

The Maccabaeans

The Fulfillment of Prophecy in Our Time
(The Fourth Beast of Daniel 7)

The Maccabaeans

- In between the Old and New Testaments was a period of about 400 years not covered by commonly accepted scripture.
- This period saw a rebellion of the Jews against Antiochus Epiphanes resulting in an independent kingdom
- This kingdom was established by the Maccabaeans/Hasmoneans

Rise of the Maccabees, 165 B.C.

- Mattathias, a Levitical priest, started a rebellion when Antiochus tried to enforce various profaning actions in Israel
- He and his sons created a dynasty which ruled Israel as priest-kings
- They forcibly 'converted' the Edomites to Judaism by circumcision
- Mattathias' son Judas (Judah) was considered the founder of the government

In modern Zionist thought, the Maccabaeans are revered for their military exploits and resulting independence.

Theodore Herzl saw the Maccabeans as the mould from which the then non-existent State of Israel would be cast:

The “New Maccabeans”

“Therefore I believe that a **wondrous** generation of Jews will spring into existence. *The Maccabeans will rise again.*”

Theodore Herzl

“Der Judenstaat”

February 18, **1896**

Theodor Herzl's views are important because he considered himself, and is considered by many, the founder of the State of Israel:

Founder of the **State** of Israel

“Were I to sum up the Basle Congress in a word-
*which I shall guard against pronouncing
publicly*-it would be this: At Basle **I founded**
the Jewish State.”

Theodor Herzl Diary

2 Sep 1897

Who Was Theodor Herzl?

“Herzl's ideas were met with enthusiasm by the Jewish masses in Eastern Europe, although Jewish leaders were less ardent. Herzl appealed to wealthy Jews such as Baron Hirsch and **Baron Rothschild**, to join the national Zionist movement, but in vain. He then appealed to the people, and the result was the convening of the **First Zionist Congress** in Basle, Switzerland, on August 29th, 1897. The Congress was the first interterritorial gathering of Jews on a national and secular basis.”

Jewish Virtual Library

David Ben Gurion is another early leader of the State of Israel who held out the Maccabeans as exemplary:

Hasmonean/Maccabean

“...the Hasmonean period will ever be one of the most remarkable political, military, and spiritual chapters in our chronicles.”

David Ben Gurion, 1st Prime Minister

“Mission and Dedication” 1950

An Address to the General Staff and Commanding Officers of the Israel-Defense Forces. In *Rebirth and Destiny of Israel*.

David Ben Gurion was the first Prime Minister of the State of Israel and is often called the Father of the Nation of Israel.

David Ben Gurion: Father of the State

“Ben Gurion will always be remembered in Israel as the man who transformed a factional, disparate people into a nation...For having done this, he was rightly called the Father of the Nation.”

Martin Gilbert,
Israel: A History

Pg 293

Modern historian Simon Sebag Montefiore
(relative of Sir Moses) provides insight into many
Jews' view of the Maccabeans:

Maccabees: Heroes

“As the heroes of the Hanukkah, **Jews traditionally regard them as freedom-fighters** against a genocidal tyrant, a precursor of Hitler.”

