

CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

1. How are the Romans descendants of Esau?
2. Describe the fate of Aristobulus and his son Alexander.
3. Which member of the Sanhedrin stood up against Herod?
4. How long was Antigonus ruler of Jerusalem?
5. What tragedies occurred on the twenty third of Sivan?

This and much more will be addressed in the fourteenth lecture of this series: "Herod".

To derive maximum benefit from this lecture, keep these questions in mind as you listen to the tape and read through the outline. Go back to these questions once again at the end of the lecture and see how well you answer them.

PLEASE NOTE: This outline and source book was designed as a powerful tool to help you appreciate and understand the basis of Jewish History. Although the lectures can be listened to without the use of the outline, we advise you to read the outline to enhance your comprehension. Use it as well as a handy reference guide and for quick review.

THE EPIC OF THE ETERNAL PEOPLE
Presented by Rabbi Shmuel Irons

Series I Lecture #14

HEROD

I. Rome and Jerusalem

A.

ויאמר ד' לה שני גיים בבטנך ושני לאמים ממעיך יפרדו ולאם מלאם יאמץ ורב יעבד צעיר.
בראשית כה:כג

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. **Beraishis 25:23**

B.

אם יאמר לך אדם חרבו שתיהן אל תאמן ישבו שתיהן אל תאמן חרבה קסרי וישבה ירושלים
חרבה ירושלים וישבה קסרי תאמן שנאמר אמלאה החרבה אם מליאה זו חרבה זו אם מליאה
זו חרבה זו רב נחמן בר יצחק אמר מהכא ולאום מלאום יאמץ. מגילה ו.

If someone tells you that both Caesaria and Jerusalem were destroyed, don't believe it. If someone tells you that both of them are thriving, don't believe it. If you are told that Jerusalem is built up while Caesaria is in ruins or that Caesaria is built up while Jerusalem is in ruins, you may believe it... Rav Nachman bar Yitzchak said that the source is from the verse "and the one people shall be stronger than the other people."
Megilla 6a

C.

ויאמר ד' לה שני גיים בבטנך אמר רב יהודה אמר רב אל תקרי גוים אלא גיים זה אנטונינוס
ורבי שלא פסקו מעל שולחנם לא חזרת ולא קישות ולא צנוץ לא בימות החמה ולא בימות
הגשמים. עבודה זרה יא.

And the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb. Rav Yehuda said that Rav said the following: Don't pronounce the word "גוים" (goyim) (nations) but rather "גיים" (gayim) (aristocrats). This refers to Rabbi (Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi (the Prince)) and Antoninus (the Roman emperor). **Avodah Zara 11a**

D.

אלוף מגדיאל אלוף עירם אלה אלופי אדום למשבתם בארץ אחזתם הוא עשו אבי אדום.
בראשית לו:מג מגדיאל זו רומי. רש"י

Duke of Magdiel, duke of Iram: these be the dukes of Edom, according to their habitations in the land of their possession: he is Esau the father of Edom. **Beraishis 36:43**

Magdiel refers to Rome. **Rashi**

E.

מעיקרא דרוש נסעה ונלכה ואלכה לנגדך ולבסוף דרוש יעבר נא אדני לפני עבדו. עבודה זרה ה:

Originally the Romans applied the verse "let us travel together" later they applied the verse "let my master travel in front of his servant." **Beraishis 33:12, 14**

F.

כי בא צפּו בן אליפז בן עשו ועשה עמהם קטטה על זה עד שערכו מלחמה ותגבר יד יוסף ותפשׁו עם מבחר גדודיו והביאום למצרים ועמד שם בתפיסה כל ימי יוסף וברח משם במותו והלך לארץ כאנפניא ומלך על כתיים ברומא, ובסוף הומלך על ארץ איטלייא והוא אשר מלך ראשון על רומה והוא אשר בנה ההיכל הראשון והגדול מאשר נבנו ברומה. רמב"ן פרשת ויחי

Tzepho the son of Eliphaz the son of Esav contested Joseph's right to bury Jacob. He finally went to battle with the forces of Joseph. Joseph was victorious and captured Tzepho and his best troops. He took them back with him to Egypt. Tzepho languished in prison until the death of Joseph when he escaped and made his way to the land of Campania and ruled over the Kittim in Rome. Eventually he ruled over all of Italy and was the first king of Rome. He is the one who built the first and greatest palace ever constructed in Rome. **Ramban Parshas Vayechi**

G.

