

--- Agrippa I ---

3994 AM, 4704 JP, 10 BC

5988. About this time, the lame man was born who was more than forty years old when he was healed by Peter at the gate called Beautiful at the temple. {#Ac 4:22} Agrippa was born, who was the first king of the Jews by that name, and who died when struck by an angel when he was fifty-four years old. {#Ac 12:23} {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 19. c. 8. s. 2. (350) 9:381}

4030b AM, 4740 JP, 27 AD

6293. Herod Agrippa, the son of Aristobulus, had by Cypros, the daughter of Phasael Agrippa the younger, a son who was the last king of the Jews. This Herod the younger is mentioned in Acts. {#Ac 25:1-26:32} He was seventeen years old when his father died. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 18. c. 5. s. 4. (137) 9:93} {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 19. c. 9. s. 1. (354) 9:383}

4039b AM, 4749 JP, 36 AD

6551. Agrippa, the son of Aristobulus, when he was in great financial need at Ptolemais, borrowed money at interest from Protus, a freedman, as he had previously done from his mother Bernice, who had since died.

6563. Gaius Caligula maintained a close friendship with Agrippa.

4040a AM, 4749 JP, 36 AD

6566. When Tiberius came from Capri to Tusculum, which was a region about twelve miles from Rome, he was persuaded, although much against his will, that he should hear Eutychus, so that they would know of what crime he was accusing his patron. When he looked into the matter, he found that Agrippa had neglected his commands to honour his grandson Tiberius, Drusus' son, and had wholly given himself over to Gaius. [E856] So he ordered Macro, who had succeeded Sejanus in the command of the praetorian guard, to bind Agrippa.

4040b AM, 4750 JP, 37 AD

6572. After the death of Tiberius was known, Marsyas ran to his patron Agrippa, whom he found bathing himself. He nodded his head and told him in Hebrew:

"The lion is dead."

6573. When the centurion who was responsible for him, heard from them that Tiberius was dead, he took off Agrippa's bonds and wished them well. As they were merrily eating and drinking, someone came and said Tiberius was still alive and that he would shortly return to the city. The centurion was terrified by this and ordered Agrippa to be pushed away from the rabble and bound and to be more carefully guarded. The next day, Gaius sent two letters: One

went to the Senate, stating that Gaius had succeeded Tiberius in the empire; the other went to Piso, the prefect of the city, and said the same thing, adding that he should set Agrippa free and restore him to the house where he had previously lived. Although he had been a prisoner, he had nevertheless lived at his own discretion. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 18. c. 6. s. 10. (228-236) 9:139-143}

6574. Gaius returned to Rome, bringing the body of Tiberius. He held a very lavish funeral with great solemnity. He would have released Agrippa on the same day but on the advice of Antonia, he did not. She wished Agrippa well, but said he should not free him too quickly, in case he seemed to be doing this out of hatred for Tiberius, who had imprisoned Agrippa. [E857] Not many days later, however, he sent for him at his house and ordered his hair to be cut, changed his clothes and then put a crown on his head. [K628] He made him king of Philip's tetrarchy and also gave him the tetrarchy of Lysanias. He changed his chain of iron into a chain of gold of the same weight, and sent Marullus as cavalry commander to Judea. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 18. c. 6. s. 10. (236,237) 9:143}

6575. Gaius Caligula freed Agrippa, the grandson of Herod, from bonds which Tiberius had put on him, and gave him his grandfather's principality. {*Dio, l. 59. (8) 7:283} Philo stated that he was honoured with the office of governor by the

Roman Senate, and that Gaius gave him the kingdom and the third part of the old dominion that his uncle Philip had possessed. {*Philo, Flaccus, l. 1. c. 5. (25,26) 9:317}

6578. Four days later, Vitellius received letters of Tiberius' death, after which he made the people take the oath of fidelity to the new emperor, Gaius. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 18. c. 5. s. 3. (124) 9:87} Thereupon, Agrippa sent letters to Gaius and stated: {*Philo, Gaius, l. 1. c. 36. (288) 10:145}

"They greatly desired succession, (Oh emperor), and it was first heard of at Jerusalem and the same news was diffused to the neighbouring provinces from the holy city. Since this city, of all the east, first greeted you as emperor, it is fitting that it should be treated more graciously by you."

6579. In the councils of the Jews, in their speech made some time later to Petronius, Agrippa said something very similar: {*Philo, Gaius, l. 1. c. 32. (231,233) 10:121}

"When Gaius had obtained the empire, we first, of all Syria, congratulated you with Vitellius, (whose successor you are.) He was in our city and had received letters concerning this business. We spread this joyful news to other cities and our temple was the first of all temples to sacrifice for the empire of Gaius."

