

**HEROD THE GREAT, THE KING OF THE  
JEWS: WITH AN ACCOUNT OF VARIOUS  
CIRCUMSTANCES, HISTORICAL AND  
PROPHETICAL, CONNECTED WITH THE  
COMING OF CHRIST JESUS THE LORD  
INTO THE WORLD**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649013784

Herod the Great, the King of the Jews: With an Account of Various Circumstances, Historical and prophetic, connected with the coming of Christ Jesus the Lord into the world by William M. Willett

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**WILLIAM M. WILLETT**

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# HEROD THE GREAT,

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WILLIAM M. WILLETT.

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"How delightful it is to see, with the eye of faith, Darius, Cyrus, Alexander, the  
Romans, Pompey, and Herod, labouring unwittingly for the glory of the Gospel!"  
*Pascal's "Thoughts on Religion."*

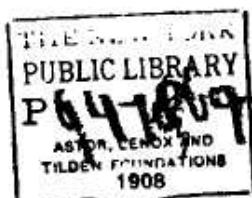
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PHILADELPHIA:

PUBLICATION OFFICE AT FETTER & CO.'S,  
No. 21 SOUTH SIXTH ST.

1859.

*Off. ed. only*



34764

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Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1860, by  
REV. J. J. HANLY AND EDWARD JONES,  
in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern  
District of Pennsylvania.

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STEREOTYPED BY L. JOHNSON & CO.  
PHILADELPHIA.  
PRINTED BY WM. S. YOUNG.



## Book First.

### THE MONUMENT.

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#### PROEM.

FOR many generations there stood on a hill (on which also was built the city of Modin, the location of which is now unknown) on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea, a lofty and splendid pile, which long served as a sea-signal to the voyager as he approached the coast of Palestine. Far off upon the sea it might have been seen, with the long chain of Lebanon to the north, Mount Ephraim to the east, and the mountains of Judæa on the south, lining the distant horizon. Not far, probably, from the base of the hill on which the pile stood, the waters of the Mediterranean washed the shore, and the sound of the waves fell as music on the ear.

The pile consisted of a white marble monument, highly polished, adorned with sculpture, and of a great height, with seven pyramids in juxtaposition to the monument, with a peristyle, or a circular row of pillars, surrounding the whole. The pillars, which were composed each of a single block of white marble, were cut with armour and ships, the armour a fac-simile of that worn by the Maccabees. There was also possibly carved thereon the sword of Apollonius, who was slain by the hand of Judas Maccabæus in his first battle, and used by him ever afterward. The carved work on

the tall pillars was on a scale of such magnitude that it could be seen at a considerable distance from the sea. The whole structure was remarkable not only for its size but its beauty, and partook somewhat of the grace and elegance of Grecian architecture.

This monumental pile marked the last resting-spot of the liberators of the Jewish nation from the thralldom of the Greek-Macedonian empire of the Seleucidæ.\* Here—their battles over, their country free, and their ancient constitution restored—they rested in peace.

The one who reared with great care and great cost this monument to their memory was Simon, the second son of the aged and valorous Mattathias, and who survived them all. When he became in his turn, by the universal consent of his nation, their ruler, and Judea once more stood erect among the surrounding nations as an independent kingdom, Simon built this mausoleum over the spot where reposed the remains of his father and mother and his four brothers, John, Judas, Eleazar, and Jonathan. Of the seven pyramids, six were erected, one over against the other, in memory of those already dead; the seventh was reserved for himself.

This monument of which we have spoken still stood in the time of Josephus, who saw it and has left the description of it; and Eusebius also speaks of it, as we are informed, as existing in his time, which was two hundred years later. Gradually, however, along with other monuments of past ages, it crumbled into dust; and now not a stone of it is left to mark where

\* So called from *Seleucus Nicator*, the founder of the Greek-Syrian empire.

it stood: every trace or vestige of it is gone. But while it remained it set forth the prowess of Judæa's sons and commemorated the freedom of the nation. The voyager on the Syrian coast, whoever he might be,—whether the dweller on the Ionian Sea, or the Greek from the isles of the Ægean, or the Lacedemonian of the same origin as the Jews, (as acknowledged by the Lacedemonians themselves,) or the Asiatic from the Hellespont,—could not fail to be reminded of deeds which, when we consider the small force of the Jews in comparison with that which the Greek-Macedonian kings of Syria brought against them, together with the result, will not yield in illustriousness to any other. The repeated triumphs of Judas Maccabæus, and his brothers Jonathan and Simon, over the Syrians, thus chronicled, were carried in every direction: they reached Rome itself, then fast arising into great power; and the proud republic was not ashamed to receive Judæa into the number of its friends and allies. Tablets of brass hung in the temple of Jupiter at Rome on the Capitoline Hill, and tablets of brass suspended in the outer court of the temple at Jerusalem, contained the record of the various alliances of the Jews and the Romans. The patriotism and valor commemorated by these tablets, though the tablets themselves have long since perished, live yet in the hearts of this people; and the day will come when, no doubt, this wonderful nation will be restored to its own land and take the first place among the nations of the earth,—will receive the homage not of one nation, but of many, and will yet bless, according to the promise made to Abraham, all the families of our world.