

Objectives

1. MAJOR EVENT between Testaments– HANUKAH
2. Origins of Judaism – distinct from OT
3. Set political scene for time of Jesus
4. Describe preparatory factors for Xity—X is first letter in Greek for Χριστ

See Outline: *From Return to Renewal*

I. **Persian Period**

II. **Alexander – Apostle of Hellenism (336-323)**

Alexander represented a change of **phenomenal proportions**, for it was with his language, ideas and culture that he conquered the world, not his political control. It's like today, American language, movies, clothing and money rule the world. HELLENISM.

III. **Hellenism after Alexander in Judea A. Ptolemaic control—323-198 BC**

Alexander's political empire falls apart immediately after he dies.

Cassander – Macedonia

Lysimachus – Thrace

Antigonos – Asia Minor and Syria

Ptolemy – Egypt

Seleucus – Babylonia

Palestine bone of contention among Antigonos, Ptolemy and Seleucus and it bounced back & forth
Until Antigonos was killed at battle of Ipsus (Phrygia, Asia Minor)

Ptolemy takes Palestine and Syria – Seleucus takes Asia Minor – **builds Antioch**



PALESTINE IS BUFFER ZONE OF CONTENTION



III. B.

Seleucid King – Antiochus III conquers Ptolemy’s descendants at Paneon/ Panian/ Banyas/ Caesaria Philippi in 199/8 BC and that starts the next era of the aggressive Hellenization of Palestine which produces the Maccabean Revolt our starting point this September.



Panias—Caesarea Philippi in NT times

Antiochus III founds Antioch in Syria.

NOTE: Seleucid is the scholarly term for **SYRIA**. Ptolemaic is the term for **EGYPT**.

196 Formation of the Sanhedrin formally.

But in 192 Romans defeat Antiochus III at Magnesia and take his son Antiochus IV hostage to Rome. Romans take Western Asia Minor and extract a huge indemnity. The Syrians have a real struggle to pay this off for decades.

Intrigue in Antioch finally led to ANT IV becoming King in 175 BC.

[During the previous 100 years when the Ptolemies controlled Palestine, many Jews migrated to Egypt and particularly to Alexandria, founded by Alex the Great. It became a place of Greek culture and learning and its library was the largest in the world at the time. For Jews it became a melting pot where Greek/Hellenistic and Hebrew ideas melt together and become fused [syncretism].]

During this period the LXX [Septuagint] is translated. 285-247 BC (Letter of Aristeas: 72 elders locked up for 72 days and each produced an identical translation.) LXX is finally completed actually in 150 BC. This was huge—but it allows and abets further Hellenization of biblical thinking.

Ant III improved conditions in Israel

- High priests and majority of people preferred Syrians to Egyptians.
- Self-government was restored.
- Ant III even ordered that the Temple be closed to Non-Jews on pain of death and no unclean animals in Jerusalem.
- Plus tax relief
- Return of Jewish refugees.

BUT

Collaboration between Jewish ruling class and their Hellenistic lords had a dark side:

Alex wanted not only political dominance, but also total dominance: thought, language, customs, literature, manners, entertainment ...

To that end he took “Hellenism” everywhere he went.

- He planted whole new cities in the “trans-Jordan” area known in the OT as Gilead—THE 10 CITIES OF THE DECAPOLIS
- Models of Hellenistic ideals and organization
- Governed by Hellenistic democratic senates
- Athletics: Gymnasiums and youth centers where competition was Greek style, nude.
- The new ideal was Hellenism.

Imagine the world under Islam—so completely at variance with our culture. Language, morals, manners, education, law, entertainment—what a change. Imagine our ruling elites finding accommodation with the rulers of Egypt, Saudi, Kuwait, etc. Multiculturalism at its most robust.

Hellenism was not all exemplary civic development either:

- Orgies associated with games and religion
- Cult prostitution male and female with festivals
- Baths and depraved literature, drama and poetry.
- Religious amalgamation (syncretism) Zeus, Hera, Apollo, Aphrodite were joined with Isis and Osiris, Zoroastrianism, Astarte, Baal and Ashtoreth. Even Yahweh.