4041b AM, 4751 JP, 38 AD

6593. Herod Agrippa had a daughter by Cypros, whom he named Drusilla, (and who later married Felix.) {#Ac 24:24} She was six years old when her father died. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 18. c. 5. s. 4. (132,133) 9:91} {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 19. c. 9. s. 1. (354,355) 9:385}

6597. In the second year of Caligula's reign, Herod Agrippa asked permission to return home to settle the affairs of his kingdom, promising that when he had done that, he would return. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 18. c. 6. s. 11. (238,239) 9:145} [E859] [K631]

4042b AM, 4752 JP, 39 AD

6609. Herodias, the sister of Agrippa and wife of Herod the tetrarch, was mad with envy to see Agrippa so glorious in his kingly majesty. She persuaded her husband, Herod, that they should go to Rome and beg Caesar for similar honours... Gaius thought he had enough evidence of a planned revolt and took the tetrarchy of Galilee and Peraea from him, later adding it to Agrippa's kingdom, together with all of Herod's treasure.

4043b AM, 4753 JP, 40 AD

6633. When Agrippa came to greet Gaius in his usual manner, he looked at him sternly and said:

"Your good and honest citizens, who alone of all mankind think it scornful to have Gaius for a god, are actually taking a course of action which is likely to bring destruction upon themselves because of their rebellious contempt for the law. [K639] When I ordered the statue of Jupiter to be dedicated in their temple, they fled as one body from the city-not, indeed, like suppliants, but truly despisers of my commands."

6634. At these words, Agrippa was so struck with horror, that he trembled and his knees knocked together and would certainly have fallen to the ground, had not the bystanders supported him. They were ordered to carry him home in that condition. Due to the suddenness of the events, Agrippa had lost his memory and had grown quite stupid and senseless. Gaius, however, was all the more exasperated against the country of the Jews and said: {*Philo, Gaius, l. 1. c. 35. (261-268) 10:135,137}

"If Agrippa, who is my close friend and obliged to me by so many benefits, is so attached to his country's customs that he cannot endure that they be violated, even if only by my word, without fainting, what is to be expected from those who have no tie to restrain them?"

6635. When Agrippa was come to himself, he wrote a very long letter to Gaius on behalf of his country. {*Philo, Gaius, l.

1. c. 36-41. (276-329) 10:139-165} (Philo placed a copy of it in his book.) He closed with this epilogue:

"What will my countrymen or anyone else say of me? For either it will follow that I betrayed my country, or I must be blotted out from the list of your friends. Which of the two can be more unhappy? For before this, I was your close friend, and now I shall be considered a traitor if I do not keep my country from indemnity, nor the temple sacred. For you have the power for the protection of men. If I am offensive to you in anything, do me the favour not to bind me, as Tiberius did, but, lest I should live with the fear of bonds, kill me immediately. For what need do I then have of life, since the hope of my welfare rests wholly on your favour."

6636. Gaius seemed to be somewhat appeased by these letters and replied more mildly, granting Agrippa the great favour that the statue should not be dedicated. He wrote the same to Petronius, the governor of Syria, that he cause no sedition in the temple of the Jews. In case this favour should seem too generous, he added some terror and by writing:

"If anyone in the other province, or anywhere outside the metropolis in any other city, shall be pleased to dedicate any temple or altar to me, let whoever shall oppose it either be executed immediately, or sent to me."

6637. Divine providence so ordained that no one in any of the other provinces planned to do this. {*Philo, Gaius, l. 1. c. 42. (330-333) 10:165,167}

4044b AM, 4754 JP, 41 AD

6647. King Agrippa heard that the empire had been forced upon Claudius by the soldiers. Getting through the multitude with a great deal of difficulty, he reached Claudius and found him troubled and wanting to resign his place to the Senate. Agrippa dispelled his fears and encouraged him to go on courageously and assume the empire. When Agrippa was called by the Senate, he pretended that he knew nothing of the business and arrived as if ready to dine. He asked them what had been done about Claudius and they told him the truth and asked his advice. He said he would avoid no danger where the dignity of the Senate was at stake, and that he thought the best way forward was to send someone to Claudius who could persuade him to surrender his authority. He offered to be a part of that embassy. [E866] When Agrippa was sent with others to Claudius, he told him plainly the state of fear the Senate was in and advised him to answer like a prince. Agrippa was the reason that Claudius was more lenient with the Senate than he would otherwise have been. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 19. c. 4. s. 1,2. (236-247) 9:325-329}

6649. Claudius enlarged Agrippa's kingdom, since he had helped him to get the empire and was at Rome at the time. Claudius also bestowed on him the honours of a consul. He gave his brother Herod praetorian honours, the principality of Chalcis, and permitted them to go into the Senate and to thank the senators. {*Dio, l. 60. (8) 7:387}

