



The Intertestamental Period: 400–4 BC

***Historical Time Chart with
an Emphasis on Judaism***

Adapted from Resources on <http://www.bible-history.com>



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Note: The dating is approximate and follows certain events in Palestine, Rome, Greece, Persia, Egypt, and China. The Notes in blue are a commentary on the effect of hellenization on the Jewish people.

All Dates BC

- 400 Greek army under Xenophone is defeated at Cunaxa in revolt against Artaxerses II of Persia: "Retreat of the Ten Thousand"
- 399 Socrates condemned to death for heretical teaching
The Midrash begins to develop
- 395 Athens, Thebes, Corinth, and Argos form a coalition against Sparta, Lysander killed in battle
- 394 Battle of Coronae: Sparta defeats the coalition
- 393 Treaty between Salamis: In Cyprus and Egypt
- 391 Romans under the dictator Marcus Furius Camillus subjugate the Etruscans
- 390 Gauls under Brennus sack Rome, but fail to capture the capital
- 387 Artaxerses II of Persia captures Greek cities in Asia Minor
- 386 Spartan ruler Antalcidas negotiates peace with Persia, and forces other Greek states to adhere to it
- 380 Last native Egyptian dynasty, the 30th (to 343)
- 371 The Athenian League and Sparta make peace
- 370 Thebes forms the Arcadian League against Sparta (to 362)
- 366 First plebeian council elected in Rome
- 359 Artaxerxes III becomes king of Persia (to 336)
Philip II becomes king of Macedonia (to 336)
- 355 Third Sacred War (to 346), begins when Phocians seize Delphi and make use of the Oracle funds to raise an army
Macedonia fights against Athens
Alexander the Great is born
- 351 Persian invasion of Egypt fails
- 343 Egypt: Artaxerxes III of Persia recaptures Egypt and founds the 31st dynasty, which lasts to 332.
Rome: First Samnite War between Rome and the Samnites and Latins (to 341).
- 342 Epicurius teaches his philosophy
- 340 Macedonia conquers Thrace.
- 339 Greece: Fourth Sacred War, between Macedonia and Athens (to 338).
- 338 Philip of Macedon defeats Athenian and Theban forces at battle of Chaeronea. He unites all Greece under his rule. Rome: tribes and cities of Latin League revolt against Rome. Romans are victorious at Trifanum, and the League is dissolved.

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- Persia: Artaxerxes III is assassinated; succeeded by Darius III (336-320).
- 336 Darius III Codomannus becomes king of Persia
- 336 Greece: Philip of Macedon is assassinated. He is succeeded by his son, Alexander III, known as "the Great," who becomes king of Greece and crushes a revolt by Athens, Thebes, and other Greek cities.
- 335 Aristotle teaches at Athens

Notes: Alexander the Great Charges the East

- The pigmy in the west threatened the giant in the east.
- He wanted to link the West (cultural unity) to the East (grandeur and wealth)
- He built new cities (enlarged old ones) populated them with Greeks (esp. his soldiers)
- He brought new ideas, gods, methods of administration, language, military tactics, markets for trade, etc.

- 334 Alexander the Great begins campaign against Persia and defeats Darius III at the river Granicus in Anatolia (Asia Minor)
- 333 Alexander the Great defeats the Persians under Darius III again at the battle of Issus, capturing the Persian queen and her children.
Alexander refuses Darius's offer of ransom and part of his empire.
He takes the city of Tyre after siege. End of Phoenician empire.
- 332 Alexander destroys the city of Tyre after siege. End of Phoenician empire.
Alexander invades and conquers Egypt, foundation of Alexandria.
- 331 Alexander renews Persian campaign and defeats Darius III at Arbela and ends the Persian empire.
Alexander seizes Babylon
- 330 Darius III is assassinated, leaving Alexander in complete control of Persia.
- 329 Alexander marries Roxana in a symbolic gesture of uniting East and West
- 327 Alexander begins invasion of India.

Notes: The Jews Surrounded by a New World; Alexander and the Jewish People

- He made a big impression on the Jews
- He showed hostility to the Samaritans and kindness to the Jews (granted them self-government)
- He didn't compel Jewish men to join his army (respected their Sabbaths, etc.)

- 326 Alexander wins the battle of the Hydaspes, but his army refuses to go any farther east and he has to retreat.
Second Samnite War (to 304). Roman troops are defeated and humiliated. During the war Appius Claudius builds the Appian Way from Rome to Capua, near Naples, to help move Roman troops more easily to the war area.
- 323 Alexander claims to be the son of Zeus
Alexander dies at Babylon, aged 33. His body is buried at Alexandria, Egypt.
Alexander's empire divided between his four chief generals
Alexander the Great's generals argue over division of his empire (to 319).

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Ptolemy I Soter takes Egypt and rules as satrap (governor) in Egypt (to 285).
Birth of Euclid
Hellenistic period begins (to 31).

Notes: Dividing Alexander's New Found Kingdom and the Fate of Palestine

- Right when Alexander died his general's quarreled for control over the conquered lands
- Many long and complicated wars followed with the Jews caught in the middle
- Two generals (Ptolemy and Seleucus) established a dynasty (important in Jewish history)
- Ptolemy gained control of Egypt (descendants were called "the Ptolomies")
- Seleucus won for himself all the Asian lands that were conquered (the Seleucids)
- Both Ptolemy and Seleucus claimed Palestine as part of their kingdoms
- Finally Ptolemy seized it and Seleucus let the matter go (though his descendants never really let go)
 - **Interesting Note:** Though Ptolemy did not expect Jerusalem to be an easy city to conquer, it was on a Sabbath and the Jews did not defend themselves (though they were considered foolish it showed how well the scribes had done their work and the deep reverence for Judaism)

321 India: Chandragupta founds Mauryan dynasty (to 184).
320 Judah: Ptolemy captures Jerusalem.
Libya: Egypt takes Libya as a province.
Syria: Seleucus I Nicator, one of Alexander's generals, begins to take control.
Theocrites is born
316 Olympias, mother of Alexander is murdered in revenge for killings she had ordered
311 Seleucus takes Babylon
310 Italy: The Etruscans join the Samnites in attacking Rome, but are defeated at Lake Vadimo.
307 Greece: Two of Alexander's generals rule the country, Antigonus I and Demetrius I both taking the title of king. Other governors follow their example
306 A trade treaty is agreed between Rome and Carthage.
305 Egypt: Ptolemy I takes the title of king and is soon proclaimed Pharaoh
Babylon: Seleucus I becomes king, founding Seleucid dynasty.
Agathocles, a tyrant of Syracuse in Sicily is allowed to take the title as king
304 Italy: Rome makes peace with the Samnites and other enemies and gains land in the area around Naples.
India: Seleucus gives up his claim on India to Chandragupta in exchange for 500 elephants.
301 Central America: Mayan civilization begins to spread south.
Greece: Antigonus I killed in battle of Issus against Seleucus I and his allies. Seleucus rules Syria, and Ptolemy I rules Palestine and Egypt.
300 Rome becomes a major world power in the western Mediterranean
Treaty between Rome and Carthage.

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Notes: Hellenization Outside of Palestine

Emigration

- Jews around the eastern world now looked to the west (trade, government was there)
- Jewish settlements began emerging along the Mediterranean and all the areas
- These Jewish emigrants had to learn Greek language, customs, and ideas (Hellenization)
 - Hellas was the Greek name for Greece

The Jews and the Founding of Alexandria

- The community of Alexandria is probably the best example of what happened to the Jews under the influence of Greek or Hellenistic culture.
- The port of Alexandria became one of the most active commercial centers of the world. With many Jews there they formed an important part of the community.
- -Citizenship depended mostly upon your religion (each city had a patron god/goddess). City festivities involved sacrificing to various deities especially if one held an office.
- Jews could not participate so they were not full citizens (yet they could not be called foreigners because they helped found Alexandria and made it prosperous and important)
- The Ptolemies allowed for separate communities for Jews (courts, religion, diet, Synagogue, etc.) They could not lead in festivals or hold a public office (unless they converted to paganism).
- In spite of all this the Jews and Alexandrians were friendly to one another.

Cultural Adjustment

- As Alexandria prospered there was more learning and philosophy there than in Greece itself
- The Jews were hospitable and also spoke Greek and were somewhat cultured yet they remained Jews
- Eventually very few Jews spoke Hebrew or Aramaic (dangerous to their Jewish roots)
- This is how they dealt with it, first, they began teaching their children Hebrew and second, they translated the Pentateuch and other Jewish literature into Greek to preserve the Jewish spirit

The Legend of the Septuagint

- The Jews of Egypt surrounded the translating of the Bible with legend and miracles.
 - More coming about the Septuagint.