אמר רב יהודה אמר שמואל בשעה שנשא שלמה את בת פרעה ירד גבריאל ונעץ קנה בים ועלה בו שירטון ועליו נבנה כרך גדול (של רומי) במתניתא תנא אותו היום שהכניס ירבעם שני עגלי זהב אחד בבית אל ואחד בדרך נבנה צריף אחד וזהו איטליאה של יון. שבת נו:

Rav Yehudah said that Shmuel said the following: When King Solomon married the daughter of Pharaoh, the angel Gabriel planted a reed in the sea. Silt settled around the stick and formed dry land. On this land the great city of Rome was built. In a Braiisa we learned that on the day that Jerobam introduced the worship of the two golden calves, one in Bethel and one in Dan, a hut was built on the area of Italy of Greece (Rome). **Shabbos 56b**

H.

יולך ד' אתך ואת מלכך אשר תקים עליך אל גוי אשר לא ידעת אתה ואבתך ועבדת שם אלהים אחרים עץ ואבן. הגר אשר בקרבך יעלה עליך מעלה מעלה ואתה תרד מטה מטה. ישא ד' עליך גוי מרחק מקצה הארץ כאשר ידאה הנשר גוי אשר לא תשמע לשנו. דברים כח:לו, מג, מט

The Lord shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone. The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand. **Devorim 28:36, 43, 49**

II. Romans Consolidate Their Power

A. Some time after this, when Alexander, the son of Aristobulus, made an incursion into Judea, Gabinius came from Rome to Syria, as commander of the Roman forces. He did many considerable actions: and particularly made war with Alexander, since Hyrcanus was not yet able to oppose his power, but was already attempting to build the walls of Jerusalem, which Pompey had overthrown, although the Romans, which were there, restrained him from that design. However, Alexander went over all the country round about, and armed many of the Jews, and suddenly got together ten thousand armed footmen, and fifteen hundred horsemen, and fortified Alexandrium, a fortress near to Corae and Macherus, near the mountains of Arabia. **Antiquities Book XIV 5:2**

B. Alexander sent an embassy to him, desiring that he would pardon his former offenses; he also delivered up the fortresses, Hyrcania, and Macherus and at last Alexandrium itself, which fortresses Gabinius demolished. But when Alexander's mother, who was of the side of the Romans, as having her husband and other children at Rome, came to him, he granted her whatsoever she asked; and when he had settled matters with her he brought Hyrcanus to Jerusalem, and committed the care of the temple to him: and when he had ordained five councils, he distributed the same nation into the same number of parts; So these councils governed the people; the first was at Jerusalem, the second at Gadara, the third at Amathus, the fourth at Jericho, and the fifth in Sepphoris in Galilee. So the Jews were now freed from monarchic authority, and were governed by an aristocracy. **Antiquities Book XIV 5:4**

C. Now Aristobulus ran away from Rome to Judea, and set about the rebuilding of Alexandrium, which had been newly demolished; Hereupon Gabinius sent soldiers against him, and for their commanders Sisenna, and Antonius, and Servilius, in order to hinder him from getting possession of the country, and to take him again. And indeed

many of the Jews ran to Aristobulus, on account of his former glory, as also because they should be glad of an innovation. He took with him eight thousand that were armed and marched on; and as the Romans fell upon them severely, the Jews fought valiantly, but were beaten in the battle and when they had fought with alacrity, but were overborne by the enemy, they were put to flight of whom were slain about five thousand, and the rest being dispersed, tried as well as they were able, to save themselves. However, Aristobulus had with him still above a thousand, and with them he fled to Macherus and fortified the place, and though he had had ill success, he still had good hope of his affairs: but when he had struggled against the siege for two days' time, and had received many wounds, he was brought as a captive to Gabinius, with his son Antigonus, who also fled with him from Rome. And this was the fortune of Aristobulus, who was sent back again to Rome, and was there retained in bonds, having been both king and high priest for three years and six months; and was indeed an eminent person and one of a great soul.

