

--- Herod I ---

3932b AM, 4642 JP, 72 BC

4156. Antipas or Antipater, the Idumean, was the foremost citizen of their country with regard to birth and wealth. He was the son of the other Antipas or Antipater, who they say was the son of Alexander, the king of the Jews, and his wife Alexandra. Antipater was made governor of all Idumea and was married to Cyprus, who was born at a famous place among the Arabians. He had a son called Herod, who later became the king of Judea.

3957c AM, 4667 JP, 47 BC

5026. After Antipater had followed Caesar from Syria, he returned into Judea. As he was making his rounds through the province, he repressed, by using both threats and reasoning all those who were rebellious. He told them that if they were content with their prince Hyrcanus, they would live happily in their own land. But if they thought they could do better by rebelling, they would have himself as master instead of governor, Hyrcanus as a tyrant instead of a king, and Caesar and the Romans would be their very bitter enemies, instead of princes. [E667] Because of this, Antipater would definitely not allow anything to be changed from what they agreed on. When Antipater realised that Hyrcanus was dull and idle, he settled the state of the province as he pleased. He made his older son, Phasael, the governor of

Jerusalem and the neighbouring countries and gave the care of Galilee to Herod, who was his second oldest son and a very young man. {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 1. c. 10. s. 4. (201-203) 2:93,95} {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 9. s. 1,2. (156-158) 7:531,533}

5050. Herod, the prefect of Galilee, captured Hezekiah, a Jew, and his many accomplices in thievery who were accustomed to invade Syria with his bands. Herod put him to death and this gained him much favour with the Syrians. Then he governed the province of Syria. {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 1. c. 10. s. 5. (204,205) 2:95} {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 9. s. 2. (158-161) 7:533,535} [K358]

3958a AM, 4667 JP, 47 BC

5056. The noblemen of the Jews began to detest Antipater and his sons, because they were so highly honoured by the Jewish nation and became rich through the money from Hyrcanus and the revenues from Judea. Antipater befriended the Roman generals and persuaded Hyrcanus to send them money. He got the credit for this gift, as if he had sent it from his own treasury rather than having received it from Hyrcanus. When Hyrcanus heard about this, he was not angry, but accepted it. However, the violence and bold nature of Herod, who wanted the government for himself, terrified the princes of the Jews the most. For this reason, they went to Hyrcanus and publicly accused Antipater. Most

of all, they complained about Herod because he had put Hezekiah to death, along with many others, without having received any order from Hyrcanus. This was in contempt of the laws, by which no man was punished, no matter how wicked, unless he had first been condemned by the judges. Every day, the mothers of those who had been killed did not stop complaining and crying in the temple, thereby persuading both the king and the people that Herod should give an account of his actions before the Sanhedrin. Because of this, Hyrcanus yielded to their requests and ordered that Herod be summoned before the council to plead his own case. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 9. s. 3. (163-167) 7:535-539}

5057. When Herod had arranged the affairs of Galilee as he thought best for himself, he was warned by his father that he should not go into the council alone. He should take with him a moderate but adequate guard, in case he should terrify Hyrcanus if he brought too many. Neither should he leave himself exposed to any danger from the trial. When Herod presented himself before the Sanhedrin in his royal robes with his guard in arms, they were all astonished. Nor did anyone, who had accused him when he was absent, dare to speak a word against him now that he was present. Everyone was silent not knowing what to do. Then Samaias spoke, who was one of the council. He was a just man and for this reason not afraid and that old proverb of the Hebrews shows that he was not a hot-spirited man.

