







Between the Old & New Testaments



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- 438 BCE Jew return from Captivity in Babylon.
- 438 BCE Nehemiah starts to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and the rebuilding of the Temple.
- 429 BCE The Greek Empire enters a civil war.
- 400 BCE The last Prophet of the Old Testament and the Old World is alive. Malachi ends the days of the Jewish prophets. 
- 390 BCE Isocrates established an academy for Greek unity. 
- 346 BCE A Macedonian named Philip is named as the Greek King and Unites Greece. He established the Greek way of life through the empire.
- 336 BCE Philip is assassinated. His son Alexander ('the Great') succeeds him at age 20.
- 332 BCE Alexander the Great conquers Asia Minor, Syria, and Egypt. 
- 331 BCE Alexander the Great conquers Babylon, and defeats the Persians. Greece is now the world power.
- 323 BCE June 13- Alexander the Great dies of an illness at the age 22.
- 323 BCE Three of Alexander's generals divide the Greek Empire. One-eyed general Antigonous Cyclops took southern Europe and Seleucus Nicator took the land from India and to Syria. Ptolemy took Egypt, Northern Africa, and the Southern Middle East.
- 320 BCE Ptolemy attacks Jerusalem and takes captives.
- 314 BCE Cyclops invades Palestine and takes it from Seleucus.
- 312 BCE Ptolemy takes Palestine from Cyclops. After which many Jews immigrated to Alexandria and other safer areas.
- 275 BCE Ptolemy II, also called Philadelphus, started a library in Alexandria that he hoped to make the largest in the world. He wanted the sacred records of the Jews, but they would need to be translated into Greek. He imported a body of Jewish scholars to the island of Pharos and they translated the Torah into Greek in 72 days. The 72-day miracle gave the new version its name "the Septuagint Version".
- 223 BCE The Seleucians place Antiochus III on the throne. He attempts to take Palestine and Phoenicia away from the Ptolemy's. The Ptolemaic King was Ptolemy IV, who was unusually cruel. Judah sided with the Seleucians, who lost. Ptolemy punished the Jews by offering pagan sacrifices in the Temple. Further more, he forced the Jews themselves to perform pagan acts.
- 203 BCE Ptolemy IV dies.

- 198 BCE Antiochus III invades Palestine and adds it to his empire.
- 190 BCE The Antiochus' Empire begins to feel the emerging power of the Romans. His empire is hence referred to as the Syrian Empire, though the royalty was Greek in origin. The Romans defeat the Syrians in several battles. Antiochus agreed to pay tribute to Rome.
- 175 BCE Antiochus IV or Antiochus Epiphanes takes the throne and sets out to annihilate Judaism. He places a statue of Zeus in the Holy of Holies, took all the temple treasures, and desecrated the temple and the Jewish way of life. He even kept unclean swine in the temple.
- 175 BCE Syrian/Greek soldiers would travel to Jewish cities and enforce the law of no Jewish worship. If a child was found circumcised, they would kill the child. Tie him to his mother's neck. March her through the city. And finally, they would cast her off a high wall or cliff. They would also force the elders to offer pagan sacrifice.
- 167 BCE Syrian/Greek soldiers visit the Jewish town of Modin ('gift of God'). They find an older man named Mattathia who was a priest. They told him to offer pagan sacrifice or to die. He chose death rather than to defile himself. A man in the village plead to save Mattathia's life and offered to perform the act in his place. As he went to do so, Mattathia drew a sword and killed the soldier and the Jewish man. Mattathia and his five sons fled to the hills and started the Jewish revolt against the Syrians. Mattathia and his family came from a Jewish called Hasmonaeans.
- 166 BCE Mattathia's oldest son, Judas took charge of the Jewish revolt. He was a military genius and would often defeat armies 3 to 4 times his size. Judas became known as the Hammer, Maccabaeus. Soon the whole family was known by his name. It is also suggested that his name stemmed from a war banner he erected. 
- 165 BCE Judas Maccabaeus recapture Jerusalem from Antiochus Epiphanes. He cleanses the Temple and rededicates it. The event became known as the Feast of Dedication or Hanukkah.
- 162 BCE The Syrians, or rather the Ptolemy's, sieged Jerusalem. The siege became difficult because of economic and political pressures. Antiochus Epiphane made a truce with Judas; Jerusalem could remain independent, but a Syrian appointed High Priest must occupy that prestigious position. The Jews agreed, but

shortly thereafter revolted and placed Judas' brother Jonathan in the position of High Priest.

162 BCE Judas sends men to Rome to ask for their assistance in conquering the Syrians.

160 BCE The Syrians came against Jerusalem again. Judas Maccabaeus was killed along with two of his brothers; John and Eleazar. Then later crushed under an elephant used as a war beast by the Syrians. Jonathan, the High Priest, took over and retained the Jews independence.

142 BCE Jonathan was murdered by a Syrian named Typhon, who was trying to usurp the Syrian Throne. Simon, the last of the five brothers, took the Jewish throne. Simon killed Typhon and was shown some gratitude by Demetrius II who was in line for the Syrian throne. He promised the Jews independence and freedom from tribute. The Jews held a 'solemn assembly' and proclaimed Simon and his posterity the new High Priest line for the Jews 'until a faithful prophet should arise'.