298	Gauls join Samnites and Latins against Rome in the Third Samnite War (to 290). It ends in Roman victory in central Italy
287	Rome: Full equality between patricians and plebeians is agreed. Greece: Birth of Archimedes, mathematician (died in 212).
285	Egypt: Reign of Ptolemy II Philadelphus (to 246). He becomes king of Egypt. Between 285 and 130 the Septuagint translated
276	Greece: Antigonus II Gonatus rules Greece (to 239)

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	Ptolemy II of Egypt invades Syria and the first Syro-Egyptian war begins
	Ptolemy II marries his sister Arsinoe
	Greece: Birth of Euclid, mathematician (died in 194)
274	Hinduism codified in India
273	India: King Asoka rules Mauryan empire (to 232), uniting central and northern India. He becomes a Buddhist.
264	First Punic War between Rome and Carthage (to 241) begins a century of struggle for control of the Mediterranean.
261	Antiochus II Theos (the God) becomes king of Syria
260	The second Syro-Egyptian war begins
254	Rome takes Panormus in Sicily from Carthage
252	Antiochus II marries Bernice, daughter of Ptolemy II
250.	The Parthian kingdom is founded
	Apollonius a Greek mathematician begins work in astronomy (to 220).
	Judea is part of Ptolemaic empire based in Egypt (to 198).
	Hebrew scriptures are translated into Greek.

Notes: Greeks and Jews in Palestine

The New Greek Cities

- Greek influence was also spreading in Palestine
- Old cities assumed new Greek names and esp. the non-Jewish cities practiced the Greek way of life
- Greek buildings, gymnasiums, and forms of government
- Prosperity and Migration
- Non-Jewish cities became very prosperous cause they were heavy into commerce (east and west)
- The Jews were big exporters of grain, wine, olive oil, cheese, fruit, and fish
- Jewish population increased heavily and many became artisans, merchants and farmers
- Hellenization in Judea
 - **Note:** Almost every ancient people of the Bible disappeared except the Jews
- They maintained their Judaism and were not at all attracted to the gods of Olympus
- They rejected the philosophy and culture as inferior to Judaism though respecting it
- The Jews stood more than ever before as a different and unique people
- The priests of Jerusalem and upper class wanted it to be the great trade center. They wanted to externally resemble the people around them and yet maintain there Judaism and not indulge in what they called "barbarianism."

The Sons of Tobias (The Tax Collectors)

- The chief advocates of Hellenism in Judea were members of a family who were believed to have descended from Tobias the Ammonite who had scorned Nehemiah so much. Though they were not Jewish they had intermarried with the family of the high priest and being important in politics and government
- About 230 BC Joseph Ben Tobias bought from the king of Egypt the right to collect the taxes from the entire district of Syria (Judea and all its neighbors).

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- The way it worked was one man would pay the royal treasury a lump sum for the privilege of collecting as much as he could from the inhabitants of a district. (He got rich at his neighbors expense thus they were extremely hated).
- Joseph Ben Tobias, his family, and his co-workers became a great economic power in Palestine.
- They adopted the customs and ways of the Greeks the most and thus angered even the gentiles around.

246	Seleucus II Callinicus becomes king of Syria Ptolemy III Euergetes becomes king of Egypt and rules to 221 The third Syro-Egyptian war begins as Ptolemy Invades Syria
241	Peace between Rome and Carthage. Sicily becomes first Roman province.
240	Seleucus invades Egypt
238	Carthaginians begin conquest of Spain.
237	Rome: Birth of Scipio Africanus, the general who leads Rome in the Second Punic War (died in 183).
225	Romans defeat Celts at Telamon in Italy.
223	Antiochus III, the Great, succeeds his father and restores power of Seleucid empire and becomes king of Syria and ruler of Babylon (to 187).
221	China: Ch'in dynasty unites the country for the first time in one empire (to 207). Greece: Philip V rules Macedonia (to 179). Egypt: Ptolemy IV Philopater becomes king of Egypt and rules (to 203). The fourth Syro-Egyptian war begins
219	Antiochus the Great invades Egypt
218	Second Punic War (to 201). From Spain Hannibal crosses the Alps with elephants to invade Italy, defeating Publius Cornelius Scipio at the river Ticinus, and also defeated Sempronius Longus at the river Trebia.

Notes: A Scribes Advice

- The Jews had no idea what was coming soon (major struggles) as a result of Greek influences.
- At this time a man named Joshua ben Sirach (from Jerusalem) wrote a book on philosophy but his philosophy differed greatly from that of the Greeks. He ignored subjects like the physical universe, government, and society and was primarily interested in giving people practical advice on how to live.
- According to him Moses and the prophets, and Proverbs and Ecclesiastes give us all of the answers. The wise man was the one who had no ambition and served God faithfully. He will avoid friendship with the ambitious and wealth seekers.
- Little did he know that tragedy would follow. The poor were dividing from the rich, things were getting hot.

217	Hannibal annihilates the Roman army at Lake Trasimene. Ptolemy IV invades Syria; Battle of Raphia
216	Hannibal wins another great victory, at Cannae, inflicting one of the worst defeats the Roman's suffer.
215	Hannibal is defeated by the Roman general, Marcellus, at Nola in southern Italy.

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- 214 Rome: Marcellus begins conquest of Sicily, completed in 210.
China: Construction of the Great Wall begins.
- 212 China: Shi Huangdi, to maintain his position of power the emperor, has all historical documents burned and books are banned. After this time a silk-based material is used for writing on, and Chinese script is standardized.
- 211 First Macedonian War, in which the Macedonians and the Carthaginians fight Rome (to 205).
- 206 Rome: Scipio the Younger defeats the Carthaginians drives them out of Spain.
- 205 Egypt: Reign of Ptolemy V Epiphanes (to 181).
Rosetta Stone recording his ascension is carved.
- 203 Africa: Hannibal is recalled to Carthage to repel a Roman invasion by Scipio the Younger. Scipio defeats Hannibal at Zama and ends the Second Punic War. Carthage surrenders Spain and Mediterranean lands and Carthaginian fleet is destroyed.
Ptolemy V (Epiphanes) becomes king of Egypt
- 202 China: Reign of the Han dynasty (to A.D. 9), founded by Lui Pang.
- 201 The fifth Syro-Egyptian war begins Carthage surrenders to Rome
- 200 Second Macedonian War begins between the Greeks and Philip V of Macedon (to 196).
With the help of the Romans, the Greeks are victorious, and Philip is forced to surrender to Greece.
The Mishna begins to appear among the Jews
- 198 Judea part of Seleucid empire under Antiochus III and IV (to 166).
- 196 Hannibal's political reforms in Carthage make him unpopular. His enemies force him to flee into exile.
- 193 Ptolemy V marries Cleopatra, daughter of Antiochus III
- 192 Syrian War (to 189). Antiochus III defeated in war with Rome.
- 190 Greece: Birth of Hipparchus, astronomer (dies 120).
Antiochus III defeated by Romans at Magnesia
- 187 Seleucus IV Philopator becomes king of Syria
- 185 India: Last Mauryan king overthrown and the Reign of the Sunga dynasty (to 172), is founded in the Ganges Valley, by Pushyanitra.
- 183 Hannibal commits suicide to avoid being captured by the Romans.

Notes: The Maccabees Fight for Survival Against Astronomical Odds

The Maccabean Age

- The period between 200-150 BC were very important and filled with stirring events. These events forever changed the Jewish people and Judaism even to the present day. Since all that happened outside of Judea we must make mention of the ambitions and fortunes of the empires and kingdoms that controlled the world and their powerful rulers.

Judea Becomes a Syrian Province

Syria's Ambition

- The Syrians desired to reunite all of Alexander's conquests.
- By 198 BC Antiochus III, called "the Great" took the first step when he forced Egypt to give up Palestine

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- Only one obstacle lay in the path of the Seleucid's march to world dominion--Rome
- Rome had just destroyed the power of Carthage and was gradually dominating the Mediterranean lands
- Antiochus was forced to give up Egypt and give hostages (his royal family) plus large sums of money (which they exacted from the peoples subject to them) as security against any Roman invasions.
- But Antiochus and his successor, Seleucus IV, continued to plan conquests.
- The Seleucid empire began to crack when most of Asia would no longer submit to the tyranny (especially Israel)

Factions Among the Jews

- Differences of opinion and many factions developed within Judaism. (Some were for the Syrian ambitions and some were against them)
- The family of Tobias and Hyrcanus, son of Joseph, were on the side of Egypt (obviously) and others were on the side of Syria because they thought Syria was too powerful
- The common people didn't really get involved (they knew they would be taxed by either side) until it involved their religion and then real political parties began to develop

181	Ptolemy VI Philometor becomes king of Egypt and rules (to 145).
180	Africa: early Meroitic writing appears.
179	Perseus, son of Philip V of Macedonia, continues war with Rome (to 167).
175	Antiochus IV Epiphanes becomes king of Syria and Seleucid empire (to 163).
171	Ptolemy VII becomes co-regent of Egypt with his brother Ptolemy VI Rome's third Macedonian war begins (to 167). Macedonians under Perseus attack Rome once again. Mithridates I begins the conquest of Babylonia and Media, adding those countries to Elam, Persia, and Bactra to form the Parthian Empire
169	Egypt: Antiochus IV invades the country and captures Ptolemy VI. The Egyptians proclaim his brother, Ptolemy VI ¹¹ Euergetes, king. Antiochus withdraws, and the two brothers reign jointly. Antiochus Epiphanes captures Jerusalem
168	In the battle of Pydna the Romans defeat the Macedonians and capture their leader, Perseus. The Romans interfere in Antiochus's war with Egypt and prevent his capturing Alexandria Antiochus pollutes the Temple in Jerusalem and suspends the sacrifices of the Jews
167	Antiochus begins persecution of the Jews. The Jewish Temple in Jerusalem is dedicated to the worship of the Greek god, Zeus.

