THE DATE OF HEROD'S DEATH

D. WINTON THOMAS

And by practice of water shall be the deed done. For the word the consummation then shall read them

That shall make it clear that the water is made in the deed done. For the word the consummation then shall read them

Date: 45 B.C. no accountancy to be found in the deeds done. For the word the consummation then shall read them

NOTES AND STUDIES

OCTOBER 2006 - 2007

NOTES AND STUDIES

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THE USE OF AVIAN IN POXVIRUS: A RELAY

Time and Distance

The use of avian in poxvirus as a relay for the dissemination of information is a novel approach in the field of epidemiology. This phenomenon occurs when a virus, after infecting an animal, spreads to other species through intermediate hosts. The ability of poxviruses to cause disease in a wide range of hosts makes them ideal candidates for studying the transmission dynamics of infectious diseases.

In a recent study, researchers investigated the role of avian poxviruses in the spread of disease among different species. They found that these viruses are capable of infecting a variety of hosts, including birds, mammals, and reptiles. The results of this study suggest that avian poxviruses could serve as a useful tool for monitoring the spread of diseases in natural ecosystems.

The study also highlighted the importance of understanding the ecological factors that influence the transmission of poxviruses. By identifying the key drivers of disease spread, researchers can develop effective strategies for controlling the spread of these viruses in the wild.

In conclusion, the use of avian poxviruses as a relay for the dissemination of information is a promising approach for studying the transmission dynamics of infectious diseases. Further research is needed to fully understand the role of these viruses in the spread of disease, and to develop effective strategies for controlling the spread of poxviruses in natural ecosystems.
A Defence of Theological Ethics
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believes in the autonomy of the moral standard and the moral agent.
Professor Woods examines the meaning of autonomy and the nature and
operation of physical and personal standards. He shows that Christia
theological ethics offer a rational alternative to moral experience.
They make an important contribution to ethical theory.
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cluding the foundation deeds of particular chantries, borough records,
and Patent Rolls. Her researches will revise accepted views on the function
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ARTICLES
THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE REIGN OF HEROD THE GREAT

For many years the dates of the birth and crucifixion of Christ have been matters of controversy. The birth of Christ must have been before the death of Herod the Great, for Herod, on hearing that a child had been born who was to become king of the Jews, ordered the massacre of all male children under two years of age in Bethlehem.
Now according to Josephus, Herod died shortly after an eclipse of the moon and not long before a Passover. Since there was an eclipse of the moon on the night of 12/13 March, 4 B.C., which was exactly a month before the Passover, it has been widely assumed that Herod died in the spring of that year, and consequently that Christ was born at least as early as 5 B.C.
Within the possible limits for the date of the crucifixion, the 14th Nisan fell on a Friday only in the years A.D. 30 and 33, and of these two dates recent opinion has tended to favour the latter. But Luke iii. 23 says that Jesus was "about thirty years of age" when he began his ministry, and this could not have been earlier than A.D. 29 if we take A.D. 33 for the crucifixion. Since Jesus may have been anything up to two years of age when Herod died, we find ourselves obliged either to accept Luke's statement with an unduly large degree of latitude, or to question the evidence for the date of Herod's death as early as 4 B.C.

The Eclipse of the Moon
Professor J. Finegan in his Handbook of Biblical Chronology, p. 231 (1953), quotes Emil Schürer as saying, "Only on the night of Mar. 12/13, 4 B.C. was there a lunar eclipse, and there was no such phenomenon in 3 or 2 B.C. Accordingly the death of Herod took place between Mar. 12 and Apr. 11 in the year 4 B.C." Reference to the English translation of Schürer's work confirms that he did make such a statement, but in the German second and later editions he added, "Only in 5 B.C. on 15 Sept. and in 3 B.C. on 9 January did other lunar eclipses occur which were visible in Jerusalem. But these cannot be considered on account of the other data." Regarding the eclipse in 1 B.C. he refers the reader to

[Ant. xvii. vi. 5 (416) and iv. 3 (313).]
THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE RISE OF HEMID 25

On the 25th day of the 25th month of the 25th year of the reign of Hemid, the great and powerful ruler of the land, a significant event occurred in the city of Hemidopolis. It was observed in the sky that a great comet streaked across the heavens, casting a shadow over the land. This was a sign of the times, according to the oracle of the gods, and it was believed that this event would bring about great changes in the kingdom.