"Be thou humble as Hillel, and not Ndpq angry as Sameas"

5058. He accused Herod of presumption and violence, but laid the blame on the judges and the king himself, who had granted him such great liberty. He later said that, by the just judgment of God, they would be punished by Herod himself. This actually happened, for the judges of that council and Hyrcanus were put to death by Herod when he was king. When Hyrcanus saw that the judges were inclined to condemn Herod, he deferred the business until the next day. He privately advised Herod to take care of himself. So Herod left for Damascus, as though he were fleeing from the king, and presented himself before Sextus Caesar. Having secured his own affairs, Herod professed publicly that he would not appear, if he were to be cited again before the judges. The judges took this with great disdain and tried to convince Hyrcanus that all these things would be his downfall. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 9. s. 4,5. (168-184) 7:539-547}

3958b AM, 4668 JP, 46 BC

5062. After Sextus Caesar had been bribed by Herod, he made Herod the governor of Coelosyria. Herod was quite upset that he had been called before the council and planned to lead an army against Hyrcanus. However, the entreaties of his father Antipater and brother Phasael prevented him from invading Jerusalem. They tried to appease him and wanted him to be content with giving them a good fright, but

doing them no harm. He was to do no more, and obey his father, who had given him his power and government. Herod obeyed this advice, believing that he had done sufficient for his future plans and had shown the country that he was a force to be reckoned with. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 9. s. 5. (180-184) 7:543-547}

3961b AM, 4671 JP, 43 BC

5221. When Cassius and Murcus had gathered an army, they made Herod governor of all Coelosyria. They gave him large forces of foot soldiers, cavalry and naval ships. They promised him the kingdom of Judea after the end of the war they were having against Antony and the young Caesar. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 11. s. 4. (280) 7:599} {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 1. c. 11. s. 4. (225) 2:105}

3963b AM, 4673 JP, 41 BC

5353. In Bithynia, Antony met embassies from many different countries. The rulers of the Jews were there to accuse Phasael and Herod, as maintaining that Hyrcanus reigned only as a puppet and that, in actual fact, the two brothers had all the power. However, Antony greatly honoured Herod, who had come there to clear himself of these accusations, and so it came about that his adversaries were not so much as even admitted to speak to Antony. Herod had arranged this by bribing Antony. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 12. s. 2. (301-303) 7:609,611}

5424. Antony was stirred by the story and also recalled the friendship of Antipater, Herod's father. He was especially moved both by the promise of money if he made Herod king, and by his hatred of Antigonus, who was a man of a turbulent spirit and an enemy to the Romans. This made him more inclined toward Herod. Octavius was also sympathetic because Antipater had been a fellow soldier with his father in Egypt and because of other courtesies which Antipater had shown his father. To satisfy Antony, who, he knew, was well disposed toward Herod, Octavius was willing to promote his endeavours. Therefore the Senate was convened. Messala and Atratinus brought out Herod. After they had praised him, they recalled the services and goodwill that both his father and he had done for the Romans. They accused Antigonus for previous crimes and for his recent sedition against the Romans, in which he had received the kingdom from the Parthians. Antony declared to the Senate how helpful it would be to the Parthian war that was still raging, if Herod were to be made king. Antigonus was declared an enemy and the title of King was given to Herod by their general consent. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 14. s. 4. (381-385) 7:649,651} {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 1. c. 14. s. 4. (282-285) 2:133,135}

3966b AM, 4676 JP, 38 BC

5469. In the beginning of the third year after Herod had been declared king at Rome, he came with an army to Jerusalem and camped near the city. [E723] He soon moved closer to the place where he first planned to assault the walls. Placing his tents before the temple, he intended to assail the walls where Pompey had done in the past. To that end, he surrounded the place with three bulwarks and erected his batteries with the help of many workmen. He brought materials from every nearby place. He placed suitable men to oversee the works, while he went to Samaria to solemnise his marriage with Mariamme, the daughter of Alexander, son of Aristobulus. She had earlier been betrothed to him. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 15. s. 14. (465-467) 7:689} {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 1. c. 17. s. 8. (343,344) 2:161}