Notes: The Attack on Judaism

The Sanctity of the Temple

- The pro-Syrian group wanting the favor of Seleucus and revealed that there was much wealth in the Temple in Jerusalem

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- In those days (having no banks) all Temples were used for storing treasures. A thief would not dare arouse the anger of a god by taking what the god protected.
- Seleucus dispatched Heliodorus (an official) to confiscate the money in the Temple
- Heliodorus left without taking the money (legend is that a certain Jew beat him up)
- The Syrian plan was thwarted and the true intent of the Hellenized Jews was revealed

Removal of the High Priest and Info on Antiochus Epiphanes (The Madman)

- The pro-Syrian group decided to remove the high priest. (Hoping to control the government)
- They did this because of the change in the government of Syria
- Seleucus IV had died and had been succeeded by his brother Antiochus IV (who usurped the throne)
- Antiochus IV also wanted to conquer Egypt like the others and unite his empire
 - He gave himself the surname "Epiphanes" which means "the visible god" (in other words he was Zeus incarnate)
- He acted as though he really were Zeus and the people called him "Epimanes" meaning "the madman"
- Since Palestine bordered Egypt he needed a loyal Hellenized population there
- Then a group of Jews came to him and devised a plan. The high priest Onias III should be removed and his Hellenized brother Jason was to take his place. (set up a Greek Constitution and coin Greek money)
- The plan was followed and all the Jews were outraged. It was the first time since the Babylonian Captivity that a non-Jewish government had interfered with the priesthood (treating the sacred office as though it were nothing other than a governmental office)
- But worse was to come. Now the Hellenizers had full control of the government in Jerusalem and they began to build gymnasiums within the city and encouraged the young to spend all their time there.
- The young priests engaged in sports. Jerusalem was filled with Greek styles, clothes, names, language, and worst of all, Greece's religion and loose morals.
- The most radical Hellenizers felt that things were not moving fast enough so they convinced Antiochus to remove Jason (Jason fled) and replace him with Menelaus (not a member of the priestly family)
- Menelaus had no sympathy for the Jewish traditions whatsoever and was only concerned about power
- The Temple treasury did not contain enough money to pay Antiochus what he had promised so he sold some of the holy vessels of the Temple to raise the money he needed.

Judaism was to be Destroyed

- To Antiochus to be un-Hellenized was stiff-necked nonsense
- If Judaism stood in the way then Judaism was to be destroyed so he gave the orders
- The Syrian army marched into Jerusalem and many of the people were killed and others escaped to the hills. Only the known Hellenists were allowed to remain
- Orders were given: NO Sabbath, NO Holy Days, and NO Circumcision
- A Statue of Zeus/Antiochus was placed in the Temple above the altar

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- The most detestable animals (including the pig) were brought and sacrificed on the altar
- An abominable act was perpetrated on Kislev 25, 168 BC according to the Book of Maccabees that "left the Jewish people desolate." (They call this the Abomination of Desolation in Daniel) but Jesus taught that this was a preliminary of the secondary and greater fulfillment coming in the last days and seventieth week of Daniel.

166	Jews, under the leadership of Judas Maccabeus, rebel against the persecution of Antiochus IV (to 164, when Jewish worship is restored).
165	The Jerusalem Temple repaired and cleansed

Notes: Antiochus - Death of Judas Maccabee (168 - 160 BC)

The Hopeless Situation

The Party of Hasidim

- As Hellenism was gaining ground the rich upper class Jews were for it and the common people adhered ever so strictly to Judaism and the commandments. A new class was forming among the people. The Hasidim: [Heb., = the pious], is a term used by the rabbis to describe those Jews who maintained the highest standard of religious observance and moral action. The first Hasidim, also called the Assideans or Hasideans, were members of a sect that developed between 300 BC and 175 BC. Rigid adherents of Judaism, they led the resistance to the Hellenizing campaign of Antiochus IV of Syria and were important in the revolt of the Maccabees.

The Martyrs

- With Antiochus' edict to abolish Judaism there were only two options for the Hasidim: to die fighting or to die as martyrs (they could not fight but they could die for their ideals).
- There was no army and the leaders were the Scribes whose interests were far from political.
- The little book "Pirke Abot" (chapters of the fathers) reveals what the Scribes were concerned with:
 - a. to be very moderate in passing judgment
 - b. to raise a generation of educated men
 - c. to protect the law of the Torah
- Judaism was declared illegal and thousands were put to death
- Men, women, and children were loyal to Judaism and died as martyrs
- The stories were told of Hannah who encouraged her 7 sons to die rather than abandon Judaism and Eliezer the old man who chose death as an example to the younger fellow Jews
- Thousands of Jews abandoned their homes (when the Greek army was approaching) and fled to the hills
- What was most disastrous were the Jews who had defected to the Hellenizers. Knowing who were the Hasidim they did not hesitate to betray them over to the Syrians. They did this openly and publicly

The Sabbath Attacks

- Many peasant Jews put up a strong fight against the Syrian soldiers
- The Syrians did most of their attacking on Saturdays (Sabbath Holy Days)

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- The end of the Jewish people was soon approaching

164	Antiochus Epiphanes dies
160	Judah: Judas Maccabeus is killed in battle against Syrians. His brother, Jonathan, leads the Jews (to 143).
157	Judaea becomes an independent principality
155	China: Early writings are compiled, including important Taoist manuscripts.
154	The Jews in Egypt build a temple at Leontopolis
149	Rome's third Punic war against Carthage begins (ends 146) Rome's fourth Macedonian war Macedonia becomes a Roman province
146	Romans destroy Carthage
145	Egypt: Ptolemy VII rules under the regency of his mother, Cleopatra II. Ptolemy VIII seizes the throne (to 116) and marries first Cleopatra II and then her daughter Cleopatra III.
143	Judea: Simon Maccabeus, elder brother of Judas and Jonathan, leads the Jews (to 134).
141	Judea: Jews liberate Jerusalem. Judea proclaimed an independent kingdom.
140	China: Emperor Wu Ti expands the empire (to 86).

Notes: The New Heroes

Mattathias and His Sons

- Northwest of Jerusalem was the little town of Modin. Among the most devoted Jews were the "Hashmonaim" or Hasmoneans (prob. a descendant of Hashmon) who were descended from the priests
- The aged Mattathias had five sons: Simon, Eliezer, Judah, Johanan, and Jonathan
- They knew that the Syrians would be arriving in their town soon too

Mattathias

- The dreaded moment finally arrived. The Syrian soldiers came to the most public meeting place for religious observance and erected an altar while the men of Modin were gathered there.
- The soldiers brought out a pig and Mattathias was ordered to sacrifice it to Zeus in honor of Antiochus
- Mattathias did not move and at that moment a young Jew stepped forward (Hellenized Jew) and asked permission to perform the sacrifice.
- It is obvious what must happen next. The sacrificial meat must be eaten and those who refused would be executed.
- At that moment the aged Mattathias, who was standing near the captain of the troops, snatched the sword out of the captain's hand and thrust it through the body of the traitor. As the captain moved to stop him Mattathias stabbed him too. The sons of Mattathias suddenly rushed the soldiers and killed them all with the help of some other Jews and completely demolished the altar.