The next day, Hemid assembled his council of elders to discuss the matter. The wise men debated the implications of the comet's appearance, and they agreed that it was a portent of good fortune. Hemid, always a man of great discernment, listened intently to the council's advice.

The following week, Hemid took action. He ordered the construction of a new temple to the gods, a temple that would be the largest and most magnificent in all of his kingdom. He also decreed that a feast would be held in honor of the gods, a feast that would last for seven days, during which the people of Hemidpolis would enjoy food and drink in abundance.

As the days passed, the people of Hemidpolis rejoiced in the prosperity of their land. The new temple was completed in record time, and the feast was a success, attended by all the nobles and elders of the land. Hemid's reign was celebrated as a time of great prosperity and peace.

The comet's appearance was a sign of the times, and the people of Hemidpolis were grateful to their ruler for his wisdom and foresight. Hemid, a man of great vision, had seen the future and had prepared his kingdom for the changes that were to come.
THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE RISE OF HEROD 99

96 CE: Antony and Cleopatra’s war with Rome, Antony’s defeat, and Cleopatra’s suicide.
93 CE: Herod’s conflict with the Romans.
91 CE: The fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Second Temple.
85 CE: Herod’s campaigns in Egypt and Syria.
80 CE: Herod’s construction of the Herodian Temple in Jerusalem.
72 CE: Herod’s victory over the Nabataeans.
67 CE: The beginning of the Jewish War.
63 CE: Herod’s construction of the Wall of Jerusalem.
61 CE: Herod’s failed campaign in Arabia.
59 CE: Herod’s construction of the Northern Wall of Jerusalem.
58 CE: Herod’s construction of the Southern Wall of Jerusalem.
57 CE: Herod’s construction of the Western Wall of Jerusalem.
56 CE: Herod’s construction of the Eastern Wall of Jerusalem.
55 CE: Herod’s construction of the Northern Gate of Jerusalem.
54 CE: Herod’s construction of the Southern Gate of Jerusalem.
53 CE: Herod’s construction of the Western Gate of Jerusalem.
52 CE: Herod’s construction of the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem.
51 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple Mount.
50 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple area.
49 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple complex.
48 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple compound.
47 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple facade.
46 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple roof.
45 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple pillars.
44 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple gates.
43 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple doors.
42 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple altars.
41 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple steps.
40 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple chamber.
39 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple treasury.
38 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple treasury vault.
37 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple treasury keys.
36 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple treasury windows.
35 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple treasury doors.
34 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple treasury walls.
33 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple treasury foundations.
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4 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple treasury foundations.
3 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple treasury foundations.
2 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple treasury foundations.
1 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple treasury foundations.
0 CE: Herod’s construction of the Temple treasury foundations.

By Josephus would have been 12 years old.
THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE REIGN OF HEROD THE GREAT

1. The Accession - In the year 37 BC, Herod was appointed by the Roman Senate as the ruler of the Kingdom of Judea. His reign lasted until his death in 4 BC.

2. Accession Year(s) - Herod's accession year is marked by a significant event in Jewish history, including the Census of Quirinius, which led to the Flight into Egypt.

3. Successors - After Herod's death, his son Archelaus was made king by the Romans, but his rule was short-lived and was eventually replaced by the Roman procurators.
THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE REIGN OF HEROD

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Elul, 37 B.C. would be in Herod's first year by either system of reckoning. Similarly throughout Herod's reign events falling in the summer half year would be dated in the same regnal year by either system, and consequently synchronisms with Roman history would be unaffected.

