

The Herodian Dynasty

Family of the Beast

Dovetailing into
the Maccabaeae dynasty, was the
Herodian dynasty

The Herodians

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

- Idumaeans means “Edomite”
- Edom means ‘red’
- Edom comes from Esau, the red-haired brother of Jacob
- God has promised enmity between Jacob and Esau since birth:

“And the LORD said unto her, ‘Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.’”

Genesis 25:23

Israel's Reward For Obedience:

“And the LORD shall make thee the **head**, and not the **tail**; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:”

Deuteronomy 28:13

While God made Jacob the head and Esau the tail, God also warned that disobedience would result in a role-reversal:

Israel's Curse For Disobedience:

“The **stranger** that is within thee shall **get up above thee very high**; and thou shalt come down very low. He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: **he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail.**”

Deuteronomy 28:43-44

Question:

- The witness of scripture is that Israel repeatedly disobeyed.
- Because of this, the curse has been activated:

Jacob became ruled by Esau.

The Herods were descendants of Esau who ruled Israel at the time Jesus ministered on earth.

To understand the scriptures, one needs to recognize that Esau also rules Israel today.

- Jacob and Esau are not just 'people'...they are competing 'attitudes' or 'spirits'.
- Thus descendants of Jacob can be Edomites in nature, and descendants of Esau can be Israelites in nature.

Thus the following prophecy, which speaks of Edomites, is about Israelites who have an Edomite spirit or nature; and it explains the present State of Israel:

“I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: **yet I loved Jacob, And I hated Esau**, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. Whereas Edom saith, **We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places**; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever.”

Malachi 1:2-4

If that mental hurdle can be overcome, then many scriptures become easier to understand or interpret.

The Beast of Revelation 17

“And here is a mind that hath wisdom. The seven heads are **seven mountains**, on which the woman sitteth: they are also **seven kings**. **Five** are fallen, and **one is**, and another **is not yet come**. When he cometh he must continue a space. And the beast that was, and **is not**, is even the eighth, and is one of the seven, and shall go into destruction.”

Revelation 17:9-11

The Seven Kings

- A 'head' is a king; and thus the 'body' is the kingdom.
- It is possible to have a head without a body, and it is possible to have a body without a head.
- When both exist together, there is a complete, functioning State.

The Seven Kings

- At the time Revelation was written (presumably after 70 AD), five kings had fallen, one was present, and one had not yet come.
- Yet, the beast itself, that is, *its body (or kingdom)*, “is not”.

- This does NOT describe ROME at that time.
- It DOES however, describe ISRAEL which had just been destroyed by Rome.
- Herod Agrippa, remained as Rome's client king...but without a kingdom over which to rule.

Who Are The Kings?

The very best source of interpretation for scripture, IS scripture.

The scriptures are meant to be understood. Especially now, at the end of the age.

So here is a fact:

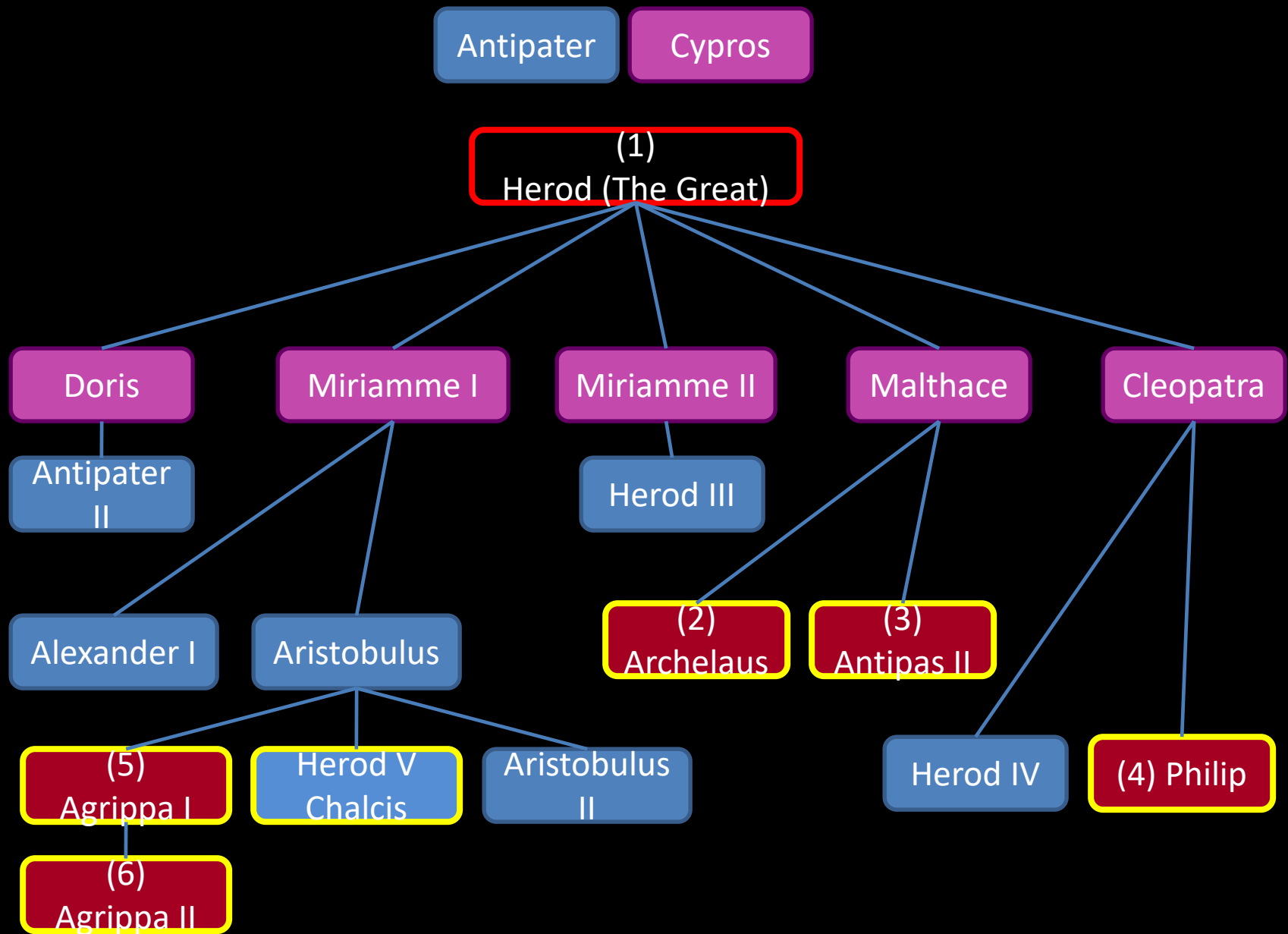
The only king of the seven not mentioned BY
NAME in scripture, is the seventh one who
was yet to come.

The previous SIX are mentioned BY NAME
throughout the New Testament.

This is not 'coincidence'!

The Seven Heads/Kings

1. Herod 'the Great'
2. Archelaus
3. Antipas II
4. Philip
5. Agrippa I
6. Agrippa II
7. ?



The Seven Mountains...

...are the mountains of Jerusalem, representative of Judah, representative of the people of Israel:

1. Mount Gared;
2. Mount Goath;
3. Mount Acra;
4. Mount Bezetha;
5. Mount Moriah;
6. Mount Ophel;
7. Mount Zion.

The Dual Meaning...

...identifies both the city, the nation, and its kings.

- BUT: Prophecy often has multiple meanings and fulfillments
- NOW the 'seven mountains' in fact represent the whole earth.

Let's look at them in scripture:

1. Herod 'the Great'
2. Archelaus
3. Antipas II
4. Philip
5. Agrippa I

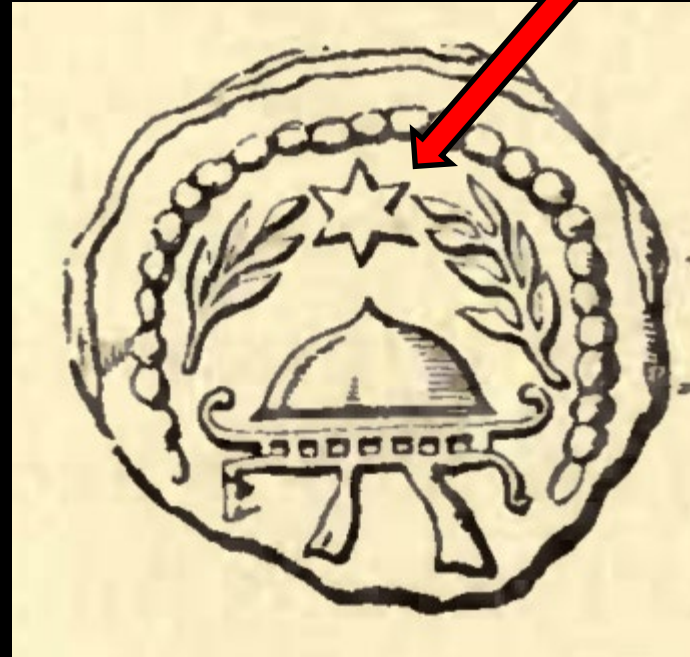
1. Herod 'the Great'

“Then **Herod**, perceiving that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, as many as were two years old and under according to the time which he had diligently searched out of the wise men. **Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by the Prophet Jeremiah**, saying, "On the hills was a voice heard, mourning, weeping and great lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they were not.””