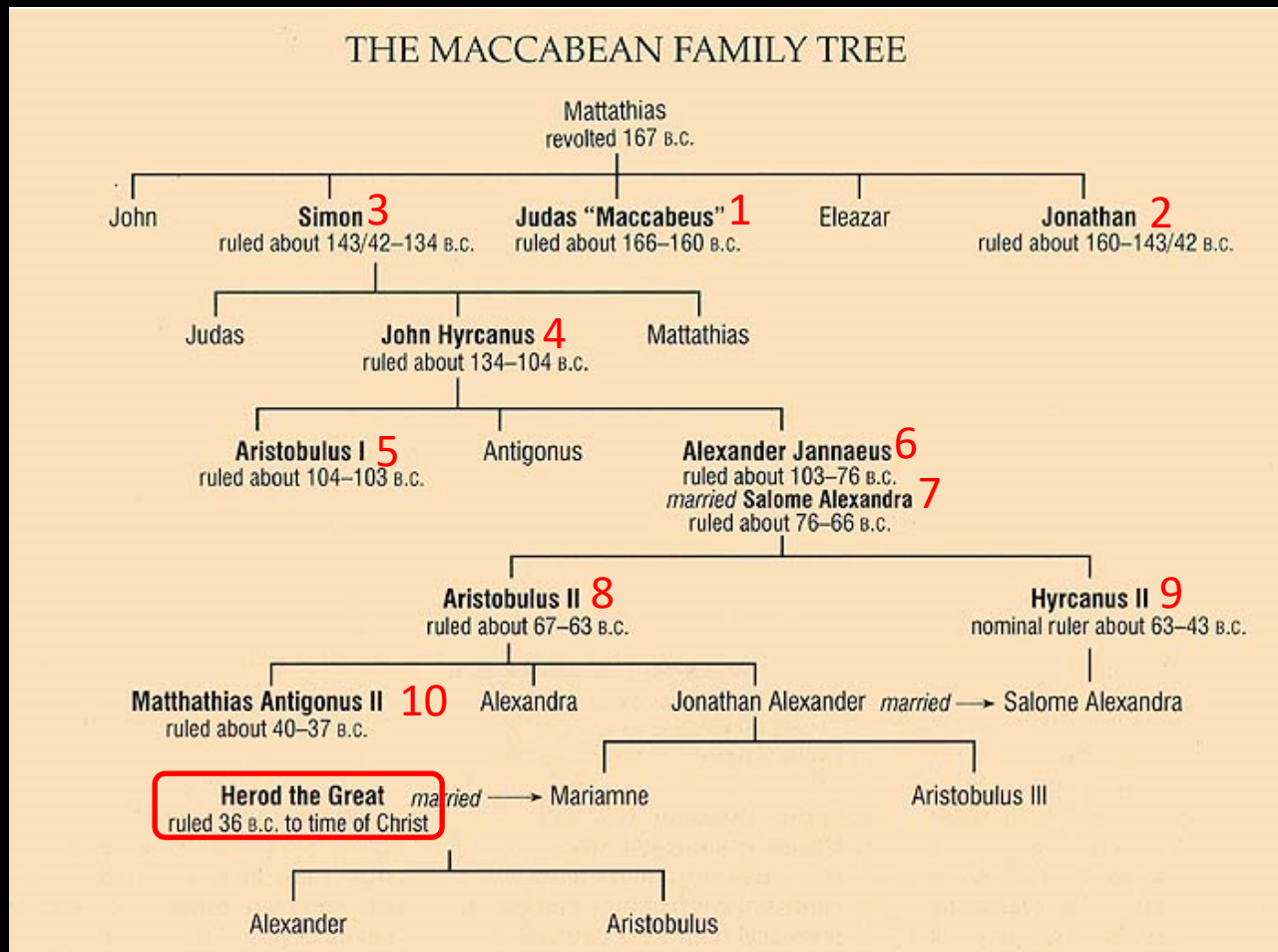
Jerusalem, The Biography

Simon Sebag Montefiore

Pg 65

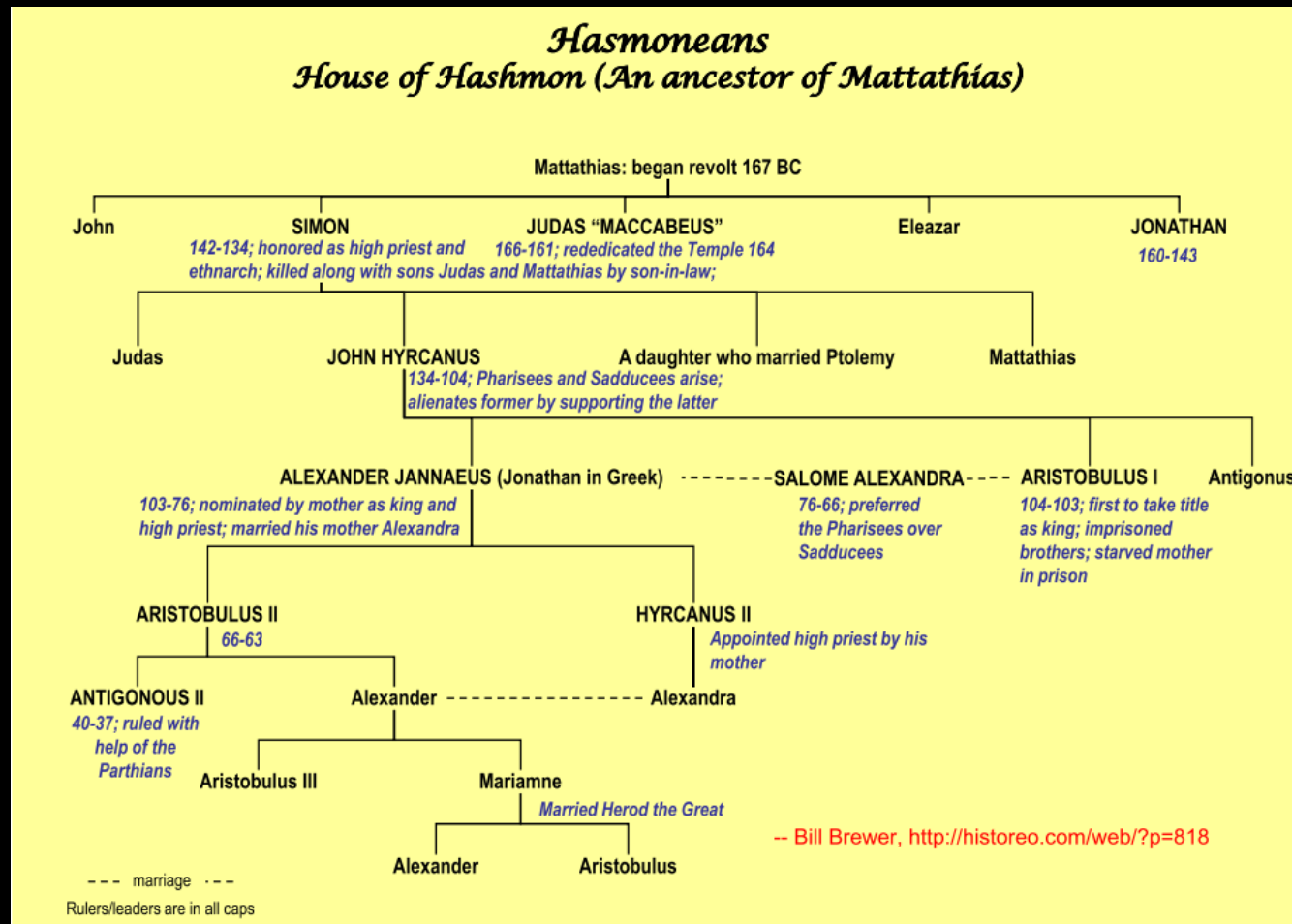
So it is important to have a close look at the Maccabeans. Following are several examples of their family tree, all differing slightly yet serving my purpose.