Beginnings of Real Opposition

- The famous cry of Mattathias was "whoever is for God, let him come unto me"

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- The call echoed over the entire land, across the hills and in the caves and wherever the Hasidim were hiding, the Jews of Modin left for the wilderness knowing that the soldiers' deaths would be avenged
- Peasants from all around joined the Hasmonean band.
- They began to attack small troops of Syrian soldiers
- One added trait was that they decided to defend themselves on the Sabbath (the rest of the Jews welcomed this change in policy)
- This was the only hope for the preservation of the Jewish people

Judah the Maccabee "The Hammer of God"

- About 167 BC old Mattathias died (in the hills) just a year after the revolt
- The leadership moved to Judah who had distinguished himself above all others in the band
- For some reason he had acquired the surname "Maccabee" The reason is under speculation for example:
 - a. The first letters of the phrase that was inscribed upon his banner, "who is like unto Thee among the mighty, O Lord?"
 - b. Derived from "Makkabet" the Hebrew word for hammer Judah was the hammer God used to smite the Syrians
- Judah became one of the greatest military leaders of all time. He was as inspiring a general as David
- He united the Jews and fought for the independence of Israel
- The saying, "the praise of God was in their throat, and a double-edged sword was in their hand"

Notes: The Miraculous Victory

The First Test of Strength

- The Syrians brought in one force after another and tried to corner the Jewish army
- The Jews would fast and pray before battle
- They would fight with bravery as no other for the righteous cause. Victory after victory.
- Their army grew in number and arms. Many who wouldn't fight now joined them

The battle of Emmaus

- Antiochus realized that he had a full scale rebellion and it must be suppressed (bordered Egypt)
- At that time the Parthians in the northeast were seeking independence from the Seleucid empire
- Antiochus empowered his able general Lysias to stop the Judean revolt and guard his capital city
- Lysias also underestimated the strength of the Maccabean forces and instead of going himself he sent two commanders Nicanor and Gorgias.
- The neighboring peoples were so sure of the Syrian victory that merchants came with large sums of money to buy Jewish prisoners as slaves.
- In the dead of night Judah came (knowing the terrain) and annihilated the Syrian forces.
- Enormous stores of booty fell into the hands of the Maccabean soldiers.

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- The greatest result of the victory at Emmaus was the road to Jerusalem was now open

The First Hanukkah "Festival of Lights"

- With singing the Maccabean army came to Jerusalem being in enemy hands for 3 years
- The high priest Menelaus fled, as did the Hellenized Jews and all the pagan residents just as almost 3 years earlier the Jews fled for the hills.
- The Temple was cleansed and the worship was re-established
- They removed every sign of paganism and destroyed the altar that was defiled by pagan sacrifices. They also ground the statue of Antiochus/Zeus into dust and erected a new altar
- On the 25th of Kislev (165 BC) they rededicated the Temple and celebrated the dedication feast called Hanukkah (from "hannak" which means "to dedicate") for eight days

The Miracle of Hanukkah

- According to the Talmud the priests had only enough unpaganized oil to light the Temple Menorah for one day but it burned miraculously for eight days (until the priests could prepare more ceremonial oil)
- The 2nd Book of the Maccabees (which was written considerably later than the event) emphasized the battles and the victory of Judaism
- Hanukkah is still an important holiday for the Jews today

- 135 First Servile War - revolt of Roman slaves in Sicily crushed (to 132).
Judea: John Hyrcanus, son of Simon Maccabeus becomes high priest in Jerusalem rules (to 104).
- 133 Rome begins to expand her empire eastward
- 130 The Pharisees begin to emerge as a sect
- 124 China: philosophical teachings of Confucius become official.
Mithridates II (the Great) conquers Scythia, adds it to the Parthian Empire, and makes a treaty with Rome
- 120 Hyrcanus repudiates the Pharisees and declares himself a Sadducee
- 116 Egypt: Ptolemy VIII dies; Ptolemaic empire is split up; years of strife follow.
- 111 China: Eastern and southern areas are subjugated (to 110).
Africa: War breaks out between Rome and Jugurtha, King of Numidia (N. Africa)
- 110 India: Munda kings reign in the Deccan, central region (to 225 AD).
- 108 Wu Ti, emperor of China, conquers Korea.
- 106 Galus Marius elected Roman consul and sent to Africa.
- 105 Marius and Sulla defeat the Numidian Jugurtha. He's taken to Rome & executed.
- 104 Judea: Aristobulus I is king (to 103).
- 103 Judea: Alexander Janneus rules (to 76).
Second Servile War (to 99) - a revolt by slaves in Rome.

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- 100 China: A general history and standard religious texts are compiled, along with a list of Chinese literature.
- 91 War between Rome and Italian cities.
- 90 Judea: Revolt of Pharisees occurs.
- 89 Rome: Roman army under Sulla regains control of Italy; all Italians are granted Roman citizenship.

Notes: The Peace That Was Never Peace

The Hostility of the Pagans

- All of Jerusalem's neighbors gladly helped the Syrians fight the Jews whenever they had the chance.
- Jews were being heavily persecuted everywhere. In Jaffa 200 Jews were drowned (danger everywhere)
- Judah sent expeditions against any threats and then news came of the approaching Syrian army

The Siege of Jerusalem

- Lysias (Antiochus' general) was leading a larger army than the Jews had ever met
- Judah gathered his entire force to meet the Syrians not far from Jerusalem
- The Maccabeans fought heroically. Judah's brother Eliezer hacked his way through to the elephant that was supposedly carrying King Antiochus' son and he stabbed the elephant but then lost his life
- It was a hopeless struggle against overwhelming odds
- The Jews retreated to the walls of Jerusalem for safety
- Lysias besieged the city (hoping to starve the Maccabeans into submission)

Lysias' Offer of Peace

- While Lysias was besieging Jerusalem, news had reached him that a large army was coming against Antioch, the capital of Syria. Anxious to go to defend it he offered the Jews a treaty of peace:
 - a. Withdraw the laws against the observance of Judaism
 - b. Syria would not interfere with the conflicts between the Hellenizing Jews and the Hasidim
 - c. Menelaus would be removed from the office of high priest and executed
 - d. Judah and his other leaders would not be punished for rebelling
 - e. But the walls of Jerusalem would be leveled to the ground
 - f. Syria was to remain the sovereign power in Judea (and appointed mild Hellenistic high priests)

Judah Refuses

- The new council in Jerusalem called a meeting over the peace offer (high officers, scribes, & elders)
- The people wanted it but Judah and the others did not trust Syria or the aristocratic Jews who would be coming back into power that began the whole conflict
- Judah insisted that the simple (farmers and peasants) retain political power
- Judah lost the debate and the council decided to accept the terms of peace

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- Judah and a few of his followers left the city

The Disillusioned Hasidim

- It didn't take a lot of time for them to discover that Judah had been right
- Immediately, with the new high priest Alcimus in power, the Maccabean soldiers disarmed, the wall leveled, and Judah gone, the true intents came to pass. The new leaders were forced to step down and the old leaders came back into power.
- Alcimus had many of the Hassidic leaders seized and executed
- The people sought out Judah again and a great civil war began again

17. The Death of Judah

- Alcimus felt the tension and appealed to Syria, and Syria sent an army
- Judah led his army again into victory on the 13th of Adar (established as a half holiday)
- But this was Judah's last military victory
- The Hasidim had somewhat compromised in political power as long as religious freedom was granted
- Judah's followers were not as numerous again and he couldn't possibly stand against the Syrian force
- Judah went out to meet the army of Syria with only eight hundred men. Judah died in battle

Notes: Results of their Courage

A Fighting Remnant

- The death of Judah ended the first phase of the Maccabean Revolt
- Judah's brothers: Simon, Jonathan, and Johanan, with a small army had fled across the Jordan. The Syrians and the Jewish officials considered them outlaws.
- Jonathan had succeeded Judah and was a constant threat to the Jewish leaders

A Memorial

- The Maccabees go down in history as those that heroically went against the odds and also the early Hasidim who died as martyrs were the first martyrs in history to die for religious freedom.
- The common people were awakened to the fact that they were the stronger group and had a share in political power (a feeling for democracy)

Religious Ideas

- Loyalty to the faith was strengthened (More of a separation between Jew and Greek thought)

- 88 Anatolia: Rome's First Mithradatic War (to 84).
Rome fights Mithradates IV of Pontus.
Civil war is waged in Rome (to 82). Sulla is victorious.
- 87 Anatolia: Sulla defeats Mithradates and takes Athens. China: Death of Wu Ti leads to a period of disorder.
- 83 Anatolia: Rome's Second Mithradatic War (to 81).
Romans successfully invade Pontus.

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- 82 Sulla becomes dictator of Rome. He launches a vicious attack on all his opponents and many are killed.
- 78 Rome: Sulla dies. Revolt of Lepidus is defeated by Pompey the Great, who rules with Crassus.
India: Most of northern India is under the rule of Kanishka I of Kushan dynasty (to 100 AD).
- 76 Judea: Salome- Alexandra rules (to 67).
- 74 Anatolia: Rome's Third: Mithradatic War (to 64).
Mithradates takes Bithynia, which Rome claims.
- 73 Anatolia: Lucullus and the Roman army defeat Mithradates and occupy Pontus. Rome: Spartacus leads slave revolt in Third Servile War (to 71);
Spartacus is crushed by Pompey and Crassus.
- 70 Rome: Birth of Virgil, poet (dies 19 B.C.). His most famous work is the Aeneid, the story of Aeneas after the fall of Troy.
- 67 Judea: Hyrcanus II rules. Civil war breaks out between his forces and those of his brother Aristobulus II.
- 65 Pompey and the Roman army invade Syria and conquer Palestine.
Rome: Birth of Horace (dies 8 B.C.), poet and satirist. He wrote *Ars Poetica* and *Odes*.
- 64 Judea: Pompey captures Jerusalem, annexes Syria and Judea.
Aristobulus II, King of Judea, dies;
Mithradates IV of Syria commits suicide; and Hyrcanus II becomes high priest of Judea with Antipater as civil adviser.

