Titus

Titus Flavius Vespasianus was a Roman emperor who ruled from 79 CE – 81 CE. He was born December 30, 39 A.D. and died on September 13, 81 A.D. Vespasian was his father. Titus was the elder of him and his brother Domitian. From 61-63 he served in Germany and Britain as a military tribune. During this period of time he learned many things such as a natural aptitude for the art of war and peace. He learned to fight and ride a horse as well. He left his military position and served as a barrister in law courts. Because he enjoyed solving cases, he took this job temporarily. Also during this time, he married Arrecina Tertulla, the daughter of a former commander of the Praetorian Guard. Unfortunately, a year later she died and Titus remarried. His second wife’s name was Marcia Furnilla. Marcia was a part of a famous family which had connections to opponents of Nero. After the Pisonian Conspiracy he saw it was best to not be connected to anyone of distinguished family and divorced Marcia in 65 A.D. Titus chose to never remarry again.

Vespasian’s Rule

He returned to his position at the military. However, when Vespasian left to march to Italy, he left Titus in change of a campaign against Jewish rebels originally started by his father. He served under his father in the Jewish War from 66-73. During this period of time, Titus proved he was a strong leader. Throughout 70 CE, he killed rebels and captured and destroyed the temple in Jerusalem. Titus worked for his father, Vespasian to gain power in 69 CE. When Nero died, Titus encouraged Vespasian to claim the throne, so he did. He had a leading role of encouraging his father to become emperor. Vespasian successfully became emperor on July1, 69 CE. Titus’s celebrations after the victory over the Jewish people raised suspicions about him not staying loyal to his father, but he remained faithful the entire time he was alive. His father loved Titus. Once he wrote, “Either my son shall be my successor, or no one at all.” After Emperor Vitellius died Titus took over the Roman forces in Judea. He led the military arm of his father’s dictatorship and became head of state.

During the time of his father’s reign, Titus was described as, “Good-looking, cultivated and friendly, calm and a fair emperor.” He became very popular. When he was younger, he was brave and adventurous like Nero was. He was very gifted physically and intellectually. He was very strong and yet very friendly and an excellent warrior. Titus was also gifted in singing, and playing the harp. Also, when Vespasian became the emperor, Titus was very loyal to him. Throughout the reign Titus was Vespasian’s right-hand man and helped him in every way he could. Titus conducted routine affairs of state, dictated letters, and delivered his father’s speeches in the senate.

Titus’s Reign

Vespasian handed over his thrown to Titus and Romans feared this but they had no reason to. On June 24, 79 CE Titus took on the throne of his father who died in this time period.

During his reign, there was a very big disaster that struck the land. The eruption of Mount Vesuvius volcano came over Pompeii, Herculaneum, Stabiae, and Oplontis. The volcano ruined everything in the land. Titus visited the areas and set up relief funds to assist those that needed help. He offered assistance in any way he could. He worked to the fullest of his abilities to do anything he could to help those that were suffering.

The majority of his popularity was won through his kindness. For example, he financially helped after the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 CE and worked after a fire occurred in Rome. Along with this Titus completed work on the Colosseum and opened it with “100 days of games” and used this to help calm the Roman mobs that were breaking out because of economic hardships and problems that occurred at the time. Titus’s most famous act was to have the Great Temple of Jerusalem destroyed. Today, what remains of the wall is the “Wailing Wall” which is the most holy place for the Jewish. The success brought him even more popularity, respect, and praise in Rome.

In Conclusion

In conclusion, Titus’s reign was short but he lived a long and excellent life. He inspired others and demonstrated that he learned all of his great skills from his father. The celebration over Titus’s success still remains in Rome even today.

Titus was a great ruler that shall always be remembered.

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