

53 THREE FALLEN KINGS AND THE LITTLE HORN

Introduction: In this discussion, we look at three elements of Daniel's vision and seek to make the case the ten kings (horns) were ten generals selected to lead the war effort against Rome, the three fallen kings were three generals killed by the zealots, and the little horn was the zealots. We marvel at the detailed foreknowledge Daniel was given.

Three passages in Daniel named 10 kings, 3 fallen kings and the supplanting evil 11th king (horn).

1. **Daniel 7:7-8** It [4th beast] had ten horns. "I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots; and behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking arrogantly."
2. **Daniel 7:20-21** "...concerning the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three fell, even that horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke arrogantly, whose look was greater than its fellows. 21 I saw, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them."
3. **Daniel 7:24-25** As for the ten horns, ten kings will arise out of this kingdom. Another will arise after them; and he will be different from the former, and he will put down three kings. 25 He will speak words against the Most High, and will persecute the saints of the Most High. He will plan to change the times and the law; and they will be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time.

Josephus' "Wars of the Jews" contains all three character groups of Daniel's vision.

1. Josephus named exactly ten men of stature in Israel selected to execute the coming war with Rome.
2. Josephus described exactly three of those generals as being killed by the zealots.
3. He described one entity, the zealots, warring against the people (saints*) and behaving in murderous, profane ways.

Some preterists claim there were ten Roman provinces and their leaders were the ten kings.

However, there were 15 Roman Provinces under Augustus and they grew in number to 27 provinces by the end of Nero's reign. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_province

JOSEPHUS CITES TEN GENERALS, MEN OF STATURE, WHO TOOK CONTROL OF JUDEAN TERRITORIES FOR THE WAR WITH ROME. (Wars 2:20:3-4)

1. Ananus former high priest (See P.P. #34 "The Two Witnesses")
2. Gorion or Joseph ben Gorion*
3. Niger, governor of Idumea
4. Jesus, son of Sapphias
5. Eleazar, son of Ananias (see P.P. #20 "Man of Sin", #31 "Man of Sin")
6. Joseph, son of Simon
7. Manasseh
8. John the Essene
9. John, son of Matthias
10. Josephus, son of Matthias (eye-witness to the war and author of "The Wars of the Jews")

THREE GENERALS BRUTALLY SLAUGHTERED BY THE ZEALOTS: ANANUS, GORION, NIGER.

1. Ananus, the former high priest, we believe to be one of the two witnesses.

Josephus: "They [Idumeans acting as zealots] sought for the high priests, and they generally went with the greatest zeal against them; and as soon as they caught them they slew them, and then standing upon their dead bodies, in way of jest, upbraided **Ananus** with his kindness to the people, and Jesus with his speech made to them from the wall. Nay, they proceeded to that degree of impiety, as to cast away their dead bodies without burial...I should not mistake if I said that the death of **Ananus** was the beginning of the destruction of the city, and that from this very day may be dated the overthrow of her wall, and the ruin of her affairs, whereon they saw their high priest, and the procurer of their preservation, slain in the midst of their city. He was on other accounts also a venerable, and a very just man; and besides the grandeur of that nobility, and dignity, and honor of which he was possessed, he had been a lover of a kind of parity, even with regard to the meanest of the people; he was a prodigious lover of liberty, and an admirer of a democracy in government; and did ever prefer the public welfare before his own advantage, and preferred peace above all things; for he was thoroughly sensible that the Romans were not to be conquered." "Wars" 4.5.2

2. Gorion**

Josephus: "But their [zealots'] thirst was chiefly after the blood of valiant men, and men of good families; the one sort of which they destroyed out of envy, the other out of fear; for they thought their whole security lay in leaving no potent men alive; on which account they slew **Gorion**, a person eminent in dignity, and on account of his family also; he was also for democracy, and of as great boldness and freedom of spirit as were any of the Jews whosoever; the principal thing that ruined him, added to his other advantages, was his free speaking." "Wars" 4.6.1

3. Niger

Josephus: “Nor did **Niger** of Peres escape their hands; he had been a man of great valor in their war with the Romans, but was now drawn through the middle of the city, and, as he went, he frequently cried out, and showed the scars of his wounds; and when he was drawn out of the gates, and despaired of his preservation, he besought them to grant him a burial; but as they had threatened him beforehand not to grant him any spot of earth for a grave, which he chiefly desired of them, so did they slay him [without permitting him to be buried]. Now when they were slaying him, he made this imprecation upon them, that they might undergo both famine and pestilence in this war, and besides all that, they might come to the mutual slaughter of one another; all which imprecations God confirmed against these impious men, and was what came most justly upon them...” “Wars” 4.6.1