Antiquities Book XIV 6:1

D. But when he came back out of Egypt, he found Syria in disorder, with seditions and troubles; for Alexander, the son of Aristobulus, having seized on the government a second time by force, made many of the Jews revolt to him, and so he marched over the country with a great army, and slew all the Romans he could light upon, and proceeded to besiege the mountain called Gerizzim, whither they had retreated.

But when Gabinius found Syria in such a state, he sent Antipater who was a prudent man, to those that were seditious, to try whether he could cure them of their madness, and persuade them to return to a better mind, and when he came to them, he brought many of them to a sound mind, and induced them to do what they ought to do, but he could not restrain Alexander, for he had an army of thirty thousand Jews, and met Gabinius, and joining battle with him; he was beaten, and lost ten thousand of his men about mount Tabor.

So Gabinius settled the affairs which belonged to the city Jerusalem, as was agreeable to Antipater's inclination, and went against the Nabateans, and overcame them in battle. He also sent away in a friendly manner Mithridates and Orsanus, who were Parthian deserters, and came to him, though the report went abroad that they had run away from him. And when Gabinius had performed great and glorious actions, in his management of the affairs of war, he returned to Rome, and delivered the government to Crassus.

Antiquities Book XIV 6:2-4

E. Now Crassus, as he was going upon his expedition against the Parthians, came into Judea, and carried off the money that was in the temple, which Pompey had left: being two thousand talents, and was disposed to spoil it of all the gold belonging to it, which was eight thousand talents. **Antiquities Book XIV 7:1**

F. But Cassius as he fled from Rome to Syria, took possession of it, and was an impediment to the Parthians, who by reason of their victory over Crassus, made incursions upon it: and as he came back to Tyre, he went up into Judea also, and fell upon Tarichae, and presently took it, and carried about thirty thousand Jews captives; and slew Pitholaus, who succeeded Aristobulus in his seditious practices, and that by the persuasion of Antipater, who proved to have great interest in him, and was at that time in great repute with the Idumeans also; out of which nation he married a wife, who was the daughter of one of their eminent men, and her name was Cypros, by whom he had four sons, Phasaël, and Herod, who was afterwards made king, and Joseph, and Pheroras; and a daughter named Salome. This Antipater cultivated also a friendship and mutual kindness with other potentates but especially with the king of Arabia, to whom he committed his children, while he fought against Aristobulus. So Cassius removed his camp, and marched to Euphrates, to meet those that were coming to attack him, as hath been related by others. **Antiquities Book XIV 7:3**

G. But some time afterward, Caesar, when he had taken Rome, and after Pompey and the senate were fled beyond the Ionian sea, freed Aristobulus from his bonds, and resolved to send him into Syria, and delivered two legions to him, that he might see matters right, as being a potent man in that country: But Aristobulus had no enjoyment of what he hoped for from the power that was given him by Caesar, for those of Pompey's party prevented it, and destroyed him by poison, and those of Caesar's party buried him. His dead body also lay, for a good while, embalmed in honey, till Antony afterward sent it to Judea, and caused him to be buried in the royal sepulchre. But Scipio, upon Pompey's sending to him to slay Alexander, the son of Aristobulus, because the young man was accused of what offenses he had been guilty of at first against the Romans, cut off his head; and thus did he die at Antioch. **Antiquities Book XIV 7:3**

III. Antipater the Roman Procurator

A. Now after Pompey was dead, and after that victory Caesar had gained over him, Antipater, who managed the Jewish affairs, became very useful to Caesar when he made war against Egypt, and that by the order of Hyrcanus: For when Mithridates of Pergamus was bringing his auxiliaries, and was not able to continue his march through Pelusium, but obliged to stay at Askelon, Antipater came to him, conducting three thousand of the Jews, armed men. Now Antipater signaled himself here, and was the first who plucked down a part of the wall, and so opened a way to the rest, whereby they might enter the city and by this means Pelusium was taken.

