

--- Agrippa II ---

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}

4047 AM, 4757 JP, 44 AD

6687. When Claudius wanted to send the young Agrippa into his kingdom to succeed his father, Claudius' freedmen and his friends, who had much influence with Claudius, dissuaded him. They said it was dangerous to commit so large a kingdom to so young a youth, who had barely reached manhood. He was very unqualified to rule there, since the kingdom required a large force of soldiers to keep it. Claudius could not deny that they spoke rationally and truly. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 19. c. 9. s. 2. (360-362) 9:387} Although, in actual fact, their aim was the government of that kingdom, by which to make themselves rich. Tacitus stated: {*Tacitus, Histories, l. 5. c. 9. 3:191}

"When the kings either had all died, or lost most of their territory, Claudius made Judah into a province to be governed by Roman equestrians or freedmen."

6688. Therefore, Claudius made Cuspius Fadus governor of Judea and the entire kingdom of Agrippa (which was much larger than the first kingdom of Herod, his grandfather.) Claudius honoured the dead king in this, in that he would not bring Marsus, his enemy, into his kingdom.

4048b AM, 4758 JP, 45 AD

6694. Through the intercession of Agrippa, who was with Claudius at the time, the envoys from Jerusalem obtained confirmation of the privilege which had first been granted to them by Vitellius, of retaining the holy garments. They also received a written ruling about this matter from the emperor, in the fifth year of his tribunal power, to take to the magistrates at Jerusalem.

6695. About the same time, Herod, the king of Chalcis, successfully petitioned Claudius for the authority over the temple and the holy treasury, as well as the right to choose the high priests. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 20. c. 1. s. 3. (15,16) 10:9,11}

4053a AM, 4762 JP, 49 AD

6742. When King Sohaemus of Iturea and King Agrippa of Judea had died, their countries were added to the province of Syria. {*Tacitus, Annals, l. 12. c. 23. 4:347} Josephus calculated the length of the reign of Agrippa the Younger:

He stated that the beginning of the Jewish war, which started in May 66 AD, was in the seventeenth year of King Agrippa. {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 2. c. 14. s. 4. (284,285) 2:435} It can also be calculated from the Greek money, which stated that when Judea was taken, around September 70 AD, it was the twenty-first year of Agrippa. Claudius did not give Agrippa the Younger his father's kingdom of Judea, but gave him the kingdom of his uncle, Herod of Chalcis. Agrippa also received authority over the temple and holy treasury and the right to choose the high priests, which had earlier been granted to his uncle Herod. {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 2. c. 12. s. 1. (223) 2:411}

4056 AM, 4766 JP, 53 AD

6771. Cumanus and the Samaritans were sent to Rome. On an appointed day, they were ordered to defend their actions. They obtained the favour of Caesar's freedmen and friends and would have won their case, but King Agrippa, the Younger, who was living at Rome, saw that the rulers of the Jews were being overpowered by the favour of the great ones. [K663] So, with persistent entreating, he convinced Agrippina, the wife of Claudius, to persuade her husband to hear the matter fully and execute justice on those he found to be the authors of the sedition. Claudius yielded to their requests and when he had heard both sides, he realised that the Samaritans had started the fighting. Claudius executed

those who had come before him to plead their cause. He punished Cumanus with banishment and sent Celer, the tribune, to Jerusalem as a prisoner, to be turned over to the Jews to be punished; he was to be dragged through the city and then beheaded. {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 2. c. 12. s. 7. (245,246) 2:419} {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 20. c. 6. s. 3. (134-136) 10:71,73}

6775. King Agrippa, the Younger, had governed Chalcis for four years. After the twelfth year of ruling his empire, Claudius took Chalcis from Agrippa and gave him a larger jurisdiction. He received the tetrarchy of Philip, which contained Batanea, Gaulanitis and Trachonitis. He also added Abilene, or Abila, which was the tetrarchy of Lysanias, and which had been governed by Varus.