SAMPLES OF ZEALOT DEPRAVITY RECOUNTED BY JOSEPHUS:

1. Mocking the Law of Yahweh, the zealots drew lots to set up their own high priest: “By fortune the lot so fell as to demonstrate their [zealots’] iniquity after the plainest manner, for it fell upon one whose name was Phannias...He was a man not only unworthy of the high priesthood, but that did not well know what the high priesthood was...Yet did they hail this man...as if they were acting a play upon the stage...they also put upon him the sacred garments, and upon every occasion instructed him what he was to do. This horrid piece of wickedness was sport and pastime with them, but occasioned the other priests, who at a distance saw their law made a jest of, to shed tears, and sorely lament the dissolution of such a sacred dignity.” “Wars” 4.3.8

2. The zealots ridiculed God’s Revealed Law and Natural Law: “...as if they had made an agreement to cancel both the laws of their country and the laws of nature, and, at the same time that they defiled men with their wicked actions, they would pollute the Divinity itself also, they left the dead bodies to putrefy under the sun...To say all in a word, no other gentle passion was so entirely lost among them [zealots] as mercy; for what were the greatest objects of pity did most of all irritate these wretches, and they transferred their rage from the living to those that had been slain, and from the dead to the living...These men, therefore, trampled upon all the laws of men, and laughed at the laws of God; and for the oracles of the prophets, they ridiculed them as the tricks of jugglers...” “Wars” 4.6.3

3. Zealots enjoyed plunder, murder, rape: “Their inclination to plunder was insatiable, as was their zeal in searching the houses of the rich; and for the murdering of the men, and abusing of the women, it was sport to them.” “Wars” 4.9.10

4. Zealots indulged in transvestism, perversions, murder: “...indulged themselves in feminine wantonness, without any disturbance, till they were satiated therewith; while they decked their hair, and put on women's garments, and were besmeared over with ointments; and that they might appear very comely, they had paints under their eyes, and imitated not only the ornaments, but also the lusts of women, and were guilty of such intolerable uncleanness, that they invented unlawful pleasures of that sort. And thus did they roll themselves up and down the city, as in a brothel-house, and defiled it entirely with their impure actions; nay, while their faces looked like the faces of women, they killed with their right hands; and when their gait was effeminate, they presently attacked men, and became warriors, and drew their swords from under their finely dyed cloaks, and ran every body through whom they alighted upon.” “Wars” 4.9.10

5. The zealots slaughtered those who tried to escape Jerusalem to the Romans: “However, Simon [zealot leader] waited for such as ran away from John [zealot leader], and was the more bloody of the two; and he who had escaped the tyrant within the wall was destroyed by the other that lay before the gates, so that all attempts of flying and deserting to the Romans were cut off, as to those that had a mind so to do.” “Wars” 4.9.10

6. Warring zealot factions agreed on one thing— killing the innocent towns people: “And now, as the city was engaged in a war on all sides, from these treacherous crowds of wicked men, the people of the city, between them, were like a great body torn in pieces. The aged men and the women were in such distress by their internal calamities, that they wished for the Romans, and earnestly hoped for an external war, in order to their delivery from their domestical miseries...for [zealot] guards were set at all places, and the heads of the robbers [zealots], although they were seditious one against another in other respects, yet did they agree in killing those that were for peace with the Romans, or were suspected of an inclination to desert them, as their common enemies. They agreed in nothing but this, to kill those that were innocent.” “Wars” 5.1.5

Notes:

***Saints:** the people of Israel were routinely referred to as “saints”, the holy, set-aside ones. Ps 79:2, 34:9, 30:4, 31:23, 16:3, 116:15, 145:10, 50:5, 97:10, 148:14, 149:5, 132:9, 132:16, 37:28, 149:9, 52:9, 149:1, Pro. 2:8, 2 Chron. 6:41

****Gorion:** Some confusion whether he was Gorion ben Joseph or Joseph ben Gorion. Wars 4.3.9, 2.20.3 see note

Recommended reading: “Wars of the Jews” by Josephus. Start with book 2 chapter 12 for an easier read. See P.P #26 for helps.

4th Beast was not Rome, but rather Israel: See Preterist Papers #42, #28, #36, #37, #38, #39, #40

Other Preterist Papers: #21 “Ten Kings”, #34 “Two Witnesses”, #20 and #31 “Man of Sin”