Josephus tells how Alexander made sacrifices in the Temple in Jerusalem.

About this time Hasidism rises.

This hodge-podge, collection theory of religion ran completely against the new legal consciousness rising in Post exilic Judah—which undoubtedly became viewed as “intolerant.”

So the conflict is set up between slick and fashionable new Hellenism and what became viewed by the ruling elites as reactionary, crude, and old-fashioned Torahism.

Old fashioned:

- Circumcision
- No images
- Non-participation in public civic athletic sacrifices.
- Sabbath observance
- Ritual purity
- Kosher

So the new in-crowd developed even including Jews whose favor and position was improved by their willingness to participate in the new culture.

The Hasidim emerge as a social reaction—“The pious ones.” Ancestors of the modern Hasids.

Joshua ben Sira (aka Jesus son of Sirach) wrote Ecclesiasticus about 180 BC to combat creeping Hellenism.

^{4:20} Watch for the opportune time, and beware of evil,
and do not be ashamed to be yourself.

- ²¹ For there is a shame that leads to sin,
and there is a shame that is glory and favor.
- ²² Do not show partiality, to your own harm,
or deference, to your downfall.
- ²³ Do not refrain from speaking at the proper moment,^[d]
and do not hide your wisdom.^[e]
- ²⁴ For wisdom becomes known through speech,
and education through the words of the tongue.
- ²⁵ Never speak against the truth,
but be ashamed of your ignorance.
- ²⁶ Do not be ashamed to confess your sins,
and do not try to stop the current of a river.
- ²⁷ Do not subject yourself to a fool,
or show partiality to a ruler.
- ²⁸ Fight to the death for truth,
and the Lord God will fight for you.

V. The Jewish Revolt

The story behind Hanukah illustrates the clash of cultures: Hellenism (worldliness) and Judaism (faithfulness) as it unfolds in history not just in ideas.

When ANT IV takes the Seleucid [Syrian] throne in 175 BC, the stage is set.

The **tolerance of previous rulers** gave way into coercions into the Hellenistic mold.

Analogy with 1920s Nazism and late 1930s Nazism. [I suggest we see this happening in our society.]

This drama sets the pattern for the rise of normative observant Judaism from thence forward. The struggle to maintain its identity forges a pattern of practice and legalism that marks Judaism in a new way.

There is a heightened emphasis on the visible legal practices and law as a means of belonging.

There is a rejection of outsiders—no means was left for outsiders to be accepted as “People of God” without diminishing godly IDENTITY—that is JEWISH identity.

ANT IV did face real pressures:

1. Financial weakness—so he robbed shrines and temples everywhere, including Jerusalem
2. Governed such a diverse population that there was no internal cohesion.
3. Military pressure constant and everywhere: Romans-west; Parthians-east; Egyptians-south.

These pressures were met with vigorous and compulsory Hellenization:

- Zeus worship was required—so that local gods became the local adaptation of Zeus.
- Emperor took title of “*Theos Epiphanes*” which means God Revealed or Manifest The epiphany of god. [Observant Jews derisively called him “Epimanes”—out of his mind.]
- No observant Jew could use that language and keep Command #1.

So, in Palestine, the situation went from bad to worse.

This next part is complicated but very revealing as to the spirit of those times and the motivation that created the new Judaism.

When ANT IV came to the throne, **Onias III** was High Priest. He was a Zadokite /Aaronic priest with heritage back to David’s time. He was genuinely observant and leader of observant Jews in Jerusalem.

- He was also a supporter of Egyptian rule.

- BUT he was opposed by **Simon the Tobiad**-- in the larger Jewish community none other than the descendants of Tobiah the Ammonite who had opposed Ezra and Nehemiah. Simon was “Captain of the Temple. These were the social (as opposed to the religious) elite.
- Simon denounced Onias who went to Antioch to defend himself at the very moment that ANT IV came to the throne.