The number of male rulers: 9

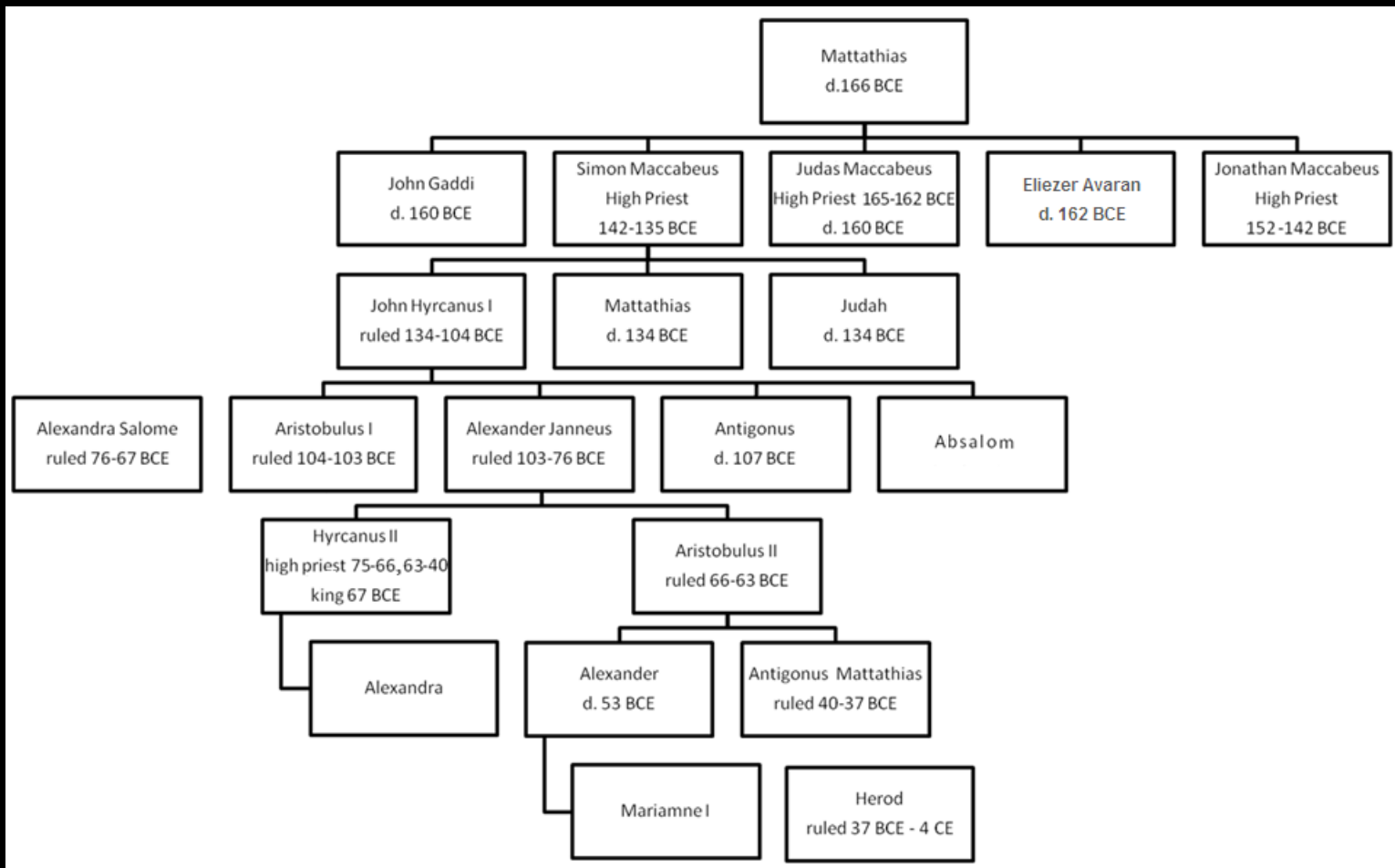


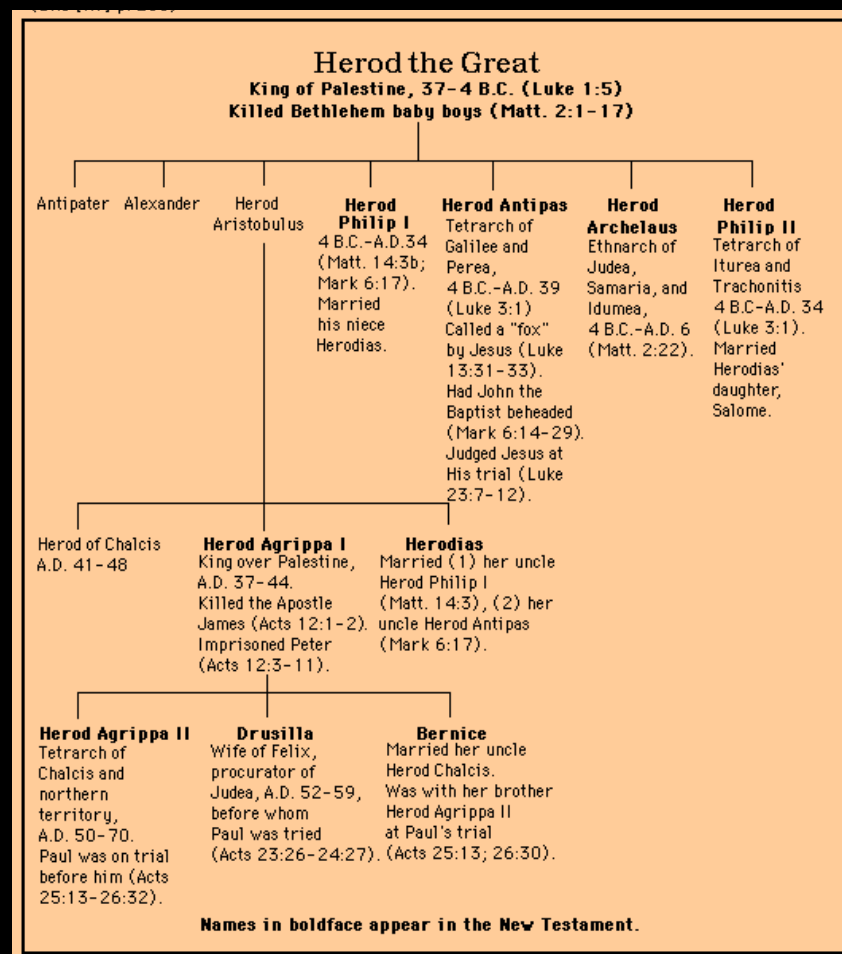
The following chart has some additional 'snippets' of information which help form a picture of the morality (or immorality) of these 'freedom fighters'.

