

Josephus & his message

- Flavius Josephus -

Jewish historian born in Jerusalem. Jewish War • Life Auto Bio • Antiquities • Against Apion.
Pharisee of priestly families. Present at destruction of Jerusalem & temple, 70AD.
Destruction of Jerusalem & temple is a turning point of Judaism & Christianity.

Priestly:

Father - Matthias was a Jewish priest.

Mother - Royal Hasmonean Maccabean family dynasty against Antiochus IV Epiphanes, Seleucid empire of 167-160BC.

Diplomat:

One of 80 survivors of 600 shipwrecked going to Rome.
64AD secures release of Jewish priests in Rome at 26 years old.

Peace advocate:

For peace with Rome along with Jewish royalty Herod Agrippa II & Bernice.

Jewish governor & general:

Defending at Galilee with traitor John of Gischala. Siege of Yodfat (Jotapata) 67AD.
Survived 39 suicide. Defeated by Vespasian & Titus. 40,000 slain, 1,200 enslaved.

Prophet: Prophesied Vespasian & Titus to be emperors.

Coming true they deemed Josephus a true prophet.

Divine revelation: 3 things -

1. God created the Jewish nation & they were being depressed.
2. Fortune was given to Romans.
3. God chose Josephus to foretell it.

Translator to Titus: At fall of Jerusalem & temple 70AD.

Parents hostage to Simon bar Giora inside Jerusalem.

Josephus' brother rescued from Jerusalem.

Freed Roman citizen: Granted by Vespasian, given land, & pay.

Pro Judaic/ Anti Zealot: This is shown in his writings.

Josephus shows traditional Jew was a peace loving citizen, & God gives empires power.

Josephus, historian - 4 Books

The Jewish War (Concerning the Jewish War) -7 Books written around 76AD.
Maccabean era to fall of Jerusalem & temple 66-70AD & fall of Sicarii Zealots at Masada 73, 74AD.
Written first in Aramaic for reader in Babylon & Parthia, then written in high Greek.
Majority of Jews in Mediterranean as well as common population were Greek speaking.

Life Auto biography - Josephus' activities in Galilee prior to Vespasian & Roman forces 67AD.

Jewish Antiquities - (Ancient history) Written around 93AD?

20 Books. I-10 Creation to Babylonian captivity. II-20 Cyrus release to Jewish War.

Expounds Jewish history - Creation, to patriarchs, up to 62 A.D., to Jewish revolt.

Josephus includes death of James the Just, Jesus' brother (writer of Book of James) & Jesus the Messiah.
A Jewish historical perspective to Greek & Roman world.

Against Apion - 2 Books. Written after Antiquities?

Defends Judaism as classical religion & philosophy, stressing its antiquity, as opposed to more recent Greek traditions. Answers Apion's slander regarding Jewish morality, contrasts Mosaic law with practices in Gentile world.

Book 2 affirms superiority of Mosaic legacy in Hebrew culture.

Apion Pleistoneices (Apion Mochtos) 30-20BC? - 45-48AD? Apion wrote, "A Work Against the Jews". Apion studied at Alexandria Egypt. He was during times of: Tiberius 14-37AD, Gaius (Caligula) 37-41A.D., & Claudius 41-54AD.

Apion led delegation of Alexandrians to Rome at time of Caligula to attack Jews.

Josephus' dream & message Jewish War Book 3 Ch 8, 3...

1. The **future calamities of the Jews**, and 2. the **events that concerned the Roman emperors:** and just then was he in an ecstasy; and setting before him the tremendous images of the dreams he had lately had, he put up a secret prayer to God, and said, "Since it pleaseth God signified ahead for Jews & Romans.
3. **thee, who hast created the Jewish nation, to depress the same**, and since
4. **all their good fortune is gone over to the Romans**,
5. & since **thou hast made choice of this soul of mine to foretell what is to come to pass** hereafter, I willingly give them my hands, and am content to live. I protest openly that **I do not go over to the Romans as a deserter of the Jews, but as a minister for thee.**"

9... "Thou, O Vespasian, thinkest no more than that thou hast taken Josephus himself captive; but **I come to thee as a messenger of greater tidings**; for had not **I been sent by God to thee**, I knew what was the law of the Jews in this case. And how it becomes generals to die. Dost thou send me to Nero? For why? **Are Nero's successors till they come to thee still alive?** Thou, O Vespasian, art **Caesar and Emperor, thou, and this thy son. ...thou, O Caesar, are not only lord over me, but over the land and the sea, and all mankind**; certainly I deserve to be kept in closer custody than I now am in order to be punished, if I rashly affirm anything of God."

To which Josephus replied,

"I did foretell to the people of Jotapata that they would be taken on the 47th day, & that I should be caught alive by the Romans." Now when Vespasian had inquired of the captives privately about these predictions, he found them to be true, & then he began to believe those that concerned himself.