Matthew 2:16-18

Herod "The Great"

NOTE THE STAR!



Drawing per George C Williamson, The Money of the Bible, 1894

Nothing now remains to refer to on the coin but the star, and this is certainly a remarkable object. Cavedoni suggests that, like the censor, it also refers to the victory over Jerusalem; but there is just the possibility remaining that it has some connexion either with the prophecy as to the arising of a star in the East, or to the expectation of some wonderful astronomical phenomenon, or merely to an assumption by Herod, in ridicule of the position of Him whose

birth was to be foreshadowed by the appearance of a star. It may be equivalent to the announcement by Herod of his rulership or messiahship of Israel, a profane sneer at Jewish expectations, or the prophecy which the Jews believed. It is certainly interesting to find a large single noticeable star upon a coin of Herod.

2. Archelaus

“Then he arose up, and took the child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Jewry in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, after he was warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: and went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: to fulfill that which was spoken by the Prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarite.”

Matthew 2:21-23

Archelaus



- HERODIAN KINGS of JUDAEA. Herod Archelaus. 4 BCE - 6 CE. Æ Prutah (17mm, 2.72 g, 9h). Jerusalem mint. HPWDOU, double cornucopiae / Galley left, EQNARCOU (retrograde) below. Meshorer 70; RPC I 4914; Hendin 503. Good VF, dark green patina with light earthen encrustation.
- **Image: Classical Numismatic Group, Inc.**
<http://www.cngcoins.com>

3. (Herod) Antipas

“For **Herod** had taken John and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife...And when he would have put him to death, he feared the people, because they counted him as a prophet. But when Herod's birthday was come, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased **Herod**. Wherefore he promised with an oath, that he would give her whatsoever she would ask. And she, being informed of her mother before, said, "Give me here John Baptist's head in a platter." And the King sorrowed: nevertheless for his oath's sake, and for their sakes, which sat also at the table, he commanded it to be given her. And sent and **beheaded John** in the prison...”

Matthew 14:3-10

Antipas



- JUDAEA, Herodians. Herod Antipas. 4 BCE-39 CE. AE 18mm (4.98 g). Dated year 34 (30 CE). Palm branch; L LD (date) across fields / Legend in two lines within wreath. Hendin 517; RPC I 4926. VF, black patina with reddish earthen deposits, a little rough.
- **Image: Classical Numismatic Group, Inc.**
<http://www.cngcoins.com>

Antipas

“And as soon as he knew that he was of Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to **Herod**, which was also at Jerusalem in those days. And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad. For he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him, and trusted to have seen some miracle done by him. Then questioned he with him of many things: But he answered him not one word. The high priests and scribes, stood forth and accused him straightly. And **Herod, with his men of war, despised him, and mocked him**; And arrayed him in white, and sent him again to Pilate. And the same day, Pilate and Herod were made friends together. For before, they were at variance.”

Luke 23:7-12

Jesus called *this* Herod a **FOX**

“The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for **Herod** will kill thee. And Jesus said unto them, Go ye, and tell that **fox**, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.”

Luke 13:31-32

Herod, A Fox on Zion:

“The crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned! For this our heart is faint; for these things our eyes are dim. Because of the **mountain of Zion**, which is desolate, **the foxes walk upon it.**”

Lamentations 5:16-18

4. (Herod) Philip

“Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.”

Luke 3:1-2

Philip



•JUDAEA, Herodian Kings. Philip, with Tiberius. 4 BCE-34 CE. Æ 17mm (5.51 gm, 12h). Paneas (Banias) mint. Dated RY 34 (30/1 CE). Bare head of Tiberius right; laurel branch to right / Tetrastyle temple (Augusteum) with pellet in pediment; date between columns. Meshorer 106; RPC I 4948; Hendin 538. Good VF, desert patina. Nice example of these usually poorly struck coins.

•Image: Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. <http://www.cngcoins.com>

Philip

“But Herod the tetrarch, being reprov'd by him for Herodias **his brother Philip's** wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done, Added yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison.”

Luke 3:19-20

Herod, Archelaus, Antipas, Philip:



5. (Herod) Agrippa I

“In that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the congregation. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword: and because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further, and took Peter also. Then were the days of sweetbread.”