NOW that the high priest was out of the way, the Tobiads and the social elite asserted themselves:

- Radical Hellenization became the norm.
- So the “Jewish” leadership fit perfectly into ANT’s kingdom-wide plan.
- This is the **origin of the aristocratic/priestly party that came eventually to be the “Sadducees.”**
- Simon’s brother “Joshua” took the Greek name “Jason” and became their leader.
- Jason tried to buy the high priesthood for many shekels and the promise of even more vigorous Hellenization.
- ANT IV was pleased and appointed Jason High Priest. 174 BC.

SO ... Jason builds gymnasium in Jerusalem.

Games were organized for naked runners in the holy city—Greek style.

- Jews felt compelled to remove their circumcision.
- They also felt compelled to wear the cap of Hermes—God of sports.
- And to display the swoosh of Nike—goddess of victory.

Jason changed the constitution to make Jerusalem equal to Antioch as a Hellenistic city. This meant that the exception granted by ANT III for Jewish ancestral law and religious observance was removed.

*The city of David was given over entirely to the way of Alexander. **It was the age of Antiochus!***

--sing to the tune of *The Age of Aquarius*

The rising tide of law observance ran full force into compulsory Hellenism.

- The orthodox were alarmed and incensed.
- Intolerable to have the divine office of High Priest appointed by a pagan king.
- Found policy of Hellenization obnoxious and offensive.

NOW Jason’s original supporters among the elite social class of Jerusalem found he was not radical enough. Jason had at least connection with the Zadokite heritage.

- But the Orthodox did not replace him—things go worse instead of better—the social aristocratic priestly party did. Here’s how:
- Jason sent the first installment of his bribe to ANT IV by delegating a Benjamite Menelaus to take the money. But Menelaus instead used the money to add to more of his own to offer an even greater bribe and even more vigorous Hellenization
- So guess what? ANT IV appointed Menelaus High Priest. He is not a Levite, much less a Zadokite.

The people rebelled but were put down by the Syrian troops.

- Menelaus plundered the Temple to make his payment to ANT IV
- Menelaus had ANT IV execute the lawful high priest Onias III.
- Jason attacks Menelaus and slaughtered many innocent people in Jerusalem before being driven out.

BUT it’s now 169 BC. ANT IV had attacked Egypt and was defeated utterly. He’s in a foul mood and he’s on his way back from Egypt so he swings by Jerusalem. He puts Menelaus back in the High Priesthood and unleashes his soldiers on the populace.

Then ANT IV takes the rest of Temple treasures and furnishings.

168 Further strife in Jerusalem; so ANT IV send a commander who waits for the Sabbath when he knows the Jews will not fight even in self-defense. He approaches the city with the appearance of peaceableness.

- Instead he slaughters the people, torches the city, takes women and children as slaves and tears down the Temple walls. He builds a new walled city within the city called the AKRA.
- The Akra becomes a garrison and Hellenistic City State.

- The Akra also houses Menelaus and the rest of the wealthy priests and nobles and their families to become the center of the enforcement of Hellenization in the rest of defenseless Jerusalem.

Now with a true position of power the Hellenistic priestly party exercises dominance:

- Taxes and confiscation increased the gap between rich and poor.
- Freedom for occupants of the Akra to do whatever which leads to shedding much innocent blood.
- Many ordinary Jews flee to the countryside to escape
- Temple that remained was controlled from the Akra.
- Baal and other Hellenistic deities were worshipped there under sponsorship the High Priest Menelaus and others of the ruling elite.
- God of Israel mingled into other gods in a broad-minded religious mud pie [syncretism].

Still ANT IV was not satisfied: He now made a concerted attempt to exterminate Jewish religion completely.

167 Pronounces Decree forbidding the practice of Judaism and sends an emissary to enforce edict.

Attacked and ended under penalty of death:

1. Sacrifice and holy days
2. Circumcision
3. The reading of the Torah and burned copies
4. Observance of the Sabbath
5. Pagan altars set up all over the land
6. Jews forced to sacrifice on those altars and eat swine flesh or die.

