



ANCIENTS: JUDAEA

132-135 AD JUDEA BAR KOKHBA NGC MS 4/5 4/5



Simon ben Koseba or Cosiba, commonly known as Bar Kokhba was a Jewish military leader who led the Bar Kokhba revolt against the Roman Empire in 132 CE. The revolt established a three-year-long independent Jewish state in which Bar Kokhba ruled as nasi ("prince"). Some of the rabbinic scholars in his time imagined him to be the long-expected Messiah. Bar Kokhba fell in the fortified town of Betar. During the revolt, the Jewish sage Rabbi Akiva regarded Simon as the Jewish messiah, and gave him the name "Bar Kokhba" meaning "Son of the Star" in Aramaic, from the Star Prophecy verse from Numbers 24:17: "There shall come a star out of Jacob". The name Bar Kokhba does not appear in the Talmud but in ecclesiastical sources.

Undated issue of Year 3 (AD 134/5). Paleo-Hebrew Simon within a wreath of thin branches wrapped around eight almonds, medallion at top, tendrils at bottom / For the freedom of Jerusalem around upright palm branch. Mildenberg 224, 103 (these dies). Hendin 1420. Overstruck on a Cappadocian drachm of Trajan, with traces of obverse legend still visible around periphery. Lightly toned. NGC MS 4/5 - 4/5.