{*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 2. c. 12. s. 8. (247,248) 2:421}

{*Josephus, Antiq., l. 20. c. 7. s. 1. (138) 10:75}

4058b AM, 4768 JP, 55 AD

6810. In the first year of Nero's empire, Azizus, the king of Emesa, died and his brother Sohaemus succeeded him in the kingdom. Aristobulus, the son of Herod, king of Chalcis, received the kingdom of Lesser Armenia from Nero, as already mentioned from Tacitus. Nero added four cities to the kingdom of Agrippa, together with all the land belonging to them. [K669] In Galilee, he received the cities of Tiberias and Tarichea. In Iturea beyond Jordan, he was given Abila

and Julias. He received the land that contained fourteen villages. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 20. c. 8. s. 4. (158,159) 10:87,89} {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 2. c. 13. s. 2. (252) 2:421}

4064 AM, 4774 JP, 61 AD

6864. At the same time, King Agrippa conferred the high priesthood on Ishmael, the son of Phabi. A dispute also arose between the chief priests and the rest of the priests and rulers of Jerusalem. Both factions were guarded by a company of very bold and seditious men, who decided their arguments with reproachful language and by throwing stones. No one curbed them, since the city had no magistrates. The impudence of the high priests grew to such heights, that they dared to send their servants to the very grain floors themselves, to take away the tithes that were the portion of the priests. So much did the violence of the seditious men prevail over justice, that many poor priests died from lack of food. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 20. c. 8. s. 8. (179-181) 10:97,99}

4065b AM, 4775 JP, 62 AD

6869. After some days, Agrippa, the king, and Bernice, his sister, came to Caesarea to greet the new governor. They stayed there for many days. Festus did not know what to write to Caesar about Paul and so consulted with Agrippa on the matter, who said he would be willing to hear him himself. The next day, Agrippa and Bernice, along with the captains

and the principal men of the city, entered the place of the hearing with much pomp. Festus summoned Paul to be brought out to them, bound in chains. {#Ac 25:13-27} Paul made an eloquent speech and demonstrated that he was innocent. The governor, who was ignorant of these things, thought he was mad. The king, however, who was well-versed in the scriptures, stated that Paul had almost persuaded him to become a Christian. The whole council decided that this man had done nothing worthy of death or bonds and furthermore, that he could have been set at liberty, had he not appealed to Caesar. {#Ac 26}

4066b AM, 4776 JP, 63 AD

6883. At the same time, King Agrippa built a stately house near the porch in the palace of Jerusalem. In previous times, this site had belonged to the Asmoneans and was located on a high place, from where one could get a good view of all Jerusalem. The chief men of Jerusalem were not pleased that the sacrifices and everything that was done in the temple could easily be seen from a private house. They therefore built a high wall, which blocked the king's view of the city, as well as of the western porch in the outer court of the temple, where the Roman soldiers stood guard on the feast days for the safekeeping of the temple. Both the king and Festus, the governor of the province, were offended by this and Festus ordered that it be pulled down. However, (with his

permission) ten chief men were sent as envoys to Nero about this matter, together with Ishmael, the high priest, and Helcias, the keeper of the holy treasure. After Nero had heard their embassy, he forgave the Jews and allowed the wall to remain. This was as a favour to his wife Poppaea, who favoured the Jewish religion and became their intercessor before Nero. She allowed the ten men to return, but kept Ishmael and Helcias with her as hostages. [K682] When Agrippa learned this, he took away the high priesthood from Ishmael and gave it to Joseph, surnamed Kabi, the son of Simon, who had formerly been a high priest. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 20. c. 8. s. 11. (189-196) 10:103-107}

6890. At this time, King Agrippa enlarged the walls of Caesarea Philippi and changed its name to Neronias, in honour of Nero. At Berytus, he built a theatre at great expense and annually held games which cost him large amounts of money. He also gave grain and oil to the people of Berytus. He decorated that city in various places with statues and with original images made many years earlier, transferring almost all that was ornamental in his kingdom to that city. Hence his own subjects began to hate him, because he had stripped them of their ornaments to adorn a foreign city. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 20. c. 9. s. 4. (211,212) 10:113}

4069b AM, 4779 JP, 66 AD

6932. There was an old saying that was commonly talked about right across all the east. There was a prophecy which said that from Judea should come those who would be masters of the world. It was later obvious, by what happened, that this had been foretold of the Roman emperor; but the Jews applied this prophecy to themselves and rebelled.

