

The Jerusalem News

(Late Sabbath Edition)

Sunday, April 5

Volume 1, Issue 1

New Prophet Questioning the Law

Members of the Jewish ruling council, the Sanhedrin, appear concerned about the ongoing reports from the countryside concerning an itinerant preacher named Jesus of Nazareth. Reliable sources have said that many people are following this "miracle worker," including about twelve that make up his inner core group. They report that he heals the blind, eats with outcasts, and even speaks to Samaritan women. His un-kosher action is seen by

many religious leaders here in Jerusalem as blatant attempts to go against the Law. In addition, some Pharisees have said that he has blasphemed against God by claiming to be His son. Others claim, thought that he might be the long awaited Messiah. Rumors floating around the capital city recently have this Jesus heading towards here. It is not yet known how he would be received by both the general population, and by the Pharisees and Sadducees.



Weather Forecast

- Hot, dry and windy
- All information from the Jewish Almanac



Classified Ads:

One donkey, never ridden. Free to good master. See Levi.

Wood for sale: used by Romans for recent crucifixions. Stained, but great for building mangers, etc. See Brutus the Guard.

Sheep without blemishes for sale. The perfect sheep for the perfect Temple sacrifice. For the discriminating buyer. See David at Bethlehem Sheep.

Family Sues for Head of John (formerly known as "the Baptiser")

Almost three years ago, King Herod beheaded John "the Baptiser" for saying comments about his marriage to his sister-in-law. Since that event, the family of John took the unprecedented move of having sued the Roman

government, wanting to locate and bury his head with the rest of his body. Reports have it that the government was willing to settle "out of court" to "save face" to settle this matter.



This Day in History: Judas Maccabaeus' Entrance to Jerusalem

On this date in history (163 BC) Judas Maccabaeus rode into Jerusalem amidst great fanfare after his amazing conquest of Antiochus of Syria. With palm branches waving and garments spread across the road, he rode into the city. One might remember how Antiochus had sacrificed a pig in the temple; this after he had replaced the

worship of the Lord God Almighty with the Roman god Zeus. Outraged, Judas Maccabaeus had brought his small band of troops against the enemy, beating them out of Jerusalem. Now, upon entering the city, he was ready to reconsecrate the temple. The Feast of Hanukkah still commemorates this great event to this day.



New Space for Money Changes

Jewish religious authorities have granted permission for the moneychangers and those who sell sacrificial animals to move below the Temple area just inside the Double Gate. This area on the southeast side of the Temple will shelter those who make a living providing coins that have no

graven image upon them, as well as animals ready to die for the sins of those who buy them. The High Priest Caiaphas and others expect to make additional money to support the continuing building program of the Temple itself (now in its 46th year).

Rabbis Meet to Discuss Books of Scripture

Teachers of both the Pharisees and Sadducees will be meeting next week to begin discussing which books should be included in Scripture. Sadducees only want the Pentateuch—first five books of law—while the

more liberal Pharisees want to include both the writings and the Prophets. This process is expected to take some years, as the gulf between the two opposing camps of thought is quite wide.



Passover Crowds Jamming City

Larger crowds than seen in recent years seem to be coming to Jerusalem this year. Religious authorities are baffled by the estimates that are coming in from the provinces. As in past years, most will have to stay on the fields and hills east of the city around Bethany and Bethphage, and south towards Bethlehem. From there they will easily be able to walk to the Temple and return before nightfall!