Now Mithridates had the right wing, and Antipater the left; and when it came to fight, that wing where Mithridates was gave way, and was likely to suffer extremely, unless

Antipater had come running to him with his own soldiers along the shore, when he had already beaten the enemy that opposed him; so he delivered Mithridates, and put those Egyptians, who had been too hard for him, to fight. He also took their camp, and continued in the pursuit of them. He also recalled Mithridates, who had been worsted, and was retired a great way off; of whose soldiers eight hundred fell, but of Antipater's fifty. So Mithridates sent an account of this battle to Caesar, and openly declared, that Antipater was the author of his victory and of his own preservation, insomuch that Caesar commended Antipater then, and made use of him all the rest of that war in the most hazardous undertakings; he happened also to be wounded in one of those engagements.

However, when Caesar, after some time, had finished that war, and was sailed away for Syria, he honored Antipater greatly, and confirmed Hyrcanus in the high priesthood; and bestowed on Antipater the privilege of a citizen of Rome, and a freedom from taxes everywhere: and it is reported by many, that Hyrcanus went along with Antipater in this expedition, and came himself into Egypt. **Antiquities Book XIV 8:1-3**

B. But Antigonus, the son of Aristobulus, came at this time to Caesar, and "lamented his father's fate: and complained that it was by Antipater's means that Aristobulus was taken off by poison, and his brother was beheaded by Scipio, and desired that he would take pity of him who had been ejected out of that principality which was due to him." He also accused Hyrcanus and Antipater as governing the nation by violence, and offering injuries to him. Antipater was present, and made his defence as to the accusations that were laid against him.

When Antipater had made this speech, Caesar appointed Hyrcanus to be high priest; and gave Antipater what principality he himself should choose, leaving the determination to himself: So he made him procurator of Judea. **Antiquities Book XIV 8:4, 5**

C. And seeing that Hyrcanus was of a slow and slothful temper, he made Phasaelus, his eldest son, governor of Jerusalem, and of the places that were about it, but committed Galilee to Herod, his next son, who was then a very young man, for he was but fifteen years of age: But that youth of his was no impediment to him; but as he was a youth of great mind, he presently met with an opportunity of signaling his courage; for finding that there was one Hezekias, a captain of a band of robbers, who overran the neighbouring parts of Syria, with a great troop of them, he seized him, and slew him, as well as a great number of the other robbers that were with him. **Antiquities Book XIV 9:2**

D. But the chief men of the Jews were therefore in fear, because they saw that Herod was a violent and bold man, and very desirous of acting tyrannically; so they came to Hyrcanus, and now accused Antipater openly, and said to him, "How long wilt thou be

quiet under such actions as are now done? Or doest thou not see that Antipater and his sons have already seized upon the government?

Do not thou deceive thyself with such a notion, they are evidently absolute lords, for Herod, Antipater's son, hath slain Hezekiah and those that were with him, and hath thereby transgressed our law, which hath forbidden to slay any man, even though he were a wicked man, unless he had been first condemned to suffer death by the sanhedrin; yet hath he been so insolent as to do this, and that without any authority from thee.

Upon Hyrcanus' hearing this, he complied with them. The mothers also of those that had been slain by Herod raised this indignation; for those women continued every day in the temple, persuading the king and the people, that Herod might undergo a trial before the sanhedrin for what he had done. Hyrcanus was so moved by these complaints, that he summoned Herod to come to his trial, for what was charged upon him. Accordingly he came; but his father had persuaded him to come not like a private man, but with a guard for the security of his person; and that when he had settled the affairs of Galilee in the best manner he could for his own advantage, he should come to his trial, but still with a body of men sufficient for his security on his journey, yet so that he should not come with so great a force as might look like terrifying Hyrcanus, but still such a one as might not expose him naked and unguarded to his enemies. However, Sextus Caesar, president of Syria, wrote to Hyrcanus, and desired him to clear Herod and dismiss him at his trial, and threatened him beforehand, if he did not do it. Which epistle of his was the occasion of Hyrcanus' delivering Herod from suffering any harm from the sanhedrin, for he loved him as his own son. But when Herod stood before the sanhedrin with his body of men about him, he affrighted them all, and no one of his former accusers durst after that bring any charge against him, but there was a deep silence, and nobody knew what was to be done. When affairs stood thus, one whose name was Semeas, a righteous man he was, and for that reason above all fear, who rose up, and said, "O you that are assessors with me, and O thou that art our king, I neither have ever myself known such a case, nor do I suppose that any of you can name its parallel, that one who is called to take his trial by us ever stood in such a manner before us; but every one whosoever he be, that comes to be tried by this sanhedrin, presents himself in a submissive manner, and like one that is in fear of himself, and that endeavours to move us to compassion, with his hair dishevelled, and in a black mourning garment; but this admirable man Herod, who is accused of murder, and called to answer so heavy an accusation, stands here clothed in purple, and with the hair of his head finely trimmed, and with his armed men about him, that if we shall condemn him by our law, he may slay us, and by overbearing justice, may himself escape death. Yet do not I make this complaint against Herod himself; he is to be sure more concerned for himself than for the laws; but my complaint is against yourselves and your king, who gave him a license so to do. However, take you notice, that G-d is great,

