

**Review: *Jesus' Jerusalem*, International Masters Publishers, 2007**

Pages: 24

**The Burdensome City**

Reliable information on the whole about the most important city in the world, where Jesus Christ was crucified and rose from the dead.

Great powers of the Greeks, Maccabees, and Romans who ruled Judea, and social and geographical information about Biblical persons and places combine to make this a useful book and DVD package.

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The Fortress Antonia was named after General Mark Antony.

Judea was a client kingdom of Persia, then the Seleucid Greeks, then the Maccabaeans after Judas Maccabeus expelled them. He established the Hasmonean dynasty. The Romans took Judea in 63BC under General Pompey who gave power to the Herodian family.

Jericho perhaps meant 'City of the Moon' and is believed the oldest city in the world.

Herod I ("the Great") was an Idumean by birth and recognised as a foreigner. He placed a golden Roman eagle over the 'great gate' of the Temple.

King David took Jerusalem from the Jebusites in 1000BC.

Solomon built the First Temple in 960BC.

King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem in 597BC.

Herod I commissioned Caesarea Maritima including a temple dedicated to Caesar Augustus. He also built the Fortress Antonia, Herodium, and the impregnable Masada (37-31BC). He began the Second Temple 15BC which was only completed AD65.

Herod had his wife Mariamne executed, also their two sons, her grandfather and mother. He had ten wives and fourteen children.

The presence of the Muslim Dome of the Rock (Haram al-Sharif or "Forbidden Noble Sanctuary") has meant no archaeological work permitted for the last 150 years.

Jerusalem is 762m above sea level and 40km from the nearest river. It is 17km west of the Sea of Galilee. In the 7<sup>th</sup>C BC, King Hezekiah built a 548m tunnel from the Gihon springs in the Kidron Valley to the Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem. Siloam was approximately 1,900m<sup>2</sup>.

Solomon's pools were 4km south of Bethlehem and used gravity-control.

Nazareth had a population of 1,600 to 2,000 and was about 8km from Sepphoris, a city being built by Herod Antipas and requiring many builders. It was about 120km north of Jerusalem or a 4-5 day journey.

First century Jewish streets were about 3.6m below today's street level. Jerusalem then had a steady population of about 30,000.

The Roman siege lasted AD68-70.

Herod Antipas' son Archelaus was deposed AD6 and Roman Prefects placed in charge, of whom Pontius Pilate was the fifth.

Persians, Seleucids, Carthaginians, and Romans all crucified people.

The Via Dolorosa is on streets made by Hadrian during the 2<sup>nd</sup>C AD and so not authentic.

Simon bar Kokhba revolted in AD132 and was horribly crushed AD135 by Hadrian. He razed Jerusalem and built a temple to Jupiter on the Temple Mount, changed Judea to Syria-Palestina, and Jerusalem to Aelia Capitolina.

Joseph ben Matthias (b. AD37 in Jerusalem) quickly switched sides during the rebellion.