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The Talmud related that once Rabbi Akiva and other Sages were walking in view of the Temple Mount, and they saw a fox playing on the place where the Holy of Holies once stood. The Sages cried, and Akiva laughed. They cried because they were seeing the fulfillment of the disturbing prophecy that foxes will walk on Mount Zion. When they asked Akiva why he was laughing, he said: "If this prophecy of destruction is fulfilled I am assured that God will also fulfill the prophecy of Jerusalem rebuilt."