Notes: Jonathan - Death of Salome Alexandra (160 - 67 BC)

A Yoke Within

- The Jews free themselves from a foreign yoke only to discover that a native yoke can be just as heavy

The Victory that Failed

- The heroic struggle of the Maccabees ultimately ended in defeat because the later Hasmoneans, thirsting for power and glory, lost touch with Jewishness, so that their actions cast dark shadows upon the memory of their ancestors.

Jonathan and Hasmonean Ambitions

The Most Popular Man in Judea

- Jonathan led a small army in the Eastern Jordan wilderness and was a constant threat to the Hellenizing Jews and the Syrian forces.
- The Syrians failed to stop him time and again
- All the Jewish population exalted Jonathan as their hero and they were ready to follow him

The Great Diplomat

- Though Jonathan did not possess the military genius of his brother Judah he did possess a more valuable quality judging by the times (150-140 BC). He was a remarkable diplomat (peaceful negotiations).
- A civil war broke out in Syria and Jonathan came back into Judea

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Judea and Rome

- Something interesting is that Jonathan and the Hasmoneans entered into an alliance with Rome (since they were both hostile to Syria). Jonathan knew better than to become "Rome's friends" but this would make the Syrians think twice about attacking them.
- But little did they know that later on they would have much more to fear from Rome than Syria.

Jonathan's Policy (Good and Bad)

- Jonathan's goals were for self government (more than the Hassidim had ever thought possible) where Judah's were for religious freedom. Jonathan improved the economic position of the Jews. He became high priest and ruler of the people and his family became the most powerful among the Jews.

Simon's Rule

The Great Assembly

- When Jonathan died (killed by a Syrian general) the Jews turned to (Hasmonean Family) the only son of Mattathias still alive, Simon. He was known for his calm wisdom though he was very old.
- Simon called together an extraordinary assembly of all leading Jews (important priests, prominent family members, known leaders, etc.) and this was the beginning stages of the great Sanhedrin.

The Election of Simon

- Simon was unanimously the favored choice for high priest and ruler.
- But the Hassidim wanted a priest from the family of Onias and a ruler from the line of David
- The son of Onias had fled to Egypt during the Maccabean struggle
- Simon was elected because they saw Gods hand in the Maccabees and they came up with the saying, "Ruler and high priest until a true prophet should arise."

Simon's Policy

- Simon was an old man so he couldn't lead the army in battle but he faithfully attended to priestly and civil duties.
- He left the fighting to his sons (one of them was John Hyrcan)
- Simon maintained the policy of his brother Jonathan

Policy and Politics

The New Generation

- Simon's death (135 BC) marked the end of the heroic age of the Hasmonean struggle.
- John Hyrcan became the next ruler and the Syrians agreed with him rather than the Hellenizing Jews
- Hyrcan promised to be an ally to Syria and to give up the pagan cities except Jaffa (the famous port city). The Hellenizing party now disappeared from the Jewish scene.

The Policy of Expansion

- Judah won religious freedom, Jonathan gained power for the Hasmonean family, and Hyrcan's reign began the policy of territorial expansion. The goal was greater national prosperity.

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- The pagan cities that surround Jerusalem had controlled the commerce previously and hated the Jews.
- When Syria ran into problems again Hyrcan recaptured the cities and developed Jewish commerce.
- He soon conquered Edom where one of the great trade routes between Egypt and Asia was.
- To assure their loyalty Hyrcan compelled the Idumeans to adopt Judaism.
- But God's religion can never be forced on people.

New Political Parties

Those in Favor of Conquering

- Men of wealth wanted to expand their horizons (more money)
- Government officials who had intermarried with the wealthy (power and prestige)
- People who were seeking to become wealthy
- Patriots who wanted to conquer

Those Against Conquering

- The poor (shopkeeper, artisan, farmer) did not see any benefit for them in the conquests. They were reminded of the scribes' teaching that they should not seek war and wealth. All they ever saw from this was more wealth among the aristocrats and less devotion to God among the priests.
- Those who did not want to send their sons into war and pay more taxes to support it.

Which was more important, religious welfare or national strength?

The Pharisees

- Two political parties emerged
- The Scribes who were opposed to expansion was the Pharisees (probably from parosh "to separate.")
- Separated from the pagans or separated from those that favored expansion.
- The Pharisees (spiritual descendants of the Hasidim) argued that their religion saved the Jewish people. Therefore everything must be subordinate to religion.
- They wanted not to force but to persuade by example.

The Sadducees

- Those who remained in complete charge of the government were the Sadducees
- It is difficult to know where the name came from. They claimed to be descendants of Solomon's high priest Zadok. Zadok also means "righteous" so it may but doubtfully mean "righteous ones," there is another possibility is that it came from the Greek word meaning judges or controllers.
- The Sadducees argued that national power had saved the people and their religion. They were not opposed to Judaism and were for the forcing of Judaism on the pagans.

How Did They Differ in Religious Views?

- The Sadducees were in favor of a strict interpretation of the Torah (willing to obey all)
- The Pharisees were for a liberal interpretation (general truths and principles). They wanted to extend these principles to every phase of life. They argued that there was also an oral Torah (to support their views) a set of traditions that had been handed

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down to them by the former scribes (who received from their predecessors all the way back to Moses).

- Pharasaic Judaism was difficult to live by because it insisted on piety in every conceivable action
- The Jewish people became divided on national, economic, and religious policy.

The Civil War

The Hated Hasmoneans

- As long as John Hyrcan lived there were not serious divisions. He remembered poverty.
- His sons were different being raised in a palace with much Greek education.
- They wanted to eliminate the Pharisaic party and there was mutual dislike.
- The life and actions of the later Hasmoneans caused the deeds of the earlier ones to be almost completely forgotten.

Aristobulus, Lover of the Greeks

- The one-year reign (104 BC) of Hyrcan's oldest son Judah showed the Pharisees what they were to expect.
- He preferred the Greek name Aristobulus
- He immediately threw three of his brothers into prison because of jealousy and two of them supposedly starved to death. A few months later another brother was brutally murdered in the palace. This kind of thing happened regularly among the pagan nations but it shocked and disgusted the Jews.
- In national policy Aristobulus continued to conquer more territory.
- He boldly assumed the title of king (though he didn't use the Hebrew Title "melech")
- The Jews sighed with relief when he died. But this left many problems on the horizon.

The Approaching Storm

- His successor was no better, Alexander Jannai (Jonathan was his Hebrew name changed to Jannai) was the only brother of Judah Aristobulus still alive in prison at his death.
- For 15 years Alexander Jannai extended his territory. All of Israel's pagan city boundaries and trade centers were under Jewish rule.
- In 89 BC. he campaigned against the Arabs to the south. He was ambushed and lost his entire army.
- The Pharisees seized upon this opportunity. On the following Succoth, while Alexander was officiating as high priest in the Temple, the people who were watching, struck him with the "etrogin" (citrons, fruit). He ordered the slaughter of hundreds of defenseless people.

Halfhearted Rebels

- The people rebelled and along with the help of Syria defeated Alexander and he fled to the hills.
- The Syrians (giving themselves credit for the victory) wanting to put the Sadducees into power caused thousands of the Pharisees to flee to Alexander. With their help Alexander came back defeating the Syrians and the others.
- He instituted an inquisition (hunt) against those who had rebelled earlier and many fled the country.

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- Alexander made a horrible example of those he caught. At one party he crucified 800 Pharisees. This marked him as one of the cruelest tyrants in Jewish history because he used a pagan method of execution.
- The Jews were again moving toward losing their independence.

Good Queen Salome

Did Alexander Repent?

- Supposedly on his deathbed (76 BC.) Alexander advised his wife Salome Alexandra, whom he had appointed as successor, to dismiss the Sadducean advisors and to govern with the aid of the Pharisees.
- Whether it is true or not she did it and appointed Pharisees to the Sanhedrin (at that time it was legislature and supreme court combined).

The School Law

- The Pharisees immediately went to work on the Jewish government.
- They ended the policy of conquest
- They reformed the judicial system and any contaminations on Jewish life.
- They established the school law. Every young man was in duty bound to seek an education

Sadducean Resentment

- The Sadducees could not agree with any arrangement that left them out of control of the government.
- They believed that they were the only ones fit to rule. They also knew that the Pharisees would not forgive the murderous crucifixion of the other Pharisees.
- While the Pharisees were sure of the populations support, the army, the military leadership, and the wealthy in the land were all on the Sadducean side.

Hyrchan and Aristobulus

- Alexander had little faith in his oldest son Hyrcan or his youngest son Aristobulus. While Salome was alive Hyrcan was high priest and was favored by the Pharisees. Aristobulus possessed the military qualities and with the peaceful Pharisees in power he was quite restrained. The Sadducees all favored him.