{*Suetonius, Vespasian, l. 8. c. 4. s. 5. 2:273} The Jews patiently endured, until Gessius Florus was made governor.

{*Tacitus, Histories, l. 5. c. 10. 3:193} Under him the war began, in the month of Artemisios, or our May, in the twelfth year of Nero's empire, the seventeenth year of the reign of Agrippa and the second year of the government of Gessius Florus. {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 2. c. 14. s. 4. (284,285) 2:433,435} {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 20. c. 11. s. 1. (257,258) 10:137}

6934. In a long speech, King Agrippa vainly tried to dissuade the Jews from war. {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 2. c. 16. s. 3,4. (344-405) 2:457-481} [E899] A little while after he left Jerusalem, some of the seditious men took the strong citadel of Masada by surprise and occupied it, killing all the Romans they found there.

6936. Cestius Gallus, the governor of Syria, was very upset by these riotous actions. He left Antioch for Judea with

twelve legions, as well as King Agrippa's soldiers and other forces. From Ptolemais, he invaded Joppa and burned it. He sent Caesennius Gallus into Galilee, which the latter pacified. After staying at Sepphoris, he came to Caesarea. {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 2. c. 18. s. 9-11. (499-513) 2:517-523} [K691]

4070b AM, 4780 JP, 67 AD

6945. At Rome, Peter and Paul foretold that it would shortly come to pass, that God would send a king who would overcome the Jews and who would lay their city level with the ground.

6951. After Jotapata was destroyed, Vespasian retired to Caesarea with his army. There he stationed two legions, to refresh themselves after the siege, while he sent a third legion to Scythopolis, also to rest. {*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 3. c. 9. s. 1. (409-413) 3:119,121} He went to Caesarea Philippi, where he and his army were feasted by King Agrippa for twenty days. There he prepared for the siege of Tiberias and Tarichea. [K693] Tiberias surrendered immediately and at the entreaty of King Agrippa, the city was not razed. After Tarichea had endured a siege, it was taken by storm.

{*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 3. c. 9. s. 7,8. (443-461) 3:129-133}

{*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 3. c. 10. s. 1-10. (462-541) 3:133-158}

4073b AM, 4783 JP, 70 AD

6979. After Titus had thus taken the city and had filled every available place with dead bodies, the neighbouring countries wanted to crown him. [K699] However, he replied that he was unworthy of the honour, for it was not he who was the author of this work, but that he had given his hands to God, who had shown his anger against the Jews. {*Philostratus, Apollonius, l. 6. c. 29. 2:111} However, there are coins of Titus which are marked with a trophy and a triumphal chariot; and there are coins of Vespasian with the image of a woman sitting sorrowfully under a palm tree and bearing the inscription, JUDEA CAPTA S.C. Money was also coined around the end of the 21st year of the reign of King Agrippa, with an inscription in Greek, (but here translated into English):

"Vespasian, Emperor and Caesar, Judea was taken in the year twenty-one of Agrippa."

6999. Justus Tiberiensis, in his chronicle of the Kings of the Jews, showed that Agrippa, the last king of the family of Herod, had his kingdom augmented by Vespasian. {Photius, Bibliotheca, cod. 33.} Dio related that he had praetorian honours given to him. His sister Bernice, who came to Rome with him, lived in the palace. Titus was so in love with her, that he made her believe he would marry her and she

behaved in every way as though she had been his wife. However, when Titus became aware that the people of Rome did not take this well, he put her away. {*Suetonius, Titus, l. 8. c. 7. s. 2. 2:311} {*Dio, l. 65. (15) 8:291} The observation of Josephus about the rest of Herod's progeny was very memorable, namely that they all, with few exceptions, perished within a hundred years of Herod's death, although they were very numerous. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 18. c. 5. s. 3. (128) 9:89}