Michał Marciak, “Royal Converts from Adiabene and the Archaeology of Jerusalem”

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REFERENCES

Michał Marciak, “Royal Converts from Adiabene and the Archaeology of Jerusalem”,
Göttinger Forum für Altertumswissenschaft, 21, 2018, p. 29-58

In this paper, the author, a specialist of history and antiquities of Adiabene, a minor Parthian kingdom, whose kings converted to Judaism in 1st century CE, takes into account the references to palaces and funeral structures that the Adiabenian dynasts built in Jerusalem. He puts then these data in connection with the structures brought to light in both old and more recent excavations, which have been identified by archaeologists with the Adiabenian buildings. He discusses the recent excavations (2007 - ongoing) in Givati Parking Lot where a Second Temple period palatial complex has been brought to light. The structures were destroyed in 70 CE, with the fall of the city and have been identified with the ruins of the palace of Helena, queen of Adiabene. The author concludes that, despite the excavators’ claim, there is no evidence to connect the findings with the Adiabenian dynasty. The so-called Le Tombeau des Rois seems to match with the data provided the ancient sources concerning queen Helena’s mausoleum, even though the only tangible connection is constituted by one of the two inscriptions on sarcophagus Louvre no. 5029, found in the complex, which seems to be draft in North Mesopotamian Aramaic script. There is nowhere mention of the famous Queen Helena and the young queen mentioned in the inscriptions on the sarcophagus could be a previously unknown Adiabenian queen, wife of the more famous Izates II or Monobazos II. It is therefore to exclude any explicit and direct connection between Helena and the sarcophagus.

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