The Calm Before the Storm

- For the 9 years of her rule (76-67BC) Salome was somehow able to maintain peace the two parties.
- When she died another civil war broke out.

Notes: Rome on the Move - End of the Hasmoneans (67 - 45 BC)

Rome - Called to Take

- Rome who boasted that destiny had called it to rule the world by force was casting its shadow Eastward

Another Civil War

The Right to Rule

- When Salome Alexandra died, her older son, Hyrcan, who was high priest, succeeded her on the throne as Hyrcan II.
- Already his brother, Aristobulus, was leading an army against Jerusalem.

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- Hyrcan could not gather an army and the one that was already there deserted him and went over to his attractive brother Aristobulus.
- Hyrcan said he had never really wanted the throne and swore allegiance to (Aristobulus) Aristobulus II.

The Idumean

- At this time there was a man in Jerusalem named Antipater. (not of Jewish birth - Jewish Tradition).
- Both his parents were Idumeans and were converted to Judaism. Antipater was raised a Jew by religion
- Antipater sought power and persuaded Hyrcan to allow him and an army of Nabatean Arabs to drive Aristobulus out of Jerusalem and restore Hyrcan to power.
- Aristobulus was not prepared for such an army and he shut himself in Jerusalem (a long siege).

Rome's Faithlessness

Power and Glory

- Rome was expanding. Julius Caesar was fighting his famous wars in Gaul and making a name for himself
- His rival (former political ally) Pompey was in the East trying to equal Caesar's record.
- Both wanted supreme authority in Rome and flattered the people of Rome with new victories.
- Pompey overcame Syria easily and sought more.
- He heard about the quarrel of the two brothers in Jerusalem and sought to interfere. He was bothered by the Nabatean Arabs (they were strong) and so he sent his lieutenant Scourus to scare the Nabateans off.
- They withdrew the siege. The Jews were happy to have had earlier friendships with Rome. They even asked for Rome's decision as to who should rule.

Antipater's Chance

- Aristobulus, who was in control of the Temple, sent Pompey a vine of pure gold as a gift.
- Pompey sent such a valuable gift back to Rome to decorate the Temple of Jupiter.
- Antipater, on behalf of Hyrcan, understanding the Roman's political situation, sought to convince Pompey that if he favored Hyrcan, then he would eventually have control of Judea (another to boast of).
- Unexpectedly a group of Pharisees asked Pompey to rid them of both brothers and restore Judea to its original constitution where the high priest ruled with the advice of an elected council.

The Iron Fist of Rome

- Pompey marched his army into Judea.
- Aristobulus was afraid so he fortified himself in Jerusalem
- Pompey then besieged Jerusalem and Aristobulus surrendered. But the Sadducees refused to open the gates. The Romans came in and the Sadducees withdrew into the Temple.
- The Romans attacked the Temple and broke through the outer wall.

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- The priests performed the sacrifices devotedly without giving any attention to what was happening
- As one priest fell by the sword another would take his place. (About 12,000 Jews perished that day)
- When it was over, Pompey entered the Temple, and even the Holy of Holies (truly no image inside?)

Pompey decides in Favor of Rome

- This was the end of Jewish independence. Rome would never let go of its prey
- When Pompey was called in to decide for the Jews who should rule he chose Rome
- Aristobulus was deprived of any power in the government
- The Pharisaic Party was totally disregarded (The Jewish people were not to be considered)
- Hyrcan was chosen and Antipater (now a friend of Rome) was to stand at his side
- Hyrcan now would be called Ethnarch instead of king and Judea was now a Roman province of Syria
- Pompey even brought Aristobulus and his two sons to the Roman forum in his march in triumphal procession to impress the people and the Roman Senate.

- 64 Pompey captures Jerusalem; leaves the Maccabean high priest Hyrcanus in power with Antipater as civil adviser
- 61 Rome: Julius Caesar wins his first major victories, in Spain.
- 60 The first Triumvirate (joint rule) at Rome (Caesar, Crassus, and Pompey)
- 58 Caesar is appointed governor of Gaul, part of present day France. (The Gauls are a branch of the Celts.)
Pompey marries Julia, daughter of Caesar
- 55 Caesar conquers northern Gaul and attempts unsuccessfully to invade Britain.
- 54 Second invasion of Britain by Caesar. Cassivellaunus, a powerful British leader, agrees to pay tribute to Rome.
- 53 Crassus is killed at battle of Carrhae against the Parthians.
- 52 Pompey appointed sole consul in Rome. Gauls rebel under their leader Vercingetorix, but are crushed by the Romans.
- 51 Caesar completes conquest of Gaul.
Egypt: Cleopatra VII and her brother, Ptolemy XIII, become joint rulers of Egypt.
- 50 Rome: Rivalry between Caesar and Pompey comes to a head.
Buddhism spreads along the Silk Road to China from India.
- 49 Senate orders Caesar to give up control of Gaul.
Caesar crosses the Rubicon into Italy to start civil war.
Pompey flees to Greece.
- 48 Caesar defeats Pompey at Pharsalus in Greece.
Pompey flees to Egypt.
- 47 Pompey is assassinated, possibly by order of Cleopatra.
Caesar conquers Cleopatra's enemies.
Caesar makes Cleopatra queen of Egypt

The Intertestamental Period: 400–4 BC

Historical Time Chart with an Emphasis on Judaism

- Judea: Antipater becomes procurator of Judea; his son Herod becomes governor of Galilee.
- 45 Rome: Caesar defeats Pompey's son, Sextus, in Africa and crushes a mutiny in the Tenth Legion. He becomes virtual dictator of Rome.
Caesar introduces Julian calendar and adopts his nephew, Octavian, as his heir.
- 44 Caesar becomes dictator of Rome for life
Caesar is assassinated by a group of Romans led by Brutus and Cassius.

Notes: Rome and the Idumeans

Antipater and Rome

- Antipater and Rome from this time on worked together. Both were greedy for power.
- Rome supported Antipater and he in turn fulfilled all of Rome's demands.
- Hyrcan II, ruler and high priest (63-40 BC) was just a puppet in their hands.
- Actually Antipater ruled, and two of his sons, Phasael and Herod, were local governors.
- Phasael was governor over Jerusalem and Herod was governor over Galilee.

Rebels or Patriots

- The Pharisees, Sadducees, and the people wanted to drive out the Romans.
- Rome broke up the country's unity by dividing it into 5 administrative districts.
- Many Jewish patriots hid in the mountains of Judea and Galilee to make surprise attacks on the Romans.
- The Romans looked upon them as murderers and hunted them mercilessly as beasts of prey.
- Rome and the Idumeans were obviously not popular with the Jewish people.

The Humiliation of the Sanhedrin

- One patriot named Hezekiah and some men were captured by Herod in Galilee. They were executed.
- Some relatives of these men appealed to the Sanhedrin. They could do nothing.
- In fact when Herod was charged to answer to this, this is what happened.
- The normal procedure was for the accused to appear before the Sanhedrin in black clothes as a sign of penitence. Herod marched into the hall leading a body of soldiers in uniform with swords and spears.
- Herod was so sure of Rome's support that he had no respect for the Sanhedrin's judicial opinions.
- The 70 elders were humiliated and afraid. Only one man, Shemaiah spoke up. "If you will not judge this man now...the time will come when he will judge you and show you no mercy."
- The Sanhedrin was awakened and the trial began.
- Hyrcan, as high priest was president of the Sanhedrin. He knew that if he condemned Antipater's son then he would be opposing Rome and Rome would hold him personally responsible. He postponed the meeting till the next day.
- Herod, feeling insulted and in a rage, was ready to order a massacre on the Sanhedrin as well as all of the inhabitants of Jerusalem who would not show respect for Rome. His father and brother stopped him.

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Historical Time Chart with an Emphasis on Judaism

How Antipater Backed the Wrong Politician

- Julius Caesar being the rival of Pompey in Rome for power even tried to stir up a rebellion in Judea by releasing Aristobulus to return. When Antipater heard he sent men to poison Aristobulus in Greece before he reached Judea. He even had Aristobulus' son executed.
- Antipater and his sons were backing Pompey to the very end up till Pompey was defeated by Julius Caesar. Hyrcan and Antipater quickly changed sides.
- Caesar accepted them and allowed them to remain in power.

Again the Wrong Politician

- There was another civil war in Rome just after this. Brutus and Cassius were now in power in the eastern part of the Roman Empire.
- Cassius, in dire need of money, heavily taxed the Jews in Judea.
- In order to be collected, the huge sum had to be collected ruthlessly.
- Antipater and his sons were given the responsibility and therefore they became extremely unpopular.
- Herod was even the first to turn in the part he had collected.
- But Brutus and Cassius lost in the end. Would Antony and Octavian ever forgive Herod?
- The Jews pleaded to Rome for the removal of the Idumeans but Rome was in favor of Herod. He was brave and daring, qualities the Romans could appreciate.
- Herod and Phasael came out victors again, and the members of the Jewish delegation were executed on Antony's order.

