

37 THE BEAST Part 2

INTRODUCTION: This continues the consideration of historical background and Biblical themes to enable understanding the Beast figure of Revelation who, we believe, was first century zealot-led Israel.

1. THE BEAST BURNED AND DESTROYED THE PROSTITUTE. ZEALOT-LED ISRAEL, BURNED AND DESTROYED JERUSALEM.

"The ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the prostitute, and will make her desolate, and will make her naked, and will eat her flesh, and will burn her utterly with fire." Rev. 17:16

A. Zealots/Beast eating itself: "One should not mistake if he called it [the war] a sedition begotten by another sedition and to be like a wild beast grown mad, which for want of food from abroad, fell now upon eating its own flesh." Wars 5.1.1

B. Zealots destroyed the city: "... those [Romans] that took it [Jerusalem] did it a greater kindness, for I venture to affirm that the sedition destroyed the city, and the Romans destroyed the sedition...so that we may justly ascribe our misfortunes to our own people [Josephus was Jewish] ..." Wars 5.6.1

C. Buildings destroyed by zealots: "...vastly rich buildings...were not burnt by the Romans, but by these internal plotters [zealots]. ...That fire began at the tower of Antonia, and went on to the palaces, and consumed the upper parts of the three towers themselves." Wars 5.4.4

D. Zealots destroyed the city: "He [zealot leader]...attacked the city also; as if they had, on purpose, done it to serve the Romans..." (Wars 5.1.4).

E. Oracle predicted Jewish destruction of temple: "For there was a certain ancient oracle of those men, that the city should then be taken and the sanctuary burnt, by right of war, when a sedition should invade the Jews and their own hands should pollute the Temple of God. Now, while these Zealots did not disbelieve these predictions, they made themselves the instruments of their accomplishment." Wars 4.6.3

F. Jews started the temple fire: "They [Jews], ...made a beginning in burning the sanctuary; two days after which...the Romans set fire to the cloister that joined to the other... The Jews, in like manner, cut off its roof; nor did they entirely leave off what they were about till the tower of Antonia was parted from the temple, even when it was in their power to have stopped the fire; nay, they lay still while the temple was first set on fire, and deemed this spreading of the fire to be for their own advantage." Wars 6.2.9

G. Jews destroyed the temple: Regarding the burning of the temple: "...now that fatal day was come, according to the revolution of the ages: it was the tenth day of the month Lous, [Av,] upon which it [temple] was formerly burnt by the king of Babylon... these flames took their rise from the Jews themselves, and were occasioned by them." Wars 6.4.5

H. Roman General Titus tried to save the temple: Titus said: "When I came near your temple, I again departed from the laws of war, and exhorted you to spare your own sanctuary, and to preserve your holy house to yourselves. I allowed you a quiet exit out of it, and security for your preservation; nay, if you had a mind, I gave you leave to fight in another place. Yet have you still despised every one of my proposals, and have set fire to your holy house with your own hands." (Wars 6.6.2).

2. THE SEVEN HEADS ON THE BEAST —A ZEALOT DYNASTY SPANNING APPROXIMATELY 120 YEARS (theory)

"There are seven kings, the five did fall, and the one is, the other did not yet come, and when he may come, it behoveth him to remain a little time; 11 and the beast that was, and is not, he also is eighth, and out of the seven he is, and to destruction he doth go away." Rev. 17:10-11

1. Hezekiah was a zealot martyr under Herod the Great, (Active around 47 BC)
2. Judah, son of Hezekiah, likely executed by Herod Antipas see Acts 5:37. (Active around AD 6)
3. Jacob, son of Judah, executed by Roman Procurator (Active around AD 46)
4. Simeon, son of Judah, executed by Roman Procurator (Active around AD 46)
5. Yair, son of Judah, father to Eleazar ben Yair who lead the final hold-out at Masada
6. Eleazar ben Yair, grandson of Judah (active AD 66-73)
7. Menahem, grandson of Judah (Active AD 66)

Menahem the seventh—for whom there were high hopes as a messianic leader, was abruptly killed even before the war began—and it appeared all hope was lost. The "eighth" appears to be a reference to one or both of the zealot leaders (Simon ben Giora or Eleazar son of Simon) who were not of the zealot family but led the extremely successful rout of the Roman-Syrian troops before the war began, inflating egos and multiplying forces with the idea that Israel could triumph over the Romans.