6656. Through his letters, Claudius commended Agrippa to all the governors of the provinces. He sent King Agrippa into his own kingdom to take care of it. Agrippa made a very large expedition and came to Jerusalem, where he paid his vows. He omitted nothing prescribed by the law. He ordered many Nazarites to be shaven. In the holy temple over the treasury, he hung up a gold chain which he had received from Gaius, as a memorial of his many miseries and happy deliverances by God. When he had duly performed his vows to God, he removed Theophilus, the son of Ananus, from the high priesthood and appointed Simon, surnamed Cantheras, in his place. [E867] Simon was the son of Boethus, whose daughter Herod the Great had married. Agrippa gained the goodwill and gratitude of the people at Jerusalem, by remitting a tribute to them which was paid annually by household. [K643] He made Silas, who was his constant companion in all his difficulties and plans, master over all the army. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 19. c. 6. s. 1-3. (292-299) 9:353-357}

6657. A little after this, under the pretence of religion, certain rash young men from Dora erected a statue to Caesar in the temple at Jerusalem. Agrippa, the king of the Jews, was very angry and immediately went into Syria to Petronius to complain about their impudent boldness. Petronius was equally offended by this impious action, especially since it went directly against the laws of the empire. He wrote very sharply to the magistrates of the city of Dora, ordering them to bind and send to him those men, whoever they were, who had dared do such actions that were so contrary to the emperor's edicts. He ordered them never to let this happen again. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 19. c. 6. s. 3,4. (299-316) 9:356-363}

4045 AM, 4755 JP, 42 AD

6664. King Agrippa now turned his attention to Jerusalem. He fortified the walls of the section called the New City and made the gates wider and higher than they had been before, while doing all this at the public expense. He would have completed the walls to the point where they would have been impregnable by human force, had not Marsus, the governor of Syria, written letters to Claudius about this. The emperor, suspecting that the Jews were about to attempt some sedition, wrote earnestly to Agrippa that he should stop this work and he obeyed at once. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 19. c. 7. s. 2. (326-328) 9:367,369}

4047 AM, 4757 JP, 44 AD

6674. The famine foretold by Agabus increased, and the Christians of Antioch collected a gift for their friends living in Judea. They sent it by Barnabas and Saul, after these two had preached the word of the Lord to the people of Antioch for a whole year. {#Ac 11:26,29,30}

6675. About this time, King Herod Agrippa (as the Syriac paraphrase correctly called him) apprehended those who belonged to the church, {#Ac 12:1} because they opposed the institutions and rites of their country, of which Agrippa was a most religious observer. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 19. c. 6. s. 3. (300) 9:357}

6676. Agrippa killed James, the son of Zebedee and brother of John, with a sword. {#Ac 12:2} Clement of Alexandria, from the tradition of his ancestors, added that the very same man who brought James to judgment became a Christian. [E869] He saw how freely James gave his testimony of Jesus and that he publicly confessed to being a Christian, in spite of having received most severe warnings. Therefore, when they were brought together for punishment, he asked James' forgiveness and James treated it as a small thing and said:

"Peace be to you."

6677. James kissed him and so they were both later beheaded. {*Clement, Hypotyposes, l. 7. 2:579} {*Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, l. 2. c. 9. 1:127} [K646]

6678. When the king saw that the death of James pleased the people, he cast Peter into prison during the days of the feast of unleavened bread. He was guarded by sixteen soldiers. Agrippa intended to bring him out to the people after the passover. The church prayed daily for him and an angel of the Lord delivered him miraculously in the night. He went to the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. He told them of his deliverance, so that they could inform James, the son of Alphaeus and brother of our Lord, and the rest of the believers. Peter then went to another place. {#Ac 12:3-17}

6679. Herod Agrippa was frustrated and in a rage, ordered the innocent keepers to be dragged to execution. He travelled down to Caesarea and stayed there. He was displeased with the people of Tyre and Sidon, whose land was not sufficient to maintain them, especially in that year of famine, and who were therefore forced to seek sustenance from Galilee and other places under Herod's jurisdiction. Consequently, they came to him unanimously through the mediation of Blastus, the king's chamberlain, whom they had befriended, wishing to make peace with him. A day was appointed and Herod sat before the tribunal in his royal attire and made a speech to

them. With acclamations, the people kept shouting that this was the voice of a god, not a man. At once, an angel of the Lord smote him, because he had not given the glory to God. He was eaten up by worms and died. {#Ac 12:18-23}

6684. When it was known for certain that Agrippa was dead, the people of Caesarea and Sebaste (two cities which were built by his father), acted like enemies of the dead prince. The common soldiers, with one accord, dragged his and his daughters' statues from the palace and brought them into the brothels. They abused them in such calumnious ways that it was a shame to recount. They made feasts and banquets in every public place. To express their great happiness, they adorned themselves with garlands and anointed their bodies. They sacrificed and made offerings to Charon and even worshipped one another, for the joy they felt over the death of the king. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 19. c. 9. s. 1. (356-359) 9:385,387}