The number of male rulers: 9



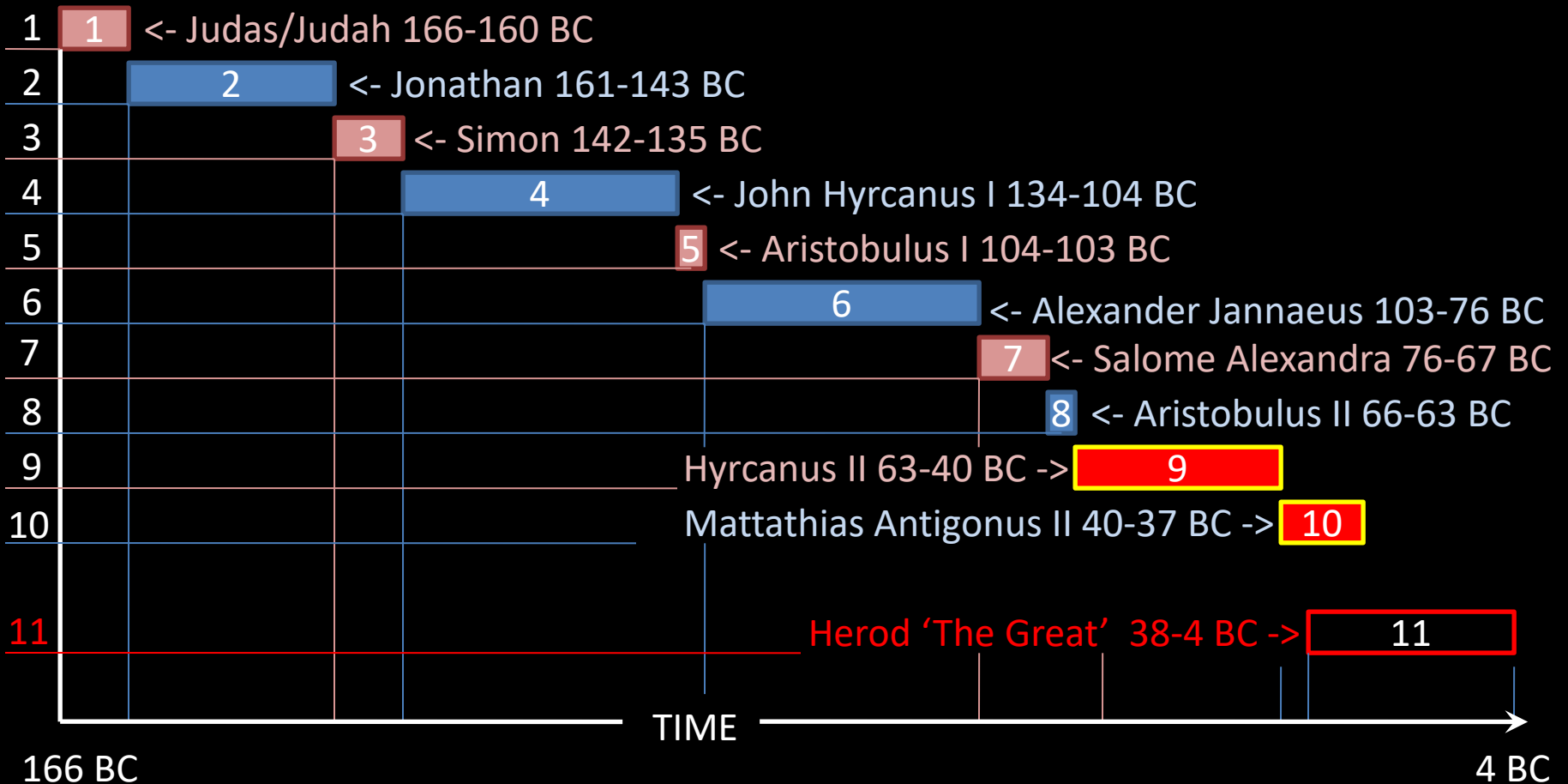
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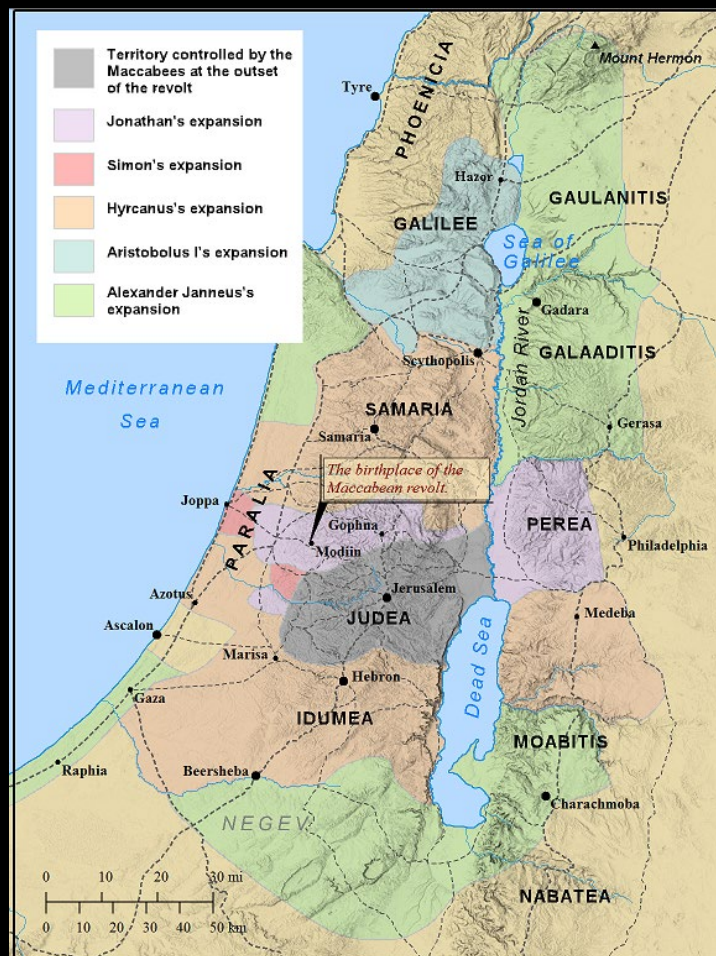