and that this very man, whom you are going to absolve and dismiss, for the sake of Hyrcanus, will one day punish both you and your king himself also." Nor did Semeas mistake in any part of this prediction; for when Herod had received the kingdom, he slew all the members of this sanhedrin, and Hyrcanus himself also, excepting Semeas, for he had a great honour for him on account of his righteousness, and because, when the city was afterwards besieged by Herod and Sosius, he persuaded the people to admit Herod into it and told them, "That for their sins they would not be able to escape his hands."

Antiquities Book XIV 9:3,4

E. But when Hyrcanus saw that the members of the sanhedrin were ready to pronounce the sentence of death upon Herod, he put off the trial to another day, and sent privately to Herod, and advised him to fly out of the city, for that by this means he might escape. So he retired to Damascus, as though he fled from the king; and when he had been with Sextus Caesar, and had put his own affairs in a sure posture, he resolved to do thus, that in case he were again summoned before the sanhedrin to take his trial, he would not obey that summons. Hereupon the members of the sanhedrin had great indignation at this posture of affairs, and endeavoured to persuade Hyrcanus that all these things were against him. Which state of matters he was not ignorant of, but his temper was so unmanly, and so foolish, that he was able to do nothing at all. But when Sextus had made Herod general of the army of Coelesyria, for he sold him that post for money, Hyrcanus was in fear lest Herod should make war upon him; nor was the effect of what he feared long in coming upon him, for Herod came and brought an army along with him, to fight with Hyrcanus, as being angry at the trial he had been summoned to undergo before the sanhedrin, but his father Antipater, and his brother Phasaelus, met him and hindered him from assaulting Jerusalem. They also pacified his vehement temper, and persuaded him to do no overt action, but only to affright them with threatenings, and to proceed no farther against one who had given the dignity he had; they also desired him not only to be angry that he was summoned and obliged to come to his trial, but to remember withal, how he was dismissed without condemnation, and how he ought to give Hyrcanus thanks for the same, and that he was not to regard only what was disagreeable to him, and be unthankful for his deliverance. Herod was persuaded by these arguments, and believed that it was sufficient for his future hopes to have made a show of his strength before the nation; and done no more to it. **Antiquities Book XIV 9:5**

F. But after Cassius was gone out of Judea, Malichus laid snares for Antipater, as thinking that his death would be the preservation of Hyrcanus' government; for now Cassius and Marcus had got together an army, and entrusted the entire care of it with Herod, and made him general of the forces of Coelesyria, and gave him a fleet of ships, and an army of horsemen and footmen; and promised him, that after the war was over they would make him king of Judea, for a war was already begun between Antony and the younger Caesar; But as Malichus was most afraid of Antipater, he took him out of the

way; and by the offer of money, persuaded the butler of Hyrcanus, with whom they were both to feast, to kill him by poison. This being done, and he having armed men with him, settled the affairs of the city. But when Antipater's sons, Herod and Phasaelus, were acquainted with this conspiracy against their father and had indignation at it, Malichus denied all, and utterly renounced any knowledge of the murder. However, Herod sent to Cassius, and informed him of the murder of his father; who knowing what sort of man Malichus was as to his morals, sent him back word, that he should revenge his father's death. **Antiquities Book XIV 11:3,4,5**

IV. The Rise of Herod

A. Now Ptolemy the son of Menneus, brought back into Judea, Antigonus the son of Aristobulus, who had already raised an army. When he had dispatched these affairs, and was gone to meet Antigonus, he joined battle with him, and beat him, and drove him out of Judea presently, when he was just come into its borders. But when he was come to Jerusalem, Hyrcanus and the people put garlands about his head; for he had already contracted an affinity with the family of Hyrcanus by having espoused a descendant of his, and for that reason Herod took the greater care of him, as being to marry the daughter of Alexander, the son of Aristobulus, and the granddaughter of Hyrcanus, by which wife he became the father of three male, and two female children. He had also married before this another wife, out of a lower family of his own nation, whose name was Doris, by whom he had his eldest son Antipater.

