

THE HOLY LAND and CHRISTIANITY



Bronze prutah of Antonius Felix honoring the mother of Nero and wife of Claudius, struck 54 AD. Obv: **Julia Agrippina** in Greek within wreath Rev: crossed palm branches with name of Claudius and date. VF \$177. Fine \$37. Poor 100%



Bronze half unit of the First Revolt, **year 4** or 69/70 AD Obv: branched palm tree with two bunches of dates, baskets of fruit Rev: Erog flanked by two lulavim VF, irregular planchet as made. \$2,700. Silver Shekel of the **First Revolt** 66-70 A.D., Obv: chalice with pearly rim. Rev: stem of three pomegranates. NGC genuine, EF+ light oxidation \$1,977.



Billon (5% silver) double denarius or antoninianus of Diocletian, pre-reform, 284-295 A.D. He was the last sole ruler of the Roman Empire to actively persecute the Christians. When in high grade, the 5% silver is concentrated on the surface. The best theory of minting base silver revolves around planchet preparation. The blanks were soaked in a brine (straight salt water?) solution which carried away the copper atoms on the surface, leaving the less reactive silver atoms to concentrate on the surface. Striking further compacts this very thin silver layer, giving this very base alloy coin a handsome, though temporary finish. Obv: Radiate bust of Diocletian. Rev: Usually Diocletian receiving a globe surmounted with Victory from Jupiter. Unc, as much silvering as possible, PQ strike and planchet. NGC certified "genuine" since slightly dirty \$177. VF raw 100% \$47.



Bronze follis of **Maxentius**, 306-312 A.D. This son of Maximianus was soon at odds with the other tetrarchs, and rebelled. Firmly entrenched in Rome and Italy. He held power till 312 A.D. when Constantine and his much smaller army under the standards of Christianity defeated Maxentius at the battle of Milvian bridge. Obv: Laureate bust of Maxentius. Rev: Temple, the Dioscuri, or Romulus and Remus. EF \$97. VF \$47. F 100% \$27.



Bronze follis of Julian II, the Apostate, 360 to 363 AD. Julian was a nephew of Constantine the Great who was the last **pagan** emperor of Rome. Obv: helmeted bust of Julian holding spear and shield. Rev: declaration of vows in wreath. Choice Abt Unc \$187.. different designs VF \$37. F 100% \$17.



Silver tetradrachm from the Antioch mint of the emperor Nero 54-68 AD. He is most famous for his active persecution of the early Christians. Peter and Paul were both martyred in Rome during his reign. Isaac Asimov in his book, **REALM OF NUMBERS**, states his belief that the **Number of the Beast 666**, from Revelation 13: 1-18, is a mathematical codeword for the name of the Roman emperor: Nero Claudio Domitius. To the early Christians persecuted for their beliefs, and burned at the stake when they refused to sacrifice to the emperor; the Roman empire had become Hell. Nero, commanding the mighty legions of Rome, officered by his pagan centurions, and who eventually became quite insane with his megalomania, certainly fit a description for Satan. If these writings of St. John were to fall into the hands of the authorities, all they would read was an allegory of some hellish demon tormenting the faithful on earth and demanding to be worshipped above all other gods. F-VF 100% \$187.



Bronze prutah of the Jewish War or "First Revolt" struck 67 to 69 AD. The siege and capture of Jerusalem resulted in the destruction of the Temple in **70 AD**. So many captured Jews were on the market that the prices of slaves in the Roman empire dropped to an all time low. Obv: two handled amphora with broad rim. Rev: grape leaf on vine. EF \$277. VF \$147. F \$67. VG \$37. Fair 100% \$17.



Silver denarius of Titus 79 to 81 AD. The **arch of Titus**, still standing in Rome near the Colosseum, is decorated with stone reliefs depicting his triumphal procession through Rome after the defeat of the Jews. The loot from the Temple is shown, including the fabulous golden menorah. Obv: Laureate bust of Titus. Rev: Four horse chariot in slow victory procession. F 100% \$177.



Fine silver argentus of Diocletian, post reform 295-305 AD. Diocletian was the first recorded ruler to **fight inflation** with price controls, which failed. His monetary reform temporarily stabilized the economy. This near pure silver argentus, or resurrected denarius, was usually melted by savvy bullion traders. Quite a rare denomination NGC abt unc \$877. EF 100% \$477.