So what is presented is a kingdom ruled by 9 male and 1 female of Levitical lineage, followed by an 11th ruler who is Edomite: Herod the Great.

Maccabee Timeline



Israel Under the Maccabees



Maccabee: “The Hammer”

“The rebels chose the third son, Judas, as the new leader...this newer **head**...received the surname Maccabaeus...it is thought to have come from **maqqaba**, a **hammer**.”

Reader's Digest Story of the Bible World

Nelson Beecher Keyes

Judah: The Hammer

“In the winter of 164 BC, Judah the Hammer conquered all of Judaea and Jerusalem...**The Hammer—Maccabeus in Latin**—campaigned across the Jordan and sent his brother Simon to rescue the Jews in Galilee.”

Jerusalem, The Biography

Simon Sebag Montefiore

Pg 65

Hammers

- We think of hammers primarily in terms of construction, building, assembling, joining
- But hammers are also used to break, demolish, chip, and crush
- Think of mauls or mallets used to shape stone

Hammers SMASH

“Is not my word like a fire, sayeth the LORD, and like a hammer that breaketh the hard stone?”

Jeremiah 23:29

“A sound of battle is in the land and of great ruin. How the hammer of all the earth is cut off and broken!...”

Jeremiah 50:22-23

Now why am I focusing in on this 'hammer'?
Well, it reminds me of some scriptures.

The Destroying Fourth Beast

“After this I saw in a vision by night, and behold, the fourth beast was grim and horrible, and marvelous strong. It had great **iron** teeth, it **devoured** and **destroyed**, and **stamped** the residue under feet...”

Daniel 7:7

This scripture may seem irrelevant from a historical context: the Maccabaeans had only a limited, local effect.