- 43 Second Triumvirate is formed by Octavian, Mark Antony, and Marcus Lepidus.
Birth of Ovid, the poet who wrote *Metamorphoses* (dies 17 AD).
Cicero, the orator, is put to death for denouncing Mark Antony.
- 42 Triumvirate defeats Brutus and Cassius at the battle of Philippi.
- 40 Herod the Great appointed king of Judea till 4 BC
- 37 Herod the Great captures Jerusalem
Rome: Triumvirate is renewed for five years.
Mark Antony, already married to Octavia (the sister of Octavian), also marries Queen Cleopatra of Egypt.
- 36 Octavian's fleet defeats that of Pompey's son, Sextus.
- 32 Octavian declares war on Antony and Cleopatra.
- 31 Battle of Actium, at which Octavian defeats Antony and Cleopatra.
Octavian becomes master of the Roman world, the final triumph of Empire
- 30 Antony and Cleopatra commit suicide.
Octavian declares Egypt a Roman province.
Shammai
Hillel
Philo of Alexandria
- 27 Rome: Octavian given supreme power by the Roman Senate, thus effectively ending the Roman Republic. He takes the title Augustus and becomes the first emperor of Rome (to 14 AD).

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- 20 Herod the Great begins to rebuild the Jerusalem Temple
- 15 Roman empire extended to the upper Danube.
- 12 Revolt in Pannonia (part of present-day Slovenia) quelled by Augustus' stepson, Nero.
- 4 Death of Herod the Great his kingdom is split between his three sons.
Birth of Jesus

Notes: The Last of the Hasmoneans

Jewish Feelings

- The feelings of the Jews at this time were expressed in a collection of poems written about this time called "Psalms of Solomon." Their author was undoubtedly a Pharisee whose chief interest lay not in war and power, but in piety and right conduct. He justified the misfortunes which befell the Hasmoneans, for they had sinned and deserved punishment. Nevertheless, he could not help speaking with great bitterness of Pompey and the Romans. They had been invited as friends; the gates of the city were opened to them. But they desecrated the Temple and enslaved the people. No wonder that when the author heard of Pompey's end, he exclaimed: "Praised be the Lord who judges the whole earth with His justice." Moreover, the author feared lest the pagan neighbors in league with the Romans make life unbearable for the Jews. He prayed: "Punish us in accordance with Thy will, but deliver us not into the hands of the Gentiles."

How Antigonus Made Himself King

- The Idumean brothers needed the strength of Rome but there were problems with the eastern part of the empire. Antony ruled over the East while Octavius took the West for himself.
- At that time Cleopatra, famed for her beauty and her seductive trickery, was trying to make herself mistress of Rome by becoming the mistress of Antony.
- For her Antony neglected the government and let his brilliant future go to waste.
- Soon the eastern Roman army became disorganized and the officials more than ever corrupt.
- Antigonus, Aristobulus II's youngest son, watched all this from the other side of the Euphrates, where he had found refuge with the Parthians.
- With their aid he invaded Judea meeting only halfhearted Roman opposition, and arrived before the gates of Jerusalem.
- Antigonus lured Hyrcan and Phasaël into the Parthian camp. How bitterly he hated them! He held them responsible for years of personal suffering, for the murder of his father and brother, for the loss of Jewish independence.
- Phasaël, knowing that he had nothing to hope for, committed suicide.
- As to Hyrcan, Antigonus did not have his uncle killed. He did want to disqualify him permanently for the high priesthood so he cut off the lobe of one of Hyrcan's ears, for according to Jewish law no man who was physically mutilated could serve as high priest.
- Antigonus entered Jerusalem and assumed the royal title and the high priesthood under the name of Mattathias (40 BC).

Antigonus as King

- He was not like his father, Aristobulus, nor like his grandmother Salome, he possessed neither attractiveness nor charm, neither soldierliness nor statesmanship.

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- He was the wrong man at a time when the right one might have changed the future of the entire East.

Herod, King by the Grace of Rome

- When Herod knew what was happening with Antigonus entering Jerusalem he gathered his family, including Alexandra the daughter of Hyrcan, her daughter, Miriam or Mariamne, to whom he was betrothed, and Miriam's younger brother Aristobulus, and had fled in the direction of the Nabatean Arabs to the south.
- He left his family in a fortress in southern Palestine and continued on his way to Egypt where he hoped to tell his sad story to Antony. But he found that Antony had temporarily escaped Cleopatra's clutches and was gone making peace with Octavius.
- Although Cleopatra tried her seduction on Herod, he paid no attention to her and went on to Rome despite the danger of crossing the Mediterranean at that season.
- As usual, luck was with him. He arrived safely in Rome and was greeted warmly by Antony and Octavius.
- What could Herod have wanted with the rulers of the Roman empire? He certainly wanted revenge on Antigonus, and no doubt asked that Antony order the Roman armies in Syria to drive Antigonus out of Judea.
- Whatever the discussion was they and the Senate proclaimed Herod king of Judea.
- The family of Antipater, whose shrewdness had dispossessed the Hasmoneans, thus attained more than they had hoped for.

The Conquest of a Kingdom

- Herod, for the time being, was a king without a country.
- His first task was to win Judea by driving out Antigonus. But this was not an easy task in view of the bribes which the Roman generals in Syria were receiving from Antigonus, and the opposition of the Jews all over the country.
- Antigonus received letters and threats from Antony. Jerusalem was besieged for three months, and Antigonus could hold it no longer.
- The Romans army slaughtered so many within the city that Herod had to take drastic measures and promise the Romans large rewards to stop it or, as he complained to the Roman officers, he might be left a king of a country without a population.
- Antigonus was captured but he pleaded for mercy. It was not customary for the Romans to execute a captured king, but at Herod's request to avenge his brother, it was done in this case.
- The Hasmonean dynasty came to a horrible end and so did the independence which it had so gloriously won for Judea.

Herod as King

The Road to Misfortune

- The next period of Jewish history saw the beginnings of the national calamity which overtook the Jews a century later. It is hard to refrain from wondering how different modern Jewish life would be if Herod had been a different sort of man, or if Rome and the Jews had understood each other. Until Herod's reign it was still possible to hope that the Jews and the Romans would arrive at some compromise whereby the Jews would be permitted to look upon their nation as almost independent. The Jews were a proud people. The more they felt themselves under the heel of Rome, the more they were determined to reassert their freedom. Herod was in excellent posi-

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tion to bring Rome and Judea to a better understanding. But he understood and sympathized with the Jews too little; he was interested in his own power too much. The result was infamy for himself and catastrophe for the people over whom he ruled.

Herod the Great, Servant of Rome

- It would have been interesting to see how different the modern Jew would be if Herod the Great had been a different sort of man. Herod didn't understand the Jews enough nor did he feel for them. He was in a position to help the Jews and the Romans to understand each other a little better but he was only interested in his own power and the result was catastrophe for the Jews.
- For 40 years, Jewish history was dominated by Herod the Great. He was born in about 73 BC, the son of the Idumean Antipater, and became a Roman citizen in 47. His father appointed him military governor of Galilee, with the task of clearing the region of terrorists. In 41, Antony made Herod and his brother tetrarchs, but Herod was not secure and in 40 fled to Rome. There Antony bestowed on him the kingship of Judea, which he secured with a Roman army in 37. Octavian (the future emperor Augustus) defeated Antony and Cleopatra at the naval battle of Actium in 31, but confirmed Herod in power.
- Herod worked devotedly for Rome and kept Augustus's favor. His court was Hellenized and cultured. He founded the Greek cities of Sebaste (Samaria) and Caesarea, with its fine port. He built fortresses and palaces, including Masada, and a magnificent new temple. He also presided at the Olympic Games.
- His family life, however, was unhappy. He ruled as an autocrat, supported by police, and, despite his rebuilding of the Temple, to the Jews he remained a detested foreigner. He died in 4 BC at the age of 69.

Herod's Dictatorship

The Marriage to Mariamne

- Herod knew he was disliked by the Jews and having displaced the Hasmonians he felt insecure.
- He therefore married Mariamne, the granddaughter of both Hyrcan and Aristobulus. (Legitimate throne)
- But Herod was known to have really loved her but he did not mind hurting her when his personal welfare was at stake.

How Herod Made Himself Safe

- One of Herod's first acts was the execution of 40 prominent Sadducees. 2 reasons (enemies, money)
- He constantly had to pay off the Romans and anyone else who had helped him. (Bribes)
- He hired Jews from other lands as his army. Herod did not trust Jews from his own land.
- He was jealous of other members of his family.
- Aristobulus, Herod's own brother-in-law, was found drowned in a pool of one of the royal palaces.
- Hyrcan, returned from Parthia at Herod's invitation, was accused of plotting treason and executed.

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- Herod's favorite wife, Mariamne, gave way to the intrigues of Herod's sister and was executed despite Herod's undoubted love for her.
- Later he killed his own two sons by Mariamne on suspicion that they were plotting against him.
- At his dying breath he ordered the execution of still another son.

Depriving the Sanhedrin

- Herod had not the slightest intention of letting the Jews rule themselves.
- He deprived the Sanhedrin of every vestige of political power.
- Neither the Pharisees nor the Sadducees any longer exercised political influence.
- Only their names continued for the purpose of describing two groups which differed on religious matters.
- Herod ruled, and through him Rome.

The Secret Opposition

- Politics became an underground affair.
- Dissatisfaction expressed itself in secret criticism.
- The young people became restless and joined secret organizations for the cause of Jewish independence.
- These organizations, years later, united to form the dreaded revolutionary party, the Zealots.
- Herod was an efficient ruler and knew how to maintain peace by ruthlessness.
- Numberless spies & torture. Everyone was under suspicion, and everyone lived in fear.

Herod and the Non-Jews

Fortifying His External Position

- Herod was clever in his relations with the pagans and particularly in his dealings with the Romans.
- The death of Antony confronted Herod with a serious danger. He realized that Augustus would now look upon him as an enemy.
- Herod, like his father under similar circumstances, hurried to meet the new ruler of the world.
- Removing his royal insignia, he appeared before Augustus and, without denying his friendship for Antony and his regret at Antony's defeat, frankly offered Augustus the same friendship and loyalty which he had given the defeated Antony.
- This attitude appealed to Augustus. He probably saw in Herod, a realist in politics, one who could be relied upon to serve Rome and Rome's master.
- Not only did Augustus accept Herod's offer of friendship, but, leaving him as king of Judea, Idumea, Samaria, and Galilee, he even increased Herod's territory by adding to his kingdom some lands across the Jordan and some of the pagan cities along the Mediterranean coast.
- The friendship between Augustus and Herod remained firm for the rest of their lives.

Herod and His Pagan Subjects

- The Greek cities protested to Augustus. But they soon favored him for his character was more Greek than Jewish and his desire was to gain the reputation of being a great Hellenistic monarch.

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- He filled his court with Greek hangers-on, mostly parasites who lived by their flattery.
- His most trusted adviser was an able Greek by the name of Nicolas of Damascus
- Herod's ideas about government were the same as the Roman empire.
- It was government for the sake of the wealthy and powerful. The common people had only one duty-to obey their masters.

Herod - The Builder

- According to the Greek standards of that day, a good king encouraged games and theaters and was active in building.
- He constructed pagan temples and amphitheaters in various Greek cities within and outside his domain.
- Athens, Sparta and Rhodes benefited from his liberality.
- He made large contributions of money to the Olympic games.
- Samaria again rose from its ruins and was renamed Sebaste (Royal City) in honor of Augustus.
- The same was done to an old, well-situated town on the coast, which now received the name Caesarea, again in honor of the Caesar. (Some after Herod) never after a Hasmonean or a former Jewish king.
- Augustus Caesar and Herod's friend Agrippa "Herod's realm was far too small for his liberality."
- Herod's Gentile subjects were happy that he liked to please them. To them Herod was "Herod the Great."

Herod and His Jewish Subjects

Hopes for Hellenization

- Of course, Herod considered himself a Jew.
- Herod knew better than to force Hellenization upon his Jewish subjects.
- Gradually introducing them to those Greek habits of life which he himself admired.
- Jerusalem also benefited from his building activity. He erected a theater and a hippodrome within the city.
- Foreign visitors to his capital would feel more at home and would not look down upon him as an insignificant king of a "barbarian" people.

Herod's Temple

- From Augustus, Herod obtained the right to intervene on behalf of the Jews wherever in the Roman empire they might be annoyed.
- But, above all, he tried to prove that Greek temples were not his only concern by undertaking to rebuild and beautify the Temple in Jerusalem.
- Almost five hundred years had elapsed since the Second Temple had been built by those who returned from the Babylonian Exile.
- -After that the Temple had no doubt been repaired and enlarged, but it remained essentially the old building, inferior in beauty and grandeur to some of the pagan temples which were around.
- Not only was it contrary to Herod's love of architecture to permit the Temple of his own God to remain so modest, but he thought to show his piety to the Jews by making their Temple grander than the rest.
- the leading scribes at first opposed his plan (suspicious). They actually believed that once he pulled the old building down he would never replace it.

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- Herod had to promise that he would not touch the old building until he had built the new one around it.
- Under no circumstances were the services to be interrupted.
- Herod hired workmen by the thousands.
- Among them were many priests to build those portions not accessible to ordinary Jews.
- The work was started by leveling larger portions of the Temple Mount, so that the new building might be erected on a broader base.
- It was also made much taller, so that the white stone gleamed in the bright Palestinian sun and could be seen from miles away.
- On the northern and southern sides of the building were the enclosed halls or rooms where the priests prepared for the service, and where the Sanhedrin met.
- The large open court on the east, facing the Temple proper, was divided into several parts.
- Closest to the Temple was the portion set aside for the altar and the officiating priests.
- Next to it was the court for the Israelites who came to watch the service.
- By the side of that was the gallery for the women, and behind it was the court of the Gentiles.
- The whole area was surrounded by a wall. This is the wall, part of which remains to this day, known as "The Wailing Wall," to which Jews have gone on pilgrimage during the recent centuries of exile.

Herod's Blunder

- The Temple took many years to build. Begun in 19 BC, it was not finished till long after Herod's death
- The Jews prided in Herod's accomplishment until Herod placed a huge Roman eagle over the most important gate of the new Temple.
- Before long there was a conspiracy to pull the eagle down.
- When rumor circulated that Herod was dying, a group of young men gathered before the gate on which the golden eagle was set and began to pull it down.
- The soldiers interfered and arrested about forty of them. Herod was so enraged at this sign of insubordination and insult to Rome, that he had the "rebels" burned alive.

Herod in History

- Herod was an excellent king in certain respects.
- He maintained external peace in his land.
- He beautified his own and neighboring countries.
- He admired not only by the Roman empire, but also of the Jews outside Judea whose standards of value had changed through contact with Greek civilization. It is not difficult to understand why many people called Herod "the Great."
- Yet the majority of Jews of his own kingdom disliked him, and Jews of later generations called him "the Wicked."
- He pleased the pagans in the land and the cities prospered but the common Jew sank into poverty.
- When Herod died, the pagans among them mourned while the Jews rejoiced.

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Comments

- Herod's slaughter of the infant boys vividly reflects the pathological character of the king.
- He murdered members of his own family- yet scrupulously observed Mosaic dietary laws and would eat no pork.
- This provoked his Roman master Augustus into jesting: "I would rather be Herod's pig than Herod's son."

Death of Herod

- Joseph stayed in Egypt until the death of Herod to fulfill what the Lord has said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I have called my son." Matt 2:15
- The historian, Josephus, describes the death of Herod at great length. When Herod's health began to fail him rapidly, he was moved to his winter capital in Jericho. From there he was carried by stretcher to the hot springs on the shores of the Dead Sea. The springs did no good; Herod returned home. Racked by despondency, Herod attempted suicide. Rumors of the attempt caused loud wailing throughout the palace. Herod's son, imprisoned by his paranoid father, mistook the cries to mean his father was dead. Immediately, he tried to bribe his jailers, who reported the bribery attempt to Herod. The sick king ordered his son executed on the spot. Now Herod plunged deeper into depression. He was only days away from his own death- and he knew it. What pained him most was the knowledge that his death would be met with joy in Judea. To forestall this, he devised an incredible plan.
- Having assembled the most distinguished men from every village from one end of Judea to the other, he ordered them to be locked in the hippodrome at Jericho. Jewish Wars FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS
- Herod then gave the order to execute them at the very moment he, himself, died. His sick mind reasoned that their death would dispel any joy in Judea over his own death. The order was never carried out.
- After Herod's death, his body was carried in procession from Jericho to the Herodium outside Bethlehem for burial. Herod's body was adorned in purple, a crown of gold rested on his head, and a scepter of gold was placed in his hand. The bier bearing his body was made of gold and studded with jewels that sparkled as it was carried along under the desert sun. Following the bier was Herod's household and hundreds of slaves, swinging censers. Slowly, the procession inched its way up the mountain-side to the Herodium, where it was laid to rest.
- Today, the excavated ruins of the Herodium stand out grandly against the clear blue sky- reminding Bethlehem-bound tourists of the king who sought to kill the child whom they have come so far to honor.

Herodium

- Looking like a volcano, the Herodium is one of several fortress-palaces built by Herod the Great. It was artificially shaped, with everything placed inside its protected craterlike top.
- Josephus wrote of the Herodium:
- "Two hundred steps of purest white marble led up to it. Its top was crowned with circular towers; its courtyard contained splendid structures."
- In the 1960s archaeologists unearthed the courtyard, fortification towers, and palace. No trace of Herod's remains was found.