Acts 12:1-3

Agrippa I



- JUDAEA, Herodian Kings. obverse AGRIPA BACILEWC (King Agrippa), umbrella-like canopy with fringes; reverse three heads of barley between two leaves, flanked by L - V (year 5).
- Image: Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. <http://www.cngcoins.com>

(Herod) Agrippa I

“And upon a day appointed, Herod arrayed him in royal apparel, and set him in his seat, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, saying, "It is the voice of a god and not of a man." And **immediately the angel of the Lord smote him**, because he gave not God the honour, and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.”

Acts 12:21-23

The Beast 'Head' Who "Is":

6. Agrippa II

Agrippa II

“Agrippa said unto Paul, "Thou art permitted to speak for thyself." Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself, “I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because I shall answer this day before thee of all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews, namely because thou art expert in all customs, and questions, which are among the Jews.”

Acts 26:1-3

“King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know well thou believest.” Agrippa said unto Paul, "Somewhat thou bringest me in mind for to become Christian.”

Acts 26:27-28

“Then said Agrippa unto Festus, "This man might have been loosed if he had not appealed unto Caesar.”

Acts 26:32

- Not long after this, the nation erupted into a civil war and revolt
- Agrippa II fled to Rome and received assistance in the form of armies
- Agrippa II returned to Judea and assisted Titus and his son in destroying Jerusalem.
- Agrippa II died around 95-100 AD, “...The king who is”...*but now without a kingdom.*

- Around 132 AD, Judea again rebelled against Rome under a new leader
- This leader received the backing of the religious authorities:

The One Who “Is Not Yet Come”:

7. Simon Bar Kochba

“...the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while.”

Revelation 17:10

This one is not known to scriptures, but is reasonably well-known to history.

Like the Maccabaeans, Simon bar Kochba is a 'hero' to the revived State of Israel because of his armed insurrection against Rome.

NOTE THE STAR!

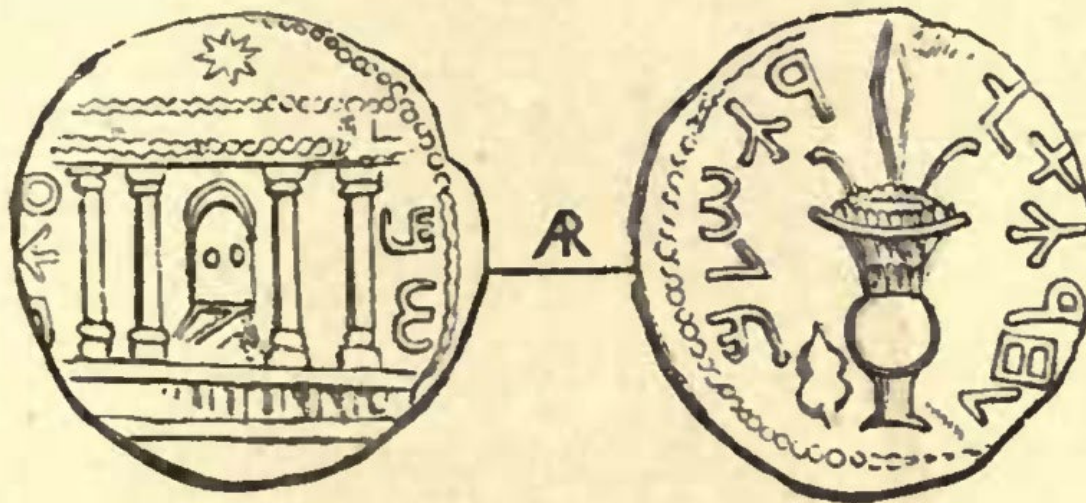
Simon Bar Kochba



- JUDAEA, Bar Kochba Revolt. 132-135 CE. AR Sela – Tetradrachm (28mm, 14.07 g, 11h). Undated issue (year 3 - 134/5 CE). **Temple** facade, the **Ark of the Covenant** within; **star above** / Lulav with etrog. Mildenberg 85.12 (O127/R44'); Meshorer 233; Hendin 711. Near EF, toned, light deposits.
- **Image: Classical Numismatic Group, Inc.**
<http://www.cngcoins.com>

Messianic Claimant

stance. The leader, Simon Bar Cochab, in A. D. 132 announced himself as the Messiah, calling himself the son of a star (Bar Cochab), and quoting as his



Drawing/Text George C Williamson, *The Money of the Bible*, 1894

Simon Bar Kochba: False Messiah

- Bar Kochba was proclaimed the Messiah by the leading Rabbi of the day, Akiva
- His real name was “Ben Kosiba”
- He led Judaea in yet another rebellion from 132-135AD, which was crushed at great cost to Rome

“Bar Kochba” means “Son of a Star”

Son of a Star?