3967a AM, 4676 JP, 38 BC

5473. The sabbatical year was now approaching and brought a famine to the Jews who were besieged. In spite of this, they built a new wall to replace the sections which had been battered down by the engines. [K435] They countermined the enemies' mines, so that sometimes they fought hand-to-hand underground and using despair rather than courage, they held out to the last. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 16. s. 2. (475) 7:695} Pollion, the Pharisee, and his disciple, Samaias, advised them to let Herod into the city, saying that, because

of their sins, it was inevitable that Herod would be their king.
{*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 9. s. 4. (175,176) 7:543}
{*Josephus, Antiq., l. 15. c. 1. s. 1. (3,4) 8:3,5}

5474. For five months they held out in the siege in spite of the large army besieging them. {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 1. c. 18. s. 1. (351) 2:165} Finally, twenty of Herod's best soldiers got on the wall and were followed by the centurions of Sossius. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 16. s. 2. (476) 7:695}

5475. The first wall was taken on the fortieth day and the second one on the fiftieth. Some galleries around the temple were burned, for which Herod blamed Antigonus, so that the people would hate him. The outer part of the temple was taken and then the lower city. The Jews fled into the inner part of the temple and the upper city. Fearing that they would be hindered from offering the daily sacrifices to God, they sent envoys to ask permission that those beasts only might be brought in. Herod granted this, in the hope that they would then be less obstinate and submit themselves. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 16. s. 2. (476,477) 7:697}

3967b AM, 4677 JP, 37 BC

5476. When Herod saw that this was not going to happen and that the besieged were obstinately fighting to protect the government of Antigonus, Herod made a general assault and took the city. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 16. s. 4. (487) 7:701}
This was on the Calends of January (January 1st) 37 BC, or

4677 JP, on the 2nd day of the month of Chisleu. According to the eastern people's records of the civil year, this was in the 3rd month, on the 28th day, when the Jews kept a solemn fast in memory of the holy scroll that was burned by Jehoiakim. {See note on 3941a AM. <<4528>>}

5479. After the city was captured, it was filled with the bodies of the murdered. The Romans were incensed that they had been forced to continue the siege for so long and the Herodian Jews tried to eliminate the opposing faction, so there were continual slaughters through the porches and houses. The reverence of the temple did not save the suppliants. They spared no one, regardless of age or gender, not even children. Although Herod begged and entreated them to stop, no one obeyed him, but they all continued as if mad and showed their cruelty without respect of age. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 16. s. 2. (479,480) 7:697} {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 1. c. 18. s. 2. (351,352) 2:165}

5480. Antigonus came down from the town and fell at Sossius' feet. Sossius did not show him any pity because of the change in his fortune, but insulted him by calling him Madam Antigone. He put him in prison and set keepers over him. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 16. s. 2. (481) 7:697,699} {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 1. c. 18. s. 2. (353) 2:165,167}

5481. When a number of mercenaries rushed into the temple and even into its inner sanctuary, Herod restrained them by entreaty, some by threats and some by force of arms. He thought his victory would be worse for him than if he had been defeated, if any of those things which it was not lawful to see, were to be seen by the common people. He forbade any plundering in the city, as much he was able. He entreated Sossius, as well, and asked if the Romans wanted to make him king of a wilderness, since the city was so depopulated by pillaging and murders. Sossius replied that the soldiers wanted the plunder of the city because of the long siege they had endured. Herod answered that he would reward every man from his own treasury and so he freed the city from any further trouble. He kept his promise and generously gave gifts to the soldiers and proportionally to the commanders and royally to Sossius. Hence, Sossius offered a crown of gold to God and left Jerusalem, taking Antigonus with him as a prisoner to Antony. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 16. s. 3,4. (482-488) 7:699,701} {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 1. c. 18. s. 3. (354-357) 2:167}

5482. Herod made a distinction between the people of the city. He promoted those on his side and daily killed some of those on the opposing side. {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 1. c. 18. s. 4. (358) 2:167,169} {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 15. c. 1. s. 1. (1,2) 8:3} Among those whom he killed were all those judges of the great Sanhedrin who had accused him of some capital

crime before he was king. He spared Pollion, the Pharisee, and his disciple, Samaias, and highly honoured them. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 14. c. 9. s. 4. (175,176) 7:543} {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 15. c. 1. s. 1. (3,4) 8:3,5}

