

----- Caligula -----



4040b AM, 4750 JP, 37 AD

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}

6586. In the first year of the reign of Gaius Caligula, Josephus, the writer of the history of the Jews, was born. He was the son of Mattathias, a priest, as Josephus stated in his autobiography. {*Josephus, Life, l. 1. c. 1. (5) 1:5}

4041a AM, 4750 JP, 37 AD

6587. When Saul had preached the gospel at Damascus for a long time, the Jews discussed how they might kill him and they were helped in this by the governor under Aretas (who had recently defeated the army of Herod, the tetrarch). He

held Damascus with a garrison and watched the gates day and night, so that they might take Saul and kill him. However, Saul was let down by a rope at night, in a basket, and escaped from them. {#Ac 9:23-25 2Co 11:32,33}

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}

6603. When Drusilla, his sister, died, Gaius Caligula decreed a period of public mourning for her. Anyone who laughed, bathed or held a feast on that day would be killed. {*Suetonius, Caligula, l. 4. c. 24. s. 1. 1:453} {*Dio, l. 59. (13) 7:301}

4042b AM, 4752 JP, 39 AD

6610. Pontius Pilate was so continually vexed by Gaius, that he committed suicide. {*Eusebius, Chronicles, l. 1. 1:260} {*Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, l. 2. c. 7. 1:125} {Orosius, l. 7. c. 5.} {Cassidorus, Chronicle}

6615. Vitellius came to Gaius Caligula and escaped death. He conducted himself more humbly than was appropriate for his rank. [E862] Falling at Caesar's feet, he burst out crying and called him a god and worshipped him. He vowed that if he should escape this punishment, he would sacrifice to him. He so mollified and appeased Caesar, that Gaius not only allowed him to live, but counted him among his best friends. {*Dio, l. 59. (27) 7:351} He was the first who gave Gaius the idea of being worshipped as a god. Vitellius was quite good at flattery. When he returned from Syria, he did not dare come into Gaius' presence, but turning himself around fell prostrate on the ground with his face covered. {*Suetonius, Vitellius, l. 7. c. 2. s. 5. 2:239,241} Later, when Gaius affirmed that he was talking with the Moon goddess, he asked Vitellius if he had not seen him while he was accompanied by the goddess. Vitellius, with his eyes cast down as though astonished and trembling, replied in a low voice that the gods alone were permitted to see one another. {*Dio, l. 59. (27) 7:351} Thus Vitellius made this beginning. Although he had governed the provinces with the same virtues as his ancestors, he surpassed all men in flattery. {*Dio, l. 59. (27) 7:351} {*Tacitus, Annals, l. 6. c. 32. 4:211}

6621. The envoys of the Jews (of whom Philo, at the end of the embassy written by himself, said there were five and not three, as Josephus stated) sailed to Gaius in the middle of winter, to entreat him to stop the wrongs which they were suffering. [E863] [K637] They gave him a record containing the list of all the calamities as well as the petition against them, taken from that larger petition which the Jews had sent him through their King Agrippa. However, their adversaries won the favour of Helicon, the Egyptian, who was the prefect of the emperor's chamber. They did this, not so much with money as with the hope of future honours, which they promised to give him when Gaius came to Alexandria. When the Jewish envoys wanted to pacify and appease Gaius, they were not allowed access to him. {*Philo, Gaius, l. 1. c. 27. (172-174) 10:89}

6622. At first, Gaius concealed his hatred against the Jews and received their envoys in Mars' field. As he came from his mother's gardens, he greeted them with a cheerful countenance and with his right hand, made a gesture which indicated that he would be kind to them. He sent Homilus to them, who was the master of the ceremonies, and through him promised that he would take care of their cause when he had time. {*Philo, Gaius, l. 1. c. 28. (181) 10:93} Later, when

he came to visit the gardens of Mecenias and Lamia, which were near the other garden and the city, the envoys were brought in and humbly showed their reverence to Gaius. They greeted him by the name of Augustus and he smilingly asked them:

"Are you the ones who are hated of the gods, who alone despise me, who am declared a god by the confession of all men, and had rather worship your unnamed thing?"

6623. Then he held up his hands to heaven and burst into a speech which was neither lawful to hear nor, much less, to repeat. The Jews' adversaries then greatly rejoiced and called him by all the names of the gods. When Isidorus, a bitter sycophant, saw how he was pleased with these titles, he said:

"You would, oh my lord, detest them and all their country more, if you knew their impiety and malice against you. For all men kill sacrifices of vows for your health, while only they refrain to offer sacrifice."

6624. Then the envoys cried out with one voice:

"Oh, my lord Gaius, we are falsely accused, we have sacrificed hecatombs. We have not, as is the custom of some,

brought a little blood to the altar and then carried the flesh home to feast on. We have committed whole sacrifices to be burned with the holy fire, and that three times. First, when you became emperor, again when you escaped a great sickness, at which all the world was sorrowful, and thirdly, as a vow for your victory over Germany."

6625. Gaius replied:

"Well, say it were so, that you offered sacrifice, but to another, and to me you certainly did no sacrifices."

6626. Then horror seized the envoys, who were terrified at his last words. In the meantime, Gaius paced throughout the houses, the halls and parlours, both on the ground and upper floors. He specifically asked the envoys:

"Why do you not eat swine's flesh?"

6627. Finally, setting aside his fierceness, he said:

"These men seem to me not to be so much wicked, as miserable, in that they cannot persuade themselves that I am partaker of the divine nature."

**6628. He promptly left and ordered the envoys to leave.
{*Philo, Gaius, l. 1. c. 44. (349-367) 10:175-183}**

4044b AM, 4754 JP, 41 AD

6645. Apollonius, the Egyptian, who had foretold the death of Gaius at home in Egypt, was dragged before Gaius at Rome, on the day before Gaius' death. (Suetonius said this was on the 9th of the Calends of February (January 23rd). {*Suetonius, Caligula, l. 4. c. 58. s. 1. 1:503}.) [K641] His punishment was postponed and he escaped death, when Gaius died first. {*Dio, l. 59. (29) 7:359}

6646. Caligula reigned three years, ten months and eight days. {*Suetonius, Caligula, l. 4. c. 59. s. 1. 1:505} {*Clement, Stromateis, l. 1. c. 21. 2:333} Dio stated it was three years, nine months and twenty-eight days. {*Dio, l. 59. (30) 7:362} His uncle, Claudius Caesar, the son of Drusius, was declared emperor by the praetorian guard.