

**3849. Judas, the oldest son of Hyrcanus, was otherwise called Aristobulus and surnamed Philellen from his familiarity and commerce with the Greeks. He succeeded his father in the government and the high priesthood, but he held them for only a year. He was the first of anyone, after the return from the Babylonian captivity, to place the crown on his head and change the state to a monarchy. {\*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 1. c. 3. s. 1. (70) 2:35} {\*Josephus, Antiq., l. 13. c. 11. s. 1. (301) 7:379} {\*Josephus, Antiq., l. 20. c. 10. s. 4. (243) 10:131} However, Strabo wrote that Judas' brother and successor, Alexander, was the first to make himself king. {\*Strabo, l. 16. c. 2. s. 40. 7:289} It is likely that he disregarded Aristobulus, because he only held office for such a short time.**

**3850. Aristobulus promoted his second brother, Antigonus, whom he liked far more than the rest, to be a partner in the kingdom. He committed the other three to be bound in prison. He also cast his mother into prison, as she quarrelled with him for the government, because Hyrcanus had left her over the entire government. He sank to new depths of cruelty when he starved her to death in the prison. {\*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 1. c. 3. s. 1. (71) 2:35} {\*Josephus, Antiq., l. 13. c. 11. s. 1. (302) 7:379}**

**3898 AM, 4608 JP, 106 BC**

**3853. Aristobulus marched with an army into Iturea and added it to Judea. Under penalty of banishment, he forced the inhabitants to be circumcised and to keep the other Jewish ceremonies. Strabo affirmed this in the following words from Timagenes, the historian: {\*Josephus, Antiq., l. 13. c. 11. s. 3. (318,319) 7:387}.**

**"He (Aristobulus) was an upright man and one who furthered the Jews' interests very much. He enlarged their territories and annexed part of Iturea to them and secured it by the covenant of circumcision."**

**3899a AM, 4608 JP, 106 BC**

**3855. Aristobulus' sickness grew worse and worse, out of remorse over his horrid murder of his brother. At last his pains were so violent that he vomited blood. As one of his servants was carrying out the blood to empty it, it so happened that his foot slipped and he spilt Aristobulus' blood on the very same spot which was stained with Antigonus' blood. Aristobulus was told of the accident and acknowledged the just judgment of God by it. He immediately gave up the ghost in extreme anguish of body and soul. {\*Josephus, Antiq., l. 13. c. 11. s. 3. (314-318)}**

**7:385,385} {\*Josephus, Jewish War, l. 1. c. 3. s. 6. (81-84)  
2:41,43}**