117]

## Josephus (Parker Voll)

And during the feast which is called "Pentecost" the priests, after passing along into the temple's inner court (even as [this is] a custom with the temple services), said they **experienced an agitating motion, also [there was] a loud noise, and after these things, a collective voice [saying], "We are departing from this place!"** [Parker Voll, M.A. Rochester, NY]

## Josephus (Ed Stevens)

Furthermore, at the feast called Pentecost, as the priests were going inside the temple to [perform] their customary services, they said at first they **noticed a movement and a loud noise, and after these things a voice of a multitude [in unison shouting], "Let us go from this place."** [my understanding of it after comparing all the other translations to the Greek text -- Ed Stevens]

## Eusebius (McGiffert)

5 And not many days after the [Passover] feast, on the twenty-first of the month Artemisium, **a certain marvelous vision was seen which passes belief.** The prodigy might seem fabulous were it not related by those who saw it, and were not the calamities which followed deserving of such signs. For before the setting of the sun **chariots and armed troops were seen throughout the whole region in mid-air, wheeling through the clouds and encircling the cities.** 6 And at the feast which is called **Pentecost**, when **the priests** entered the temple at night, as was their custom, to perform the services, **they said that at first they perceived a movement and a noise, and afterward a voice as of a great multitude, saying, 'Let us go hence.'** [Eusebius. *Ecclesiastical History*. Book 3 Chapter 8 Sections 1-6. Translated by Arthur Cushman McGiffert. From *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Second Series*, Vol. 1. Edited by Philip Schaff and Henry Wace. (Buffalo, NY: Christian Literature Publishing Co., 1890.) Revised and edited for New Advent by Kevin Knight. Found here: <<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/250103.htm> >.]

## Eusebius (Kirsopp Lake)

And after the feast, not many days later, on the twenty-first of May, **a demonic phantom appeared of incredible size**, and what will be related would have seemed a fairy-tale had it not been told by those who saw it, and been attended by suffering worthy of the portent. For before sunset **there appeared in the air over the whole country chariots and armed troops coursing through the clouds and surrounding the cities**. And at the feast called Pentecost the priests passed into the temple at night, as was their custom, for their services, and said that **they first perceived movement and noise and after that a sudden cry, "We go hence."** [Eusebius. *The Ecclesiastical History with an English Translation by Kirsopp Lake*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, and London: William Heinemann Ltd, 1926 originally, reprinted 1980. Book 3, Chapter 8, Sections 5-6.]

## Eusebius (Cruse)

But not many days after the feast, on the twenty-first of the month of Artimisium (May), **a wonderful spectre was seen, which surpasses all belief**. And indeed, that which I am about to tell would appear a prodigy, were it not related by those who had seen it, and unless the subsequent miseries had corresponded to the signs. For before the setting of the sun **there were seen chariots and armed troops on high, wheeling through the clouds around the whole region, and surrounding the cities**. And at the festival called Pentecost, the priests entering the temple at night according to their custom, to perform the service, said **they first perceived a motion and noise, and after this a confused voice saying, "Let us go hence."** [Eusebius. *The Ecclesiastical History of Eusebius Pamphilus*. Translated by Christian Frederick Cruse. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1971. Book 3, Chapter 8, Sections 5-6]

## Yosippon (Bowman)

Now it happened after this that **there was seen over the Holy of Holies from above for the entire night the outline of a man's face, the like of whose beauty had never been seen in all the land, and his appearance was very awesome.** Moreover, in those days were seen **chariots of fire and horsemen, a great force flying across the sky near to the ground coming against Jerusalem and all the land of Judah, all of them horses of fire and riders of fire.** When the holiday of **Shavu'oth [Pentecost]** came in those days, during the night **the priests heard within the Temple something like the sound of men going and the sound of men marching in a multitude going into the Temple, and a terrible and mighty voice was heard speaking: "Let's go and leave this House."** [*Sepher Yosippon: A Mediaeval History of Ancient Israel.* Translated from the Hebrew critical text of David Flusser by Steven B. Bowman. Excerpts from Chapter 87 "Burning of the Temple"]

## Pseudo-Hegesippus (Blocker)

Also after many days **a certain figure appeared of tremendous size, which many saw, just as the books of the Jews [Yosippon?] have disclosed,** and before the setting of the sun there were suddenly **seen in the clouds chariots and armed battle arrays, by which the cities of all Judaea and its territories were invaded.** Moreover in the celebration itself of the **Pentecost** the priests **entering the interior of the temple** at night time, that they might celebrate the usual sacrifices, asserted themselves at first to have **felt a certain movement** and a **sound** given forth, afterwards even to have heard shouted in a **sudden voice: "We cross over from here."** [*Pseudo-Hegesippus,* online text, public domain, translated from the Latin into English by Wade Blocker, made available online by Roger Pearse in 2005. This excerpt taken from Chapter 44, corresponding to pages 391-394 in the Latin critical text edited by Vincente Ussani entitled, *Hegesippi qui dicitur historiae libri V,* found in the *Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum* series, volume 66, Vienna: Hölder-Pichler-Tempsky (1932).]

## Tacitus (Wellesley)

**Prodigies** had occurred, which this nation, prone to superstition, but hating all religious rites, did not deem it lawful to expiate by offering and sacrifice. There had been seen **hosts joining battle in the skies, the fiery gleam of arms,** the temple illuminated by a sudden radiance from the clouds. The doors of the inner shrine were suddenly thrown open, and **a voice of more than mortal tone was heard to cry that the gods were departing. At the same instant there was a mighty stir as of departure.** [Tacitus. *The Histories: A New Translation by Kenneth Wellesley.* London: Cox & Wyman Ltd, and Penguin Books Ltd, 1972. Book 5, Section 13.]