Now Antonius and Caesar had beaten Cassius near Philippi, as others have related; but after the victory, Caesar went into Gaul, Italy, and Antony marched for Asia, who when he was arrived at Bythinia, he had ambassadors that met him from all parts. The principal men also of the Jews came thither, to accuse Phasaelus, and Herod, and they said, that Hyrcanus had indeed the appearance of reigning, but that these men had all the power, but Antony paid great respect to Herod, who was come to him to make his defence against his accusers, on which account his adversaries could not so much as obtain a hearing; which favor Herod had gained of Antony by money. **Antiquities Book XIV 12:1,2**

B. When after this Antony came into Syria, Cleopatra met him in Cilicia, and brought him to fall in love with her. And there came now also a hundred of the most potent of the Jews to accuse Herod and those about him, and set the men of the greatest eloquence among them to speak. But Messala contradicted them, on behalf of the young men, and all this in the presence of Hyrcanus, who was Herod's father-in-law already. When Antony had heard both sides at Daphne, he asked Hyrcanus who they were that governed the nation best? He replied, Herod and his friends. Hereupon Antony, by

reason of the old hospitable friendship he had made with his father Antipater, at that time when he was with Gabinius, he made both Herod and Phasaelus tetrarchs, and committed the public affairs of the Jews to them, and wrote letters to that purpose. Yet did not these men continue quiet when they were come back, but a thousand of the Jews came to Tyre to meet him there, whither the report was that he would come. But Antony was corrupted by the money which Herod and his brother had given him, and so he gave order to the governor of the place to punish the Jewish ambassadors, who were for making innovations, and to settle the government upon Herod: but Herod went out hastily to them, and Hyrcanus was with him (for they stood upon the shore before the city,) and he charged them to go their ways, because great mischief would befall them if they went on with their accusation. But they did not acquiesce; whereupon the Romans ran upon them with their daggers, and slew some, and wounded more of them, and the rest fled away and went home, and lay still in great consternation: and when the people made a clamor against Herod, Antony was so provoked at it that he slew the prisoners. **Antiquities Book XIV 13:1,2**

C. Now, in the second year, Pacorus, the king of Parthia's son, and Barzapharnes, a commander of the Parthians, possessed themselves of Syria. Ptolemy, the son of Menneus, also was now dead, and Lysanias his son took his government, and made a league of friendship with Antigonus, the son of Aristobulus; and in order to obtain it, made use of that commander, who had great interest in him. Now Antigonus had promised to give the Parthians a thousand talents, and five hundred women, upon conditions they would take the government away from Hyrcanus, and bestow it upon him, and withal kill Herod. However, Pascorus sent a troop of horsemen into Judea, to take a view of the state of the country and to assist Antigonus:

Herod was under great disturbance of mind; and rather inclining to believe the reports he heard about his brother and the Parthians, that to give heed to what was said on the other side, he determined, that when the evening came on, he would make use of it for his flight, and not make any longer delay, as if the dangers from the enemy were not yet certain. He therefore removed with the armed men whom he had with him; and set his wives upon the beasts, as also his mother, and sister, and her whom he was about to marry, Mariamne, the daughter of Alexander, the son of Aristobulus, with her mother the daughter of Hyrcanus, and his youngest brother, and all their servants, and the rest of the multitude that was with him, and without the enemies' privity pursued his way to Idumea;

Nor indeed was he free from the Jews all along as he was in his flight; for by the time he had gotten sixty furlongs out of the city, and was upon the road, they fell upon him, and fought hand to hand with him, whom he also put to flight.