But IF the Maccabaeans REVIVED in modern times and have not concluded their destiny yet, then we have a candidate for the fourth beast.

“Destroys ALL Other Lands”

“He gave me this answer, 'That fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth: it shall be more than all other kingdoms, it shall devour, tread down, and **destroy all other lands.**'”

Daniel 7:23

Fulfillment of this remains to the revived beast.

David Ben Gurion was careful to elevate the use of physical force in opposition to Christian doctrine, and this is not surprising considering his claimed Maccabaeian heritage:

David Ben Gurion:

“To deny that physical power is supreme is not to deny its worth...Nay more, *to deny physical force is a denial of the world, of life itself*, and was always alien to the spirit of the Jewish people. *Herein lies one of the fundamental differences between Jewish and Christian doctrine.*”

David Ben Gurion, 1st Prime Minister

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An Address to the General Staff and Commanding Officers of the Israel-Defense Forces. In *Rebirth and Destiny of Israel*.

In fact David Ben Gurion has no problem giving the Maccabaeans messianic functions as 'redeemers' of Israel:

Simon The Maccabaeae Priest-King

“This, then, was the garland of victory of one of our mighty liberators, Simon the High Priest, and his prowess: a grateful nation resolved to engrave ‘**tablets of brass** and fasten them to **pillars** on **Mount Zion**.’ So signal an honor was paid to no Jewish dynast and **redeemer** since the Jews became a nation...”

David Ben Gurion, 1950¹

The Herods

- The Maccabaeans waned and were replaced by the Herods
- **Herod the Great** arose out of and at the end of their rule
- They were Idumaeans servants who took the throne by intrigue
- Their power was derived from Rome

Herod “The Great’s” Character

- ‘Massacre of the Innocents’ Bethlehem, responding to reports of Jesus’ birth
- Killed his own (Hasmonean) wife: Miriamme I
- Killed his own sons: Alexander I and Aristobulus I
- Killed most of the Sanhedrin
- Routinely killed political/religious enemies

Daniel's description of the fourth beast indicates 10 rulers followed by another 11th who differs from the former.

The Maccabaeian/Herodian kingdom corresponds well with this, even if the three horns which fall are difficult to identify with certainty.

What other historical candidates are as close a match?

It is notable that at Jesus' Second Coming, He is expected by the Anti-Christ. Is it not striking that at His First Coming, He was expected by Herod the Great?

Daniel 7:20

“And of the **ten horns** that were in his head, and of **the other which came up**, and **before whom three fell**; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.”

We know for a fact that Herod was directly responsible for the deaths of two of the Maccabaeae rulers:

1. Hyrcanus II
2. Antigonus II

1: Hyrcanus II

- Herod first supported Hyrcanus II against his brother Aristobulus II because Hyrcanus was weak.
- Hyrcanus was sent to Babylon, then persuaded to return by Herod who treated him royally on his return
- Then Herod accused Hyrcanus of treachery and had him executed.

Herod Executed Hyrcanus II

“Herod received him with every mark of respect, assigning to him the first place at his table and the **presidency** of the state council. **But he only waited an opportunity to get rid of him.** In the year 30, charged with plotting with the King of Arabia, **Hyrcanus was condemned and executed.**”

Jewish Encyclopedia

2: Antigonos II

- Herod attacked and took Jerusalem; Sossius took Antigonos captive to Antony
- Herod sent Mark Antony large sums of money
- “...[Antony] thought that the Jews could not tolerate Herod as their king while Antigonos was alive...” - Josephus

Herod Had Antigonus Beheaded

“Herod...sent the captured Antigonus to Antony who solicitously **beheaded** the last Maccabean king...Herod celebrated his conquest of Jerusalem by liquidating forty-five of the seventy-one members of the Sanhedrin.”

Jerusalem, The Biography

Simon Sebag Montefiore

Pg 78

3: Antipater (His Father)

- History accuses Malichus of poisoning Antipater by bribing the king's butler.
- Malichus protested his innocence and claimed only friendship with Antipater
- Herod benefited from his father's demise.
- Considering his paranoid fear of his own sons he killed, it is likely that Herod killed his father.

I suggest the evidence is that the fourth beast of Daniel is the combined Maccabaeian/Herodian kingdom of Israel; and thus is fundamental to recognizing the revived beast in its modern context.