5483. He gathered together all the royal ornaments. By collections and by taking away from rich men, he acquired a large amount of gold and silver, which he gave to Antony and his soldiers. He put to death forty-five of Antigonus' chief noblemen and set a watch at the doors so that none of the noblemen would be carried out under the pretence of being dead. All the gold or silver that was found was brought to Herod, so that there was no end to these miseries. The covetousness of the needy conqueror consumed all their goods. Since it was a sabbatical year, the fields were not being tilled, for it was unlawful to sow them. {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 1. c. 18. s. 4. (359) 2:169} {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 15. c. 1. s. 2. (5-7) 8:5}

5484. These miserable times were witnessed by the priest Zacharias and his wife Elizabeth. Of the remains of David's family, Heli and Joseph saw these things. It was also witnessed by Anna, the prophetess, of the tribe of Asher, and by Simeon the Just, who received an answer from the Holy Spirit that he should not see death until he had seen the Lord's Christ. {#Lu 2:26} [K437]

3967b AM, 4677 JP, 37 BC

5942. All the necessary materials for starting the temple where assembled within two years' time. Herod began to build the temple of Jerusalem, 46 years before the first passover of the ministry of Christ. This is confirmed by the words of the Jews: Joh 2:20

3972b AM, 4682 JP, 32 BC

5636. After King Herod had settled the troubles of Judea and had taken Hyrcanium, (a town which the sister of Antigonus had retained,) the war started at Actium in the 187th Olympiad, which was this summer. Herod made great preparations to help Antony but Antony relieved him of this obligation by saying he did not require help. When Antony heard from Cleopatra and others of the wrongdoings of the Arabians, who refused to pay the tribute Antony had imposed, he ordered Herod to make war on them. Cleopatra also persuaded Antony that it would be to her advantage. She hoped that if Herod were to defeat the Arabians, she would be the mistress of Arabia, and conversely, if the Arabians defeated Herod, she would be the mistress of Judea. As a result, Herod returned home on Antony's orders and kept his army there. He soon invaded Arabia, with a good army of foot soldiers and cavalry. He went to Diospolis, where the Arabians met him, and after a fierce battle, the Jews won.

{*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 1. c. 19. s. 1,2. (364-366) 2:171}

{*Josephus, Antiq., l. 15. c. 5. s. 1. (108-111) 8:53,55}

3980b AM, 4690 JP, 24 BC

5879. Herod built a palace in Zion which contained two very large and stately houses, and with which the temple itself could in no way compare. He called one of them Caesarea, after Caesar, and the other Agrippium, after Agrippa.

{*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 1. c. 21. s. 1. (402) 2:189,191}

{*Josephus, Antiq., l. 15. c. 9. s. 3. (318) 8:153}

3988 AM, 4698 JP, 16 BC

5955. At Jerusalem, the priests completed the building of the temple, properly so called, because it contained the Holy and the Holy of Holies. [K516] This took about eighteen months, during which time it was reported that it never rained in the day, but only at nights. In the following eight years, the porches, the ranges and the rest of the buildings around the temple were all completed. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 15. c. 11. s. 6,7. (421-425) 8:205,207}

3993 AM, 4703 JP, 11 BC

5987. When Herod returned into Judea, he called the people together and told them what he had done on his journey. He told them that his sons were to reign after him, first Antipater and then Alexander and Aristobulus. The last two

were his sons by Mariamme. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 16. c. 4. s. 6. (132-134) 8:259} }

3996 AM, 4706 JP, 8 BC

5996. The man who was diseased started to lie by the pool of Bethesda. He was healed by Christ thirty-eight years later. {#Joh 5:5}

4000a AM, 4709 JP, 5 BC

The Seventh Age of the World

6059. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born of the most blessed virgin Mary at Bethlehem in the fulness of time. {#Mt 1:25 2:1,5 Ga 4:4} Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn. {#Lu 2:7}