And thus was Antigonus brought back into Judea, by the king of the Parthians, and received Hyrcanus and Phasaelus for his prisoners; but he was greatly cast down because the women had escaped, whom he intended to have given the enemy as having promised they should have them, with the money, for their reward; But being afraid that Hyrcanus, who was under the guard of the Parthians, might have his kingdom restored to him by the multitude, he cut off his ears, and thereby took care that the high priesthood would never come to him any more, because he was maimed, while the law required that this dignity should belong to none but such as had all their members entire. But now one cannot but here admire the fortitude of Phasaelus, who, perceiving that he was to be put to death, did not think death any terrible thing at all, but to die thus by the means of his enemy, this he thought a most pitiable and dishonorable thing, and therefore, since he had not his hands at liberty, but the bonds he was in prevented him from killing himself thereby, he dashed his head against a great stone, and thereby took away his own life, which he thought to be the best thing he could do in such a distress as he was in, and thereby put it out of the power of the enemy to bring him to any death he pleased. It is also reported, that when he had made a great wound in his head, Antigonus sent physicians to cure it, and by ordering them to infuse poison into the wound killed him. However, Phasaelus hearing, before he was quite dead, by a certain woman, that his brother Herod had escaped the enemy, underwent his death cheerfully, since he now left behind him one who would revenge his death, and who was able to inflict punishment on his enemies. **Antiquities Book XIV 13: 3, 7, 9, 10**

D. This account made Antony commiserate the change that had happened in Herod's condition; and reasoning with himself that this was a common case among those that are placed in such great dignities, and that they are liable to the mutations that come from fortune, he was very ready to give him the assistance he desired, and this because he called to mind the friendship he had had with Antipater, because Herod offered him money to make him king, as he had formerly given it to him to make him tetrarch, and chiefly because of his hatred to Antigonus, for he took him to be a seditious person, and an enemy to the Romans. Caesar was also the forwarder to raise Herod's dignity, and to give him his assistance in what he desired, on account of the toils of war which he had himself undergone with Antipater his father in Egypt, and of the hospitality he had treated him withal, and the kindness he had always showed him, as also to gratify Antony, who was very zealous for Herod. So a senate was convoked; and Massala, first, and then Atratinus, introduced Herod into it, and enlarged upon the benefits they had received from his father, and put them in mind of the good-will he had borne to the Romans. At the same time they accused Antigonus, and declared him an enemy, not only because of his former opposition to them, but that he had now overlooked the Romans, and taken the government from the Parthians. Upon this the senate was irritated; and Antony informed them farther, that it was for their advantage in the Parthian war that Herod should be king. This seemed good to all the senators; and so they made a decree accordingly. **Antiquities Book XIV 14:4**

E. Herod had now a strong army; and as he marched on, Antigonus laid snares and ambushes in the passes and places most proper for them, but in truth he thereby did little or no damage to the enemy: so Herod received those of his family out of Massada, and the fortress Ressa, and then went on for Jerusalem. He gave orders that they should, in the first place, make proclamation about the wall that, "he came for the good of the people, and for the preservation of the city, and not to bear any old grudge at even his most open enemies, but ready to forget the offenses which his greatest adversaries had done him." But Antigonus, by way of reply to what Herod had caused to be proclaimed, and this before the Romans, and before Silo also, said "That they would not do justly, if they gave the kingdom to Herod, who was no more than a private man, and an Idumean, i.e. a half Jew, whereas they ought to bestow it on one of the royal family, as their custom was; for, that in case they at present bore an ill-will to him, and had resolved to deprive him of the kingdom, as having received it from the Parthians, yet were there many others of his family that might by their law take it, and these such as had no way offended the Romans, and being of the sacerdotal family, it would be an unworthy thing to put them by." Now this was the third year since he had been made king at Rome; and as he removed his camp, and came near that part of the wall where it could be most easily assaulted, he pitched that camp before the temple, intending to make his attacks in the same manner as did Pompey; so he encompassed the place with three bulwarks, and erected towers, and employed a great many hands about the work, and cut down the trees that were round about the city; and when he had appointed proper persons to oversee the works, even while the army lay before the city, he himself went to Samaria, to complete his marriage, and to take to wife the daughter of Alexander, the son of Aristobulus; for he had betrothed her already, as I have before related. **Antiquities Book XIV 15:2, 14**

