at Jamnia, a city on the coast of Judea  
near Joppa. Many other such national  
tumults are recorded by Josephus. In  
one place he calls the sedition *a preface be  
the siege.* **famine**, and *pestilence*, which  
is coupled to it in Luke, are usual companions. With regard to the *first*, Greswell  
shews that the famine prophesied of  
in the Acts (xi. 28) happened in the ninth  
of Claudius, A.D. 49. It was great at  
Rome,—and therefore probably Egypt and  
Africa, on which the Romans depended so  
much for supplies, were themselves much  
affected by it. Suetonius of *continual droughts*; and Tacitus of *dearth  
of crops, and thence famine*, about the  
same time. There was a famine in Judea  
in the reign of Claudius (the true date of  
which however Mr. Greswell believes to be  
the third of Nero), mentioned by Josephus.  
And as to *pestilences*, though their occurrence  
might, as above, be inferred from  
the other, we have distinct accounts of a  
pestilence at Rome (A.D. 65) in Suetonius  
and Tacitus, which in a single autumn  
carried. off 30,000 persons at Rome. But  
sach matters as these are not often related  
by historians, unless of more than usual  
severity.

**earthquakes**] The principal  
*earthquakes* occurring between this prophecy  
and the destruction of Jerusalem  
were, (1) a great earthquake’ in Crete,  
A.D. 46 or 47; (2) one at Rome on the  
day when Nero assumed the manly toga   
A.D. 51; (8) one at Apamea in Phrygia,  
mentioned by Tacitus, A.D. 53; (4) one at  
Laodicea in Phrygia, A.D. 60; (5) one in  
Campania. Seneca, in the year ‘A.D. 58,  
writes :—‘ How often have cities of Asia  
and Achaea fallen with one fatal shock !  
how many cities have been swallowed up  
in Syria, how many in Macedonia! How  
often has Cyprus been wasted by this  
calamity! How often has Paphos become  
a ruin! News has often been brought  
us of the demolition of whole cities at  
once.”

The prophecy, mentioning in  
*divers* **places** (**place for place**,—i.e. here  
and there, each in its particular locality;  
as we say, “up and down”), does not seem  
to imply that the earthquakes should be in  
Judaea or Jerusalem. We have an account  
of one in Jerusalem, in Josephus, which  
Mr. Greswell (as above) places about Nov.  
A.D. 67. On the additions in Luke xxi.  
11, see notes there and on this whole  
passage see the prophecies in 2 Chron.xv.  
5—7, and Jer. li. 45, 46.

**{8} the beginning  
of sorrows** (literally **of birth pangs**)]  
in reference to the *regeneration* (ch. xix,  
28), which is to precede the *consummation  
of this age.* So Paul in Rom. viii. 22, the  
whole creation..*. travaileth together until  
now.* The death-throes of the Jewish state  
the ‘ regeneration’ of the universal  
Christian Church, as the death-throes of  
this world the new heavens and new earth.

**9—13.]** {9} **Then, at this time,—during  
this period**, not ‘after these things have  
happened.” These words serve only definitely  
to fix the time of the indefinite  
*then*, here and in ver. 10. The *then* in  
ver. 14 is, from the construction of the  
sentence, more definite. For kill you,  
Luke has *some of you shall they cause to  
be put to death*, viz. the Apostles. This  
ign was early given. James the brother  
of John was put to death, A.D. 44. P*eter  
and Paul* (traditionally) and J*ames the  
Lord’s brother*, before the destruction of  
Jerusalem: and possibly others.

**ye  
shall be hated]** See Acts xxviii. 22. Tacitus says that Nero, for the conflagration  
of Rome, persecuted the Christians, ‘*a race  
of men detested for their crimes*;’ also see  
1 Pet. ii, 12; iii, 16; iv. 14—16. In  
chap. x. 22, from which these verses are  
repeated, we have only “*of all*” (men)—  
here **nations** is added, giving particularity  
to the prophecy.

**10.**] See 2 Tim. iv.  
16, and the warnings against  
apostasy in the Epistle to the Hebrews.  
The persons spoken of in this verse are   
*Christians*. Tacitus says, that the first  
apprehended by Nero confessed, and then  
a great multitude were apprehended  
their information, xv. 44. On **offended**,  
see note, ch. xi, 6. On **hate one  
another**, compare the deadly hatred borne  
to St. Paul and his work by the Judaizers.