The three events principally concerned are (a) an earthquake before the battle of Actium (2 September, 31 B.C.) in Herod's 7th year, (b) the expedition of Aelius Gallus in 24 B.C. for which Herod provided 500 men in his 14th year, and (c) Herod's announcement in his 18th year of his intention to rebuild the temple; this can be dated from the visit of Augustus to Syria in 20 B.C. All these remain valid under the revised chronology. As regards the earthquake, Josephus says this occurred 'in the early spring'. If this means before 1 Nisan, then Schürer's chronology fails, for it would have been in Herod's 6th year by his reckoning.

Regarding the rebuilding of the temple, however, there is one statement that cannot be reconciled with Schürer's chronology. In The Jewish War Josephus gives the date of Herod's start on this work as the 15th, not the 18th year of his reign. It was pointed out some time ago in this Journal that this contradiction could be explained if Josephus had used two sources, one dating events from Herod's appointment in Rome, the other from his capture of Jerusalem. The revised chronology allows this explanation, but on the basis of Schürer's chronology the 15th year must be summarily rejected as an error.

Herod's Successors

One of the chief reasons for supposing that Herod died in 4 B.C. is that his sons who succeeded him appear to have begun their reigns in that year. Thus Archelaus, ruler of Judea and Samaria, was banished in A.D. 6/7 after a reign of ten years; Antipas, tetrarch of Galilee and Persea, who died in A.D. 39 or 40, reigned, according to coin evidence, forty-three years; while Philip, tetrarch of Iturea, died in the 20th year of Tiberius, A.D. 37/38, after a reign of thirty-seven years. This kind of indirect evidence, however, can be misleading, and has often been a cause of error in the case of the kings of Israel and Judah. On several occasions, when a king appointed his son as co-regent, the son's reign overlapped the father's by several years. It appears that Herod did the same thing at least in the case of Antipater, in testifying to Varus about him he said, 'I have in a manner yielded up my royal authority while I am alive'. Likewise Antipater in his reply said, 'I was king already... you proclaimed me king in your lifetime'. Antipater was deposed for the murder of his uncle Phasael, tetrarch of Galilee, and was later executed. Most of the kingdom was then given to Archelaus, but it is not clear how long this was before Herod died.

After Herod's death Archelaus declared, with false humility, that he was not properly king until his succession had been confirmed by the Roman emperor. He went to Rome where his enemies brought self-contradictory charges against him, arguing at one moment that Herod had not appointed him king until he was already demented on his death-bed, at another that 'he had long exercised royal authority'. The latter may well be nearer the truth, but without any precise chronological information it is difficult to give a time-table. The following outline would account for the stated reigns of Archelaus and Antipas:

1 B.C. Phasael, tetrarch of Galilee, was murdered by Antipater and Antipas, whose reign of forty-three years ended in A.D. 39/40. Later Antipater's plot was discovered and Archelaus nominated as king in his place, his reign of ten years ending in A.D. 6/7.

3 B.C. Antipater, residing in Rome, was not informed for seven months that he had been charged with murder, and when at last he did return to Palestine his journey was not at all hurried. It would be late in the year before he was brought to trial before Varus, governor of Syria. Even then Herod hesitated to pass sentence, contenting himself with only sending a report to Rome.

2 B.C. As a result of intercepting Antipater's correspondence further conspiracies came to light and, after more procrastination, Herod sent more ambassadors to Rome who returned only a few days before his death in January 1 B.C. At some time during this year Herod tried to disinherit Archelaus, but his last will shows that this was only temporary.

We still have to account for Philip who, according to Josephus, died in the 20th year of Tiberius after he had reigned as tetrarch for thirty-seven years. The context shows, however, that this is almost certainly incorrect.

1 Ant. xvi. vi. (121). 2 Dio, liv. 7. 3. 3 Ant. xvi. iv. 3 and 4 (309 and 317). 4 Ant. xvi. i. 1 (16). 5 Dio, liv. 7. 4-6. 6 War i. ii. 5 (370). 7 War i. xxi. 1 (401).
8 J. J. Scipio, Handbook of Biblical Chronology, p. 432. 9 Dio, liv. 17. 10. 11 Ant. xvi. vii. ii. 4 (542). 12 E. Schürer, History of the Jewish People, vol. ii, pp. 36 f, n. 45. 13 Ant. xvi. iv. 6 (166).