

**Rabbi Nakdimon Ben Gurion** was one of 1st-century Jerusalem's wealthiest and most prominent aristocrats. Celebrated in the Babylonian Talmud for legendary philanthropy and a famous rain-making miracle, many scholars also link him to Nicodemus, the secret follower of Yeshua mentioned in the Goodnews of Yochanan.

A closer look at his legacy reveals several key details:

- **Miracle of the Sun & Rain:** According to the Talmud, during a severe drought on a pilgrimage festival, he leased 12 wells of water from a Roman officer on credit. When a dry year threatened his repayment deadline, he prayed, and the sun broke through the clouds after it had set, fulfilling his promise and saving the pilgrims.

- **The Name:** "Nakdimon" is believed to be derived from a play on words based on the sun breaking through (the Hebrew root *kadam*) or a nod to the Greek name *Nicodemus*.
- **Destruction and Poverty:** Despite his tremendous wealth, the Jewish rebellion against Rome and a subsequent fire by zealots destroyed his vast provisions and grain reserves. Later rabbinic encounters detail his daughter begging in the streets, reflecting the tragic loss of wealth.
- **Biblical Connections:** Historical records like the Jewish Encyclopedia draw parallels between Nakdimon ben Gurion and the Good News of Yochanan's Nicodemus. Both were wealthy, aristocratic Pharisees who lived in Jerusalem during the Second Temple

period and had ties to the religious and political leadership.

- **Modern Legacy:** His prominent historical family line inspired the surname chosen by Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, who adopted it to replace his original European name, Grün.

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