3. THE TEN KINGS WERE TEN JEWISH LEADERS ASSIGNED TERRITORIES TO OVERSEE THE WAR EFFORT.

"I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads. On his horns were ten crowns, and on his heads, blasphemous names." Rev. 13:1

The ten generals assigned to over-see the war effort in the holy land. Wars 2.20.3-4

1. Joseph ben Gorion,
2. Ananus, former high priest
3. Jesus, son of Sapphias
4. Eleazar, son of Priest Ananias
5. Niger, governor of Idumea
6. Joseph, son of Simon
7. Manasseh
8. John of Essene
9. John, son of Maatthias
10. Josephus, son of Matthias.

4. SECOND BEAST/FALSE PROPHET

"I saw another beast coming up out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke like a dragon. He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. He makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast..." Rev. 13:11-12

A. Zealots hired false prophets: "A false prophet was the occasion of these people's [Jews] destruction, who had made a public proclamation in the city that very day, that God commanded them to get upon the temple, and that there they should receive miraculous signs of their deliverance. Now there was then a great number of false prophets suborned [hired] by the tyrants [zealots] to impose on the people, who denounced [sic] this to them, that they should wait for deliverance from God; and this was in order to keep them from deserting." (Wars 6.5.2).

B. Propagandists, actors, activists: "There was also another body of wicked men gotten together... These were such men as deceived and deluded the people under pretense of Divine inspiration, but were for procuring innovations and changes of the government; and these prevailed with the multitude to act like madmen, and went before them into the wilderness, as pretending that God would there show them the signals of liberty. Wars 2.13.4

C. Propagandist, deceiver: John of Gischala, "went about among all the people, and persuaded them to go to war, by the hopes he gave them. He affirmed that the affairs of the Romans were in a weak condition, and extolled his own power. He also jested upon the ignorance of the unskillful, as if those Romans, although they should take to themselves wings, could never fly over the wall of Jerusalem, who found such great difficulties in taking the villages of Galilee and had broken their engines of war against their walls. These harangues of John's corrupted a great part of the young men, and puffed them up for war. Wars 4.3.1-2

5. THOSE WHO DID NOT JOIN FORCES WITH THE BEAST/ZEALOTS WERE KILLED/THROATS CUT.

"It was given to him [second beast] to give breath to it, to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause as many as wouldn't worship the image of the beast to be killed." Rev. 13:15

A. Live by sword: Jesus of Gamala states: "the zealots had "made their swords the arbitrators of right and wrong." Wars 4.4.3

B. Cut throats: "Now after these [two high priests] were slain, the zealots and the multitude of the Idumeans fell upon the people as upon a flock of profane animals and cut their throats..." Wars 4.5.3

C. Zealots killed deserters: "...there were Jews that deserted every day, and fled away from the zealots, although their flight was very difficult, since they had guarded every passage out of the city, and slew every one that was caught at them..." Wars 4.6.3

D. Zealot factions agreed on one thing—to kill the innocent: Zealot factions "agreed in nothing but this, to kill those that were innocent...everyone despaired of himself, for those that were not among the seditious had no great desires of anything, as expecting for certain that they should very soon be destroyed." Wars 5.1.5

E. Cut throats of those wanting peace: The zealots "threatened death to the people, if they should any one of them say a word about a surrender. They moreover cut the throats of such as talked of a peace..." Wars 5.8.1

F. Cut throats of defectors: The zealots watched for defectors and "if any one did but afford the least shadow of suspicion... his throat was cut immediately." Wars 5.10.1

See video/paper #21 for further information on the 10 kings. (Recorded before our revision of Israel as the 4th kingdom/4th beast)

Previous "Beast" Preterist Papers: #28, #34, # 36

For more in-depth research, please see Adam Maarschalk's website, adammaarschalk.com Find "Beast of Revelation".

See Adam Maarschalk's PDF: "An Overview of the Zealot Movement and 12 Key Leaders."