

## Preacher's Pen points

# “Right on the Money”

In the photo you'll see the front and back sides of a coin from the first century AD. It is of special significance to Bible students because it confirms the fulfillment of an important NT prophecy.

### The Coin's Inscription

On the obverse side of the coin is the following inscription: IMP CAESAR VESPASIAN AVG PM TR P P P COS III. On the reverse side of the coin you can see this inscription: IVDEA CAPTA.

### Decoding the Inscriptions

The image on the front side of the coin is a likeness of Caesar Vespasian who ruled Rome from 69-79 AD. The inscription indicates the many honors bestowed upon him in his political career.

IMP—“Imperator” or “emperor”.

AVG—“Augustus”, a title worn by the emperors in honor of Augustus.

PM—“Pontifex Maximus”, a title reserved for the high priest of the Roman religion.

TR P—“Tribunicia Potestas”, by the power of the Tribute of the Plebs.

PP—“Pater Patriae”, the title “Father of the Country”

COS III—“Consul”, the title of two magistrates appointed by the Senate in keeping with the Republican form of government. The Roman numeral indicates that Vespasian was consul three times.

The reverse side of the coin shows a Jewess in an attitude of mourning, seated right beneath a palm tree and to the left a captive Jew with hands tied behind his back. To his left are some of the weapons captured. The inscription itself tells all one

needs to know. It contains only the words “Iudea Capta”, meaning “Judea Seized (Captured).” The S C stands for “Senatus consulto” and indicates that the coin was minted “by the decree of the Senate”.



Photo from CNG Coins

### Its Significance

This coin commemorates the Roman's proud victory over the Jews in AD 70 by Emperor Vespasian. It documents in secular history the fulfillment of the prophecy of Jesus concerning the Jews of His generation:

*“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand. ...for there will be great distress upon the land, and wrath to this people, and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. (Lk. 21:20-24).*

Obviously, the Romans did not intend to confirm the truth of God's word nor give evidence for the deity of Jesus, but this little coin does both. It shows that Jesus' prophecy was “right on the money!”—Johnny Felker ([www.truthchasers.com](http://www.truthchasers.com))