

Eusebius, The Life of Constantine: Aegae

CHAPTER LVI: Destruction of the Temple of Aesculapius at Aegae.

FOR since a wide-spread error of these pretenders to wisdom concerned the demon  
5 worshiped in Cilicia, whom thousands regarded with reverence as the possessor of  
saving and healing power, who sometimes appeared to those who passed the night in his  
temple, sometimes restored the diseased to health, though on the contrary he was a  
destroyer of souls, who drew his easily deluded worshipers from the true Saviour to  
involve them in impious error, the emperor, consistently with his practice, and  
10 desire to advance the worship of him who is at once a jealous God and the true  
Saviour, gave directions that this temple also should be razed to the ground. In  
prompt obedience to this command, a band of soldiers laid this building, the  
admiration of noble philosophers, prostrate in the dust, together with its unseen  
inmate, neither demon nor god, but rather a deceiver of souls, who had seduced  
15 mankind for so long a time through various ages. And thus he who had promised to  
others deliverance from misfortune and distress, could find no means for his own  
security, any more than when, as is told in myth, he was scorched by the lightning's  
stroke. Our emperor's pious deeds, however, had in them nothing fabulous or feigned;  
but by virtue of the manifested power of his Saviour, this temple as well as others  
was so utterly overthrown, that not a vestige of the former follies was left behind.