Bronze follis c 314 AD of Constantine the Great as Augustus, 307 to 337 AD. The night before the battle of Milvian Bridge, Constantine had a vision of an angel showing him a Christogram, or Chi-Rho, the first two letters in Greek of the name of Christ. And the angel said: "Hoc Signo Victor Eris" (In this sign you shall conquer). Displaying the sign of the cross on shields and standards, the legions of Constantine were victorious. Constantine accepted Christianity in 312 AD, although he waited until his deathbed in 337 AD to be baptized. Christianity became the dominant religion through Western culture down to the 21st Century. Obv: Laureate bust of Constantine I. Rev: Standing naked figure of Jove (Jupiter or Zeus) holding sceptre and globe. Mintmark below. abt. unc. \$97. EF \$57. VF 100% \$37.



Bronze follis of the Byzantine Empire 1067-1071 AD. Obv: Bust of Christ Rev: Virgin Mary. EF sharp facial features nice green patina \$277. VF \$97. F 100% \$47.



Silver denier of **Richard I "the Lion Hearted"** 1189-1199 struck for his lands in Aquitaine, inherited from his mother Eleanor. Richard never issued any coins in England with his name on them, and only spent 6 months of his reign in his homeland. He led the Third Crusade with some success by capturing the island of Cyprus and the fortress of Acre. Saladin repelled his attempts to recapture Jerusalem. There are no coins with Richard's portrait, but these deniers, found at Civrac, France, have his name on them. Obv: cross above RICARDVS, omega below Rev: AQVITIN around cross. VF \$227. Fine 100% \$147.



Silver tetradrachm of Vespasian with his son Titus on rev. Antioch mint. Fine \$97. With this purchase you get a **free** copy of Hendin's book "Guide to Biblical Coins 4th Edition". 100%



Silver zuz of the **Bar Kochba War** in Judea 134/135 AD Obv: "For the Freedom of Jerusalem" around palm branch Rev: "Simon" in wreath. Unc light gray toning \$775. Bronze 19 mm Bar Kochba EF+ \$377. F \$137. G 100% \$67.



Bronze small follis of **St. Helena**, mother of Constantine the Great was an early Christian who influenced her son. She went around the Holy Land designating the various spots where the events in Jesus' life occurred. She chose Bethlehem, down in the south near Jerusalem, since it was the only village so named. She was unaware that during the reign of Augustus there was another Bethlehem in Galilee, which was totally destroyed in the First Revolt ending in 73 AD. Obv: her diademed and robed bust Rev: Securitas standing Fine \$27. Fair 100% \$12.



Silver grosh of Ivan Alexander and Michael Asen, co-rulers in Bulgaria, 1331-1355 A.D. Obv: Standing figure of Christ. Rev: Ivan and Michael standing, holding banner between them. EF 100% \$57.



Brass sestertius of Nero struck in Rome Obv: his laurate bust Rev: temple of Janus Fine, heavy face cuts. These ancient attacks on the portrait coins, called "damnatio", are most often found on coins of Nero. 100% \$197.

Another "damnatio": silver from Antioch where Nero's eye was carefully carved out! VF otherwise 100% \$197.

The First Revolt, or the Jewish war, was the culmination of 15 years of serious abuse by the procurators of Claudius and Nero. The corruption and insanity in Rome spread through the bureaucracy with the appointment of Felix, Festus, Albinus and Gessius Florus. In 66 AD, the Jews stopping sacrificing daily to Nero and open war broke out. The Jews enjoyed initial success in the Holy Land, though tens of thousands of Jews throughout the Roman Empire in Alexandria, Caesarea, Antioch and Damascus were massacred. Nero sent his best general, Vespasian to quell the revolt, which he contained in the strongholds of Jerusalem and Masada by mid 68 AD.

Silver half shekel of the First Revolt 66-70 AD, struck by the Zealots in Jerusalem Obv: chalice (Omer cup) with beaded rim Rev: pomegranate sprig with 3 fruits NGC genuine VF+ encrustation 100% \$1,877.

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