December 167 ANT IV rededicates the Jerusalem Temple to the Olympian Zeus

- Set up a life-sized statue of Zeus with his own features in front of the Altar
- Where swine were offered as sacrifices as worship,
- Temple prostitution took place and
- The people were forced to participate or die.
- All this with the collaboration and cooperation and approbation of the “Progressives” of their day, the Temple elite under Menelaus.

Responses varied:

- Temple “powers” led and collaborated;
- Others willingly submitted
- Still others resisted and were massacred.
- Parents who circumcised their children were executed.
- Many other forms of coercion and even torture were applied to enforce conformity.

The full bloom of the “*Age of Antiochus*”. We’ve seen it again and again. Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Taliban, etc.

Those claiming advanced enlightenment require totalitarian tactics to enforce enlightenment on others.

But even deeper is the internal struggle between “progressive” religion which constantly accommodates itself to the temper of the age and the rising tide of Jewish identity which recalled the people to its godly heritage. What is the most enduring and vital line of that heritage? Turns out it’s the LAW, THE TORAH.

That reaction began with the family of an **aged priest Mattathias in the village of Modein** 17 miles NW of Jerusalem.

- One day, 1 Maccabees tells us, an imperial representative arrived to compel pagan sacrifice at the altar of Zeus and renunciation of biblical faith and practice.
- Mattathias was first in line as the leading citizen of the village. Instead of complying, he defied the order and publically pledged loyalty to *Adonai*.
- Then an “*Age of Antiochus*” Jew stepped forward to offer the required sacrifice.
- Mattathias applied the **OT law against idolaters** and executed him right then and there on the altar.
- Then he killed the Syrian Official and destroyed the altar.

- Then he fled to the hill country rallying all who were “zealous for the Law” to follow him—and so we have origin of the future “Zealots”.
- Soon the Hasidim join them –mentioned here in written records for the first time.
- Together, they may have been the only opposition left to stand against militant Hellenization of the Jews.

The zealous resistance drew great encouragement from **Daniel and Esther** for obvious reasons. Guerilla warfare from village to village ensued at the points of pressure and compelled compliance.

Mattathias dies in 166 BC. Judas his third son took leadership

Judas was known as the “Hammerhead”—meaning of “Maccabee”—because he pounded the Syrians. Finally Judas defeated the main army of ANT IV and forced him to return to Antioch—even though the AKRA remained unconquered.

But Jerusalem was back in the hands of the people.

Now the Temple was cleansed, altar rebuilt and the Temple rededicated.

- Judas marched on Jerusalem and occupied Mt Zion—shutting up the Syrian garrison in the AKRA—along with their sympathizers, the *Age of Antiochus* Jews.
- Then he selected priests who were faithful during the Hellenization persecution.
- Judas tore down the defiled altar and erected a new one of unhewn stones as prescribed by Exodus.
- He restored and refurnished the Temple with curtains and lamps and other special vessels.
- In the month of December (Chislev) 25, 164 BC exactly 3 years after ANT IV desecrated it, the Maccabees restored the Temple to its lawful use.
- The Feast of Dedication was called “Hanukah” and is the event which has been celebrated ever since.
- It’s call the “Feast of lights” because of a story in the *Talmud* about a small amount of oil available that was “purified” but burned without interruption miraculously for the 8 days of the Feast:

What is [the significance of the holiday of] Hanukkah? Our Rabbis taught- “[From] the twenty-fifth day of Kislev are the days of Hanukkah, which are eight, on which eulogies and fasting are forbidden.” 1006 When the Greeks 107 entered the Sanctuary, they defiled all the oil in the Sanctuary. But when the Hasmonean House grew mighty and defeated them, they searched and could find but a single cruse of oil which was sealed with the seal of the high priest. And in it there was sufficient [oil] for but a single day. A miracle occurred, and they lit [the menorah] from it for eight days. The next year they established them and made them festival days with Hallel 108 and thanksgiving. 109 (Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 21b)

Next Judas set himself to win independence for all the Jews in surrounding areas.