4000b AM, 4710 JP, 4 BC

6061. The child was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth and was given the name Jesus, as had been foretold by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. {#Lu 2:21}

6062. The wise men from the east were guided by a star and came to Herod at Jerusalem. [K532] When they were told that the birthplace of Christ was in Bethlehem of Judea, they went there and entered the house which was shown to them by the star that stood over it. They found the little child with his mother, Mary. They fell down and worshipped him and

gave him their treasures of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They were warned by God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, and so they departed into their own country by another way. {#Mt 2:1-12}

6066. The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and warned him to flee to Egypt, to save the life of the child and escape the machinations of Herod. When he awoke, he took the young child and his mother and went by night into Egypt, where he remained until the death of Herod. {#Mt 2:13-15}

6067. Herod thought the young child was still at Bethlehem. He killed all the children who were in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding area, who were two years old or less. This was in accordance with the time when the star was first seen in the east and when the wise men enquired about the child. {#Mt 2:16}

6077. Augustus heard of the edict of Herod, by which all the children who were two years old or under were ordered to be killed. When he heard that one of Herod's own sons was also killed because of this same edict, he said that: {Macrobius, Saturnalia, l. 2. c. 4.}

"It was better to be Herod's sow, than his son."

6078. By an edict, Herod convened to Jericho the most noble of the Jews from every place and locked them up in a place called the hippodrome. He told his sister Salome and her husband Alexas that, as soon as he was dead, they were to order the soldiers to kill all those who were confined in the hippodrome, so that the people would have cause for sorrow. Otherwise, they would rejoice at the death of their king, whom they hated so much. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 17. c. 6. s. 5. (173,174) 8:451,453}

6079. Letters came from Rome from the envoys who had been sent to Caesar. They stated that Acme had been put to death by Caesar, who was angry over her involvement in Antipater's conspiracy, and that Antipater had been left to his father's pleasure, either to be banished or be put to death. When Herod heard these things, he was cheered a little, but presently he was in pain again. He was hungry and called for an apple and a knife to peel it. [K535] When he tried to stab himself, his nephew Achiabus prevented him and called for help as he held out Herod's right hand. A great sorrow, with fear and tumult, struck the whole palace, as if Herod had been dead. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 17. c. 7. s. 1. (182, -184) 8:455,457}

6080. When Antipater heard the noise, he thought for certain that his father was dead. He began to bargain with his keeper about letting him out, promising him many things, now and in the future, when it was within his power. The keeper told the king, who cried out in sheer anger. Although he was so near death, he still raised himself up in his bed and ordered one of his guard to go at once and execute Antipater. He was to be buried in the citadel of Hyrcania without any honour. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 17. c. 7. s. 1. (185-187) 8:457,459}

6081. Then Herod changed his mind and made a new will. He made Antipas, whom he had made his successor in the kingdom, tetrarch of Galilee and Peraea instead. He gave the kingdom to Archelaus and assigned the regions of Gaulanitis, Trachonitis, Batanea and Paneas to his son Philip in the name of a tetrarchy. To his sister Salome he gave Jamnia, Azotus and Phasaelis, with five hundred thousand drachmas. To the rest of his family he gave money and yearly pensions. To Caesar he gave ten million drachmas of silver and all his vessels, as well as gold, silver and a large quantity of precious clothes. To Livia, Caesar's wife, and to some certain friends, he gave five million drachmas. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 17. c. 8. s. 1. (188-190) 8:459}

6082. After Herod had ordered these things, he died on the fifth day after he had executed Antipater. [E795] He had held the kingdom for thirty-four years after having killed

Antigonus, but thirty-seven years from the time that he was declared king by the Romans. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 17. c. 8. s. 1. (191) 8:459} He died about the 25th of November, that is, the 7th of the month of Chisleu, which was therefore accounted a joyful and a festival day, because on that day:

"Herod died, who hated all wise men."