- The name was conferred on him by Akiva
- It was referring, blasphemously, to this scripture:

“I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: **there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel**, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.”

Numbers 24:17

Jesus Said:

“I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, **him ye will receive.**”

John 5:43

“Bar Kochba”...and others.

Jesus Is The *Real* Star!

“Now when **Jesus** was born in Bethlehem of Judaea **in the days of Herod** the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, “Where is he that is **born King of the Jews?** for we have seen **his star** in the east, and are come to worship him.””

Matthew 2:1-2

Bar Kochba: Herod's Descendant

“It is noteworthy to mention that Bar Kochba who led the revolt against the Romans a century after the Destruction was considered by Rashi to be a descendent of Herod. At the same time, we find that Rabbi Akiva considered him the Messiah. It is well known that the Messiah must be descended from the House of King David and that a king cannot be a slave. To answer this difficulty some suggest that there were Herod's descendants that married Jews and eventually were united by marriage with the descendants of King David. Others suggest that Bar Kochba was a descendant of Agrippa I who was Jewish according to Rashi's comment cited above.”

The Halachic Status of the Herodian Dynasty

Yakov Shafranovich

Star of Jacob?

“Bar-Kokhba was accepted as the Messiah by many. And among those who felt this way about him was the brilliant Akiba. Concerning this man, a modern Jewish writer has said: “Akiba, who followed Gamaliel, is one of the most famous Jews of all times. Starting late in life he became the most learned of his fellow rabbis...”

Ludwig's Handbook of New Testament Rulers & Cities

Charles Ludwig

The following provides some insight into the Zionist view of bar Kochba and his relevance to the present:

1960 Meeting With Ben Gurion:

“Among the finds was a letter, clearly legible after two thousand years, written in **Bar Kochba's name**, describing him as ‘**President over Israel**’.”

“When Yadin produced a slide showing Bar Kochba's name ‘for a moment’, he recalled, ‘the audience appeared to be struck dumb. Then the silence was shattered with spontaneous **cries of astonishment and joy**.’”

Israel, A History

Martin Gilbert

Pg 341

Bar Kochba: Hero REBEL

“Why was a whole nation **elated** over the discovery...The answer lies in the **magic** of the name...**treasured** in folklore...and the realization the desert had given up factual links with the man who **led the last attempt of his people to overthrow their Roman masters.**”

Israel, A History

Martin Gilbert

Pg 341

But in laying claim to being Messiah, this man was ANTI-CHRIST in action, and Christian Jews bore the brunt of his animosity:

Bar-Kochba: Persecutor of Christ

“The Christians had nothing to do with Bar Kochba...And since the Christians would not help him, Bar-Kokhba persecuted them. Eusebius wrote: ‘In the recent Jewish War, Bar-Kokhba, leader of the Jewish insurrection, ordered the *Christians alone* to be sentenced to terrible punishments *if they did not deny Jesus Christ and blaspheme Him.*”

Ludwig's Handbook of New Testament Rulers & Cities

Charles Ludwig

What Joins “Then” with “Now”?

The Kings of the Jews:

- 1) Herodians, as antichrists
- 2) Jesus, as the Christ

Both will re-appear at the end of the age.

“And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and **is of the seven**, and goeth into perdition.”

Revelation 17:11

The eighth and last antichrist will rise from the same area, culture, religion, and family as the first seven. Look to Israel...look *within* Israel.

“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast”

Revelation 13:3

“And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”

Revelation 13:12

Summary

- The Maccabaeae dynasty produced ten kings who correspond to the ten horns of Daniel's fourth beast (Daniel 7)
- Herod the '**Great**' was the eleventh horn that supplanted three horns, becoming '**greater**' than the former
- Herod's dynasty comprised **seven** kings who ruled over Israel, represented by Jerusalem, the city of seven hills

Summary, continued

- These seven hills and seven kings are described in Revelation 17
- The seventh ruler was Simon Bar Kochba, 'President' (Nasi) of Israel
- Herod's dynasty persecuted both Jesus and His disciples, and is the 'Beast that was, and is not'.
- It is from Herod's dynasty that the 'Beast to come' is prophesied...and has arisen.

When we accept that it is the usurping Edomite spirit which empowers the State of Israel today, sentiments like the following become dangerous to ignore:

“embracing **ITS** vision of the last days”

“This conglomeration of humanity, **flooding** in from foreign lands of exile, will be purified, tempered, and cleansed in the crucible of fraternity and **military** discipline...It will be a nation fired by a valorous, daring, and powerful spirit,
**embracing *its* vision of *the last days*,
for the time of fulfillment is come.”**

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*.

This Is 'ITS' Seal:

