

Josephus - Wars of the Jews Book I, Ch 20.

King Herod who had been friend of Mark Antony humbly goes to Octavian - (Caesar Augustus).

However, the king (Herod the Great) resolved to expose himself to dangers: accordingly he sailed to Rhodes, where Caesar then abode, and came to him without his diadem, and in the habit and appearance of a private person, but in his behaviour as a king. So he concealed nothing of the truth, but spake thus before his face: **"O Caesar, as I was made king of the Jews by Antony,** so do I profess that I have used my royal authority in the best manner, and entirely for his advantage; nor will I conceal this farther, that thou hadst certainly found me in arms, and an inseparable companion of his, had not the Arabians hindered me. However, I sent him as many auxiliaries as I was able, and many ten thousand [cori] of corn. Nay indeed, I did not desert my benefactor after the bow that was given him at **Actium**; but I gave him the best advice I was able, when I was no longer able to assist him in the war; and I told him, that there was but one way of recovering his affairs, and that was to kill Cleopatra; and I promised him, that if she were once dead, I would afford him money and walls for his security, with an army and myself to assist him in his war against thee: but **his affections for Cleopatra stopped his ears, as did God himself also, who hath bestowed the government on thee.** I own myself also to be overcome together with him, and with this last fortune I have laid aside my diadem, and am come hither to thee, having my hopes of safety in thy virtue; and I desire that thou wilt first consider how faithful a friend, and not whose friend I have been.

2. **Caesar** replied to him thus, "Nay, thou shalt not only be in safety, but **thou shalt be a king,** and that more firmly than thou wert before; for thou art worthy to reign over a great many subjects, **by reason of the fastness of thy friendship:** & do thou endeavour to be equally constant in thy friendship to me, upon my good success, which is what I depend upon from the generosity of thy disposition. However, Antony hath done well in preferring Cleopatra to thee; for by this means **we have gained thee by her madness,** and thus thou hast begun to be my friend, before I began to be thine; on which account Quintus Didius hath written to me, that thou sentest him assistance against the gladiators. I do therefore assure thee, that **I will confirm the kingdom to thee by decree:** I shall also endeavour to do thee some farther kindness hereafter, **that thou mayst find no loss in the want of Antony."**

3. When Caesar had spoken such obliging things to the king, and had **put the diadem again about his head,** he proclaimed what he had bestowed on him by a decree, in which he enlarged in the commendation of the man after a magnificent manner. ...After this, **Caesar went for Egypt through Syria, when Herod received him** with royal and rich entertainments; and then did he first of all ride along with Caesar, as he was reviewing his army about Ptolemais, and feasted him with all his friends, and then distributed among the rest of the army what was necessary to feast them withal. He also made a plentiful provision of water for them, when they were to march as far as Pelusium, through a dry country, which he did also in like manner at their return thence; nor were there any necessaries wanting to that army. It was therefore the opinion both of Caesar and of his soldiers, that Herod's kingdom was too small for those generous presents he made them; for which reason, when **Caesar was come into Egypt, and Cleopatra and Antony were dead,** he did not only bestow other marks of honour upon him, but made an addition to his kingdom, by giving him, not only the country which had been taken from him by Cleopatra, but besides that, Gadara, Hippos, Samaria; moreover, of the maritime cities, Gaza & Anthedon, & Joppa, & Strato's Tower. He also made him a present of four hundred Galls [Galatians] as a guard for his body, which they had been to Cleopatra before.

Chapter 21. King Herod builds for his friends & country. (Herod rebuilds the temple)...

(Herod builds Antonia by the temple)...a royal palace, which he called **Antonia, in honor of Antony.** He also built himself a **palace in the upper city,** containing two very large & most **beautiful apartments;** to which the holy house itself could not be compared (in largeness). The one apartment he named **Caesareum,** & the other **Agrippium,** from his (two great) friends.

(Herod builds a City, Sebaste (Greek for Augustus) in Samaria & temple to Caesar)...

(Herod builds Caesarea with temple to Caesar (Strato's Tower, Sebastos Harbor, Sebastos is Greek for Augustus. South of Dora)...

And when he observed that there was a city by the sea-side, that was much decayed (its name was **Strato's Tower**), but that the place, by the happiness of its situation, was capable of great improvements from his liberality, he rebuilt it all with white stone, and adorned it with several most splendid **palaces,** wherein he especially demonstrated his magnanimity: for the case was this, that all the **sea shore between Dora and Joppa,** in the middle between which **this city is situated,** had no good haven, insomuch that every one that sailed from Phenicia for Egypt was obliged to lie in the stormy sea, by reason of the south winds that threatened them; which wind, if it blew but a little fresh, such vast waves are raised, and dash upon the rocks, that upon their retreat the sea is in a great ferment for a long way. But the king, by the expences he was at, and the liberal disposal of them, overcame nature, and built a haven larger than was the Pyreum [at Athens]; and in the inner retirements of the water he built other deep stations [for the ships also]...

And over against the mouth of the haven, upon an elevation, there was a **temple for Caesar,** which was excellent, both in beauty and largeness; and therein was a **Colossus of Caesar, not less than that of Jupiter Olympius** which it was made to resemble. The other Colossus of Rome was equal to that of Juno at Argos. So he dedicated the city to the province, & the haven to the sailors there; but **the honour of the building he ascribed to Caesar, & named it Caesarea** accordingly.

Josephus was a Jewish historian at the fall of Jerusalem 70AD. He wrote "Wars of the Jews" within 5 or 6 years. He also wrote "Antiquities of the Jews" which mentions Jesus favorably 20 yrs later.