

Appendix M
**Letter from
Placid Csizmazia**

The following is a copy of a letter composed by Placid Csizmazia, an Associate Professor of Classics at the University of Dallas. This letter represents his conclusions about the author's analysis of the issues involved in Josephus, *Antiquities*, 14:16:2 and 15:1:2, with regard to the Sabbath year at the time that Herod the Great captured the city of Jerusalem. Csizmazia addresses the author's solution that Herod captured the city of Jerusalem during the period just prior to a Sabbath year, but at a time when the practice of the Jews was to begin their observance of the Sabbath year 6 months prior to its actual start. After examining the Greek in the above passages from Josephus, studying the presentation of the facts, and considering our conclusion, he writes:

<p><i>Dear Richard,</i> <i>Oct. 4, 1987</i></p> <p><i>I have read your explanations in your letter from Sep. 30 with great interest and I can honestly say I am pleased with your solution and would not have any objection to it. What I appreciate in this solution is 1) that it keeps close to the literal meaning of the Josephus texts; 2) that it does not have to suppose a clear contradiction in the two texts as many commentators do. The references to the rabbinic interpretations and "fence-building" are very much to the point.</i></p> <p><i>I'm glad that this exchange of letters and ideas may have contributed to the clarification of the problems.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>With friendly greetings,</i> <i>Fr Placid</i></p>	<p>Dear Richard, Oct. 4, 1987</p> <p>I have read your explanations in your letter from Sep. 30 with great interest and I can honestly say I am pleased with your solution and would not have any objection to it. What I appreciate in this solution is 1) that it keeps close to the literal meaning of the Josephus texts; 2) that it does not have to suppose a clear contradiction in the two texts as many commentators do. The references to the rabbinic interpretations and "fence-buildings" are very much to the point.</p> <p>I'm glad that this exchange of letters and ideas may have contributed to the clarification of the problems.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">With friendly greetings, Fr Placid</p>
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Placid has been of great assistance to the author on a number of issues dealing with the ancient Greek and Latin languages, for which we render a great deal of appreciation and are very thankful.

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