F. Antigonus, without regard to either his past or present circumstances, came down from the citadel, and fell down at the feet of Sosius, who took no pity of him, in the change of his fortune. But put him into bonds and kept him in close custody. This destruction befell the city of Jerusalem when Marcus Agrippa and Caninius Gallus were consuls of Rome, on the one hundred eighty and fifth Olympiad, on the third month, on the solemnity of the fast, as if a periodical revolution of calamities had returned, since that which befell the Jews under Pompey, for the Jews were taken by him on the same day, and this was after twenty-seven years' time. So when Sosius had dedicated a crown of gold to G-d, he marched away from Jerusalem, and carried Antigonus with him in bonds to Antony; but Herod was afraid lest Antigonus should be kept in prison (only) by Antony, and that when he was carried to Rome by him, he might get his cause to be heard by the senate, and might demonstrate, as he was himself of the royal blood, and Herod

but a private man, that therefore it belonged to his sons however to have the kingdom, on account of the family they were of, in case he had himself offended the Romans by what he had done. Out of Herod's fear of this it was that he, by giving Antony a great deal of money, endeavored to persuade him to have Antigonus slain, which if it were once done, he should be free from that fear. And thus did the government of the Asamoneans cease, a hundred twenty and six years after it was first set up. This family was a splendid and an illustrious one, both on account of the nobility of their stock, and of the dignity of the high priesthood, as also for the glorious actions their ancestors had performed for our nation: but these men lost the government by their dissensions one with another, and it came to Herod the son of Antipater, who was of no more than a vulgar family, and of no eminent extraction, but one that was subject to other kings; and this is what history tells us was the end of the Asamonean family. **Antiquities Book XIV 16:2, 4**

G. Now upon the liberty that was given to the Jewish ambassadors to speak, they who hoped to obtain a dissolution of kingly government, betook themselves to accuse Herod of his iniquities; and they declared that he was indeed in name a king, but that he had taken to himself that uncontrollable authority which tyrants exercise over their subjects, and had made use of that authority for the destruction of the Jews, and did not abstain from making many innovations among them besides, according to his own inclinations; and that whereas there were a great many who perished by that destruction he brought upon them, so many indeed as no other history relates, they that survived were far more miserable than those that suffered under him, not only by the anxiety they were in from his looks and disposition towards them, but from the danger their estates were in of being taken away by him. That he did never leave off adorning these cities that lay in their neighborhood, but were inhabited by foreigners; but so that the cities belonging to his own government were ruined, and utterly destroyed; that whereas, when he took the kingdom, it was in an extraordinary flourishing condition, he had filled the nation with the utmost degree of poverty; and when, upon unjust pretences, he had slain any of the nobility, he took away their estates; and when he permitted any of them to live, he condemned them to the forfeiture of what they possessed. And, besides the annual impositions which he laid upon every one of them, they were to make liberal presents to himself, to his domestics and friends, and to such of his slaves as were vouchsafed the favor of being his tax gatherers, because there was no way of obtaining a freedom from unjust violence, without giving either gold or silver for it. That they would say nothing of the corruption of the chastity of their virgins, and the reproach laid on the wives for incontinency, and those things acted after an insolent and inhuman manner; because it was not a smaller pleasure to the sufferers to have such things concealed, than it would have been not to have suffered them. That Herod had put such abuses upon them as a wild beast would not have put on them, if he had power given him to rule over us; and that although their nation had passed through many subversions and alterations of government, their history gave no account of any calamity they had ever been under, that could be compared with this which Herod had brought upon their nation; **Antiquities Book XVII 11:2**

TIMELINE

DATE	EVENT
76 BCE	ALEXANDRA (SALOME) BEGINS REIGN
67 BCE	ARISTOBULUS II BEGINS REIGN
63 BCE	POMPEY CONQUERS JERUSALEM HYRCANUS II BEGINS REIGN
53 BCE	DEFEAT OF CRASSUS
49 BCE	ROMAN CIVIL WAR DEATH OF ARISTOBOLUS II
48 BCE	DEATH OF POMPEY
44 BCE	DEATH OF JULIUS CAESAR
42 BCE	BATTLE OF PHILLIPI
40 BCE	PARTHIAN INVASION ANTIGONUS CONQUERS JERUSALEM
37 BCE	HEROD BEGINS REIGN
31 BCE	BATTLE OF ACTIUM
4 BCE	ARCHELAUS BEGINS REIGN