138 BCE Antichus VII took the Syrian throne. He recognized the rise of Rome and wished to reinforce his northern borders. To do this he needed funds. He asked tribute of Judah, as well as back-pay for the years they missed during Demetrius' reign. Simon was too old to stage a revolt but his two sons, John Hyrcanus and Judas took the charge. Together they beat back the Syrians. After the war they struck tragedy, Their sister had married a man named Ptolemy. Ptolemy murdered Simon to seize the Judean throne. John killed Ptolemy, but his father was dead. John consequently took the throne. No sooner had he taken the throne and the Syrians were back with a larger force than ever. The Jews were forced to retreat and abandon Jerusalem. John Hyrcanus strengthened his forces with hired mercenaries. They came back to Jerusalem re-enforced and took back what was theirs. His name is not often looked on highly because it turn out that he paid the mercenaries by breaking into King David's Tomb and robbing its riches.

104 BCE John Hyrcanus died. His son, Judas Aristobulus took the Throne and was the first of the Maccabees to go by the title of King.

103 BCE Judas is ousted after 1 year and replaced by his brother Alexander Jannaeus. Alexander ruled for 27 years and actually expanded the Judean territory.

103 BCE to 76 BCE Civil war between the Pharisees and Sadducees waged. It ranged from political and public

controversy to outright war. Lives were lost in their struggle over religious doctrine.

76 BCE Alexander Jannaeus died. His wife, Queen Salome Alexandra reigned in his stead; however, the government was in actuality run by a governing body of Pharisees. She acted as a social figure rather than an administrator.

73 BCE Herod the Great is born to a man named Antipater in the land of Idumea.

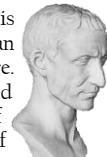
67 BCE Queen Salome died. Her two sons; Hyrcanus and Aristobulus II began to fight over the throne. Both appealed to Rome for help. Unfortunately, Rome sided with neither of them.

63 BCE Julius Caesar and Gnaeus Pompey found themselves in control of the Roman Empire. Romans, specifically Pompey's troops, invaded Jerusalem and placed a Roman appointed King over Judea with an independent advisor. The Advisor was an Idumeanite named Antipater. This was done to stop the emanate civil war that was fueling in Israel.

54 BCE Roman Senate supported Pompey as Ruler of Rome. Caesar took his troops and marched against Pompey in defiance of the ruling. He defeated Pompey's troops and took the Roman throne Pompey retreats to Egypt. Caesar follows only to find himself surrounded and outnumbered. Fortunately, Antipater showed up with several thousand men and together they defeated Pompey. As Thanks, Julius Caesar made Antipater governor/vassal king of Judea in 47 BCE.

47 BCE Antipater made governor/vassal king of Judea. Antipater makes his son a joint governor and gives him the district of Judea. Some would say that he was actually the military prefect of Galilee rather than governor.

44 BCE March 14- Julius Caesar is assassinated. Roman named Octavian takes over the Roman empire. Octavian did not want to be called "Emperor" so he proclaimed himself "first citizen" and took the title of "Augustus: meaning, "revered one". Octavian was the Caesar Augustus of the Bible . Antipater dies.



40 BCE Around this date, Herod marries the daughter of Hyrcanus II who was serving as the Jewish High Priest.

40 BCE Pantheons, a mob type group, begin to run Galilee and Palestine.

Between 40 BCE to 37 BCE Herod tries to eradicate crime from the district of Galilee. In the process, he catches and convicts a Jew named Hezekiah and of various crimes. Herod convicted Hezekiah and his

cohorts and then executed. The Jews, specifically the Pharisees and the Sanhedren, are outraged that a non-Jew would pass judgement on a Jew. They imprison Herod for his crime.

37 BCE The High Priest of the time, Hycanus, disagreed with the Jewish ruling against Herod and frees him one night. Herod leaves for Rome and appeals to Caesar who names him King of Judea. He returns to Palestine as a King rather than a governor. The Jews saw him as a convicted criminal.



Between 25 BCE to 13 BCE Herod is highly suspicious and has several wives and many of his children put to death. Many say that much of his later insanity stemmed from guilt feelings associated with these executions.

Between 25 BCE to 13 BCE Extensive building program. During this time, he builds up Palestine like a great Roman province. He builds amphitheaters, coliseums, and temples. 24 BCE he builds a palace for himself in Jerusalem. 20/19 BCE starts the remodeling of the Jewish Temple.



5 BCE April 6- Jesus Christ is born. Many debate the year of the Savior's birth. James E. Talmage placed it at 1 BCE. The author of this work has placed it at 5 BCE.

Between 5 BCE to 4 BCE Herod orders the death of all children under the age of two. He was concerned about a prophecy that said the Messiah or King of the Jews was to be born. Hundreds of children were put to death to assure that there was no threat to Herod's throne.

4 BCE Herod, losing his sanity, and on the verge of death, orders all Jewish men to assemble and mourn his near death. He is said to of suffered from arteriosclerosis. He placed all the Jewish men he could find into the Horse-racing arena and locked them in. He then ordered their execution. Fortunately, his sister stopped the execution before it happened.

4 BCE Winter, Herod the Great dies in his Winter Palace in Jericho. He died after an unsuccessful suicide.

4 BCE Just before death, Herod altered his will three times and finally disinherited and killed his firstborn, Antipater. After his death, and Augustus' sanction, his will stated that the realm would be divided among his sons; Archelaus would be king of Judaea and Samaria, with Philip and Antipas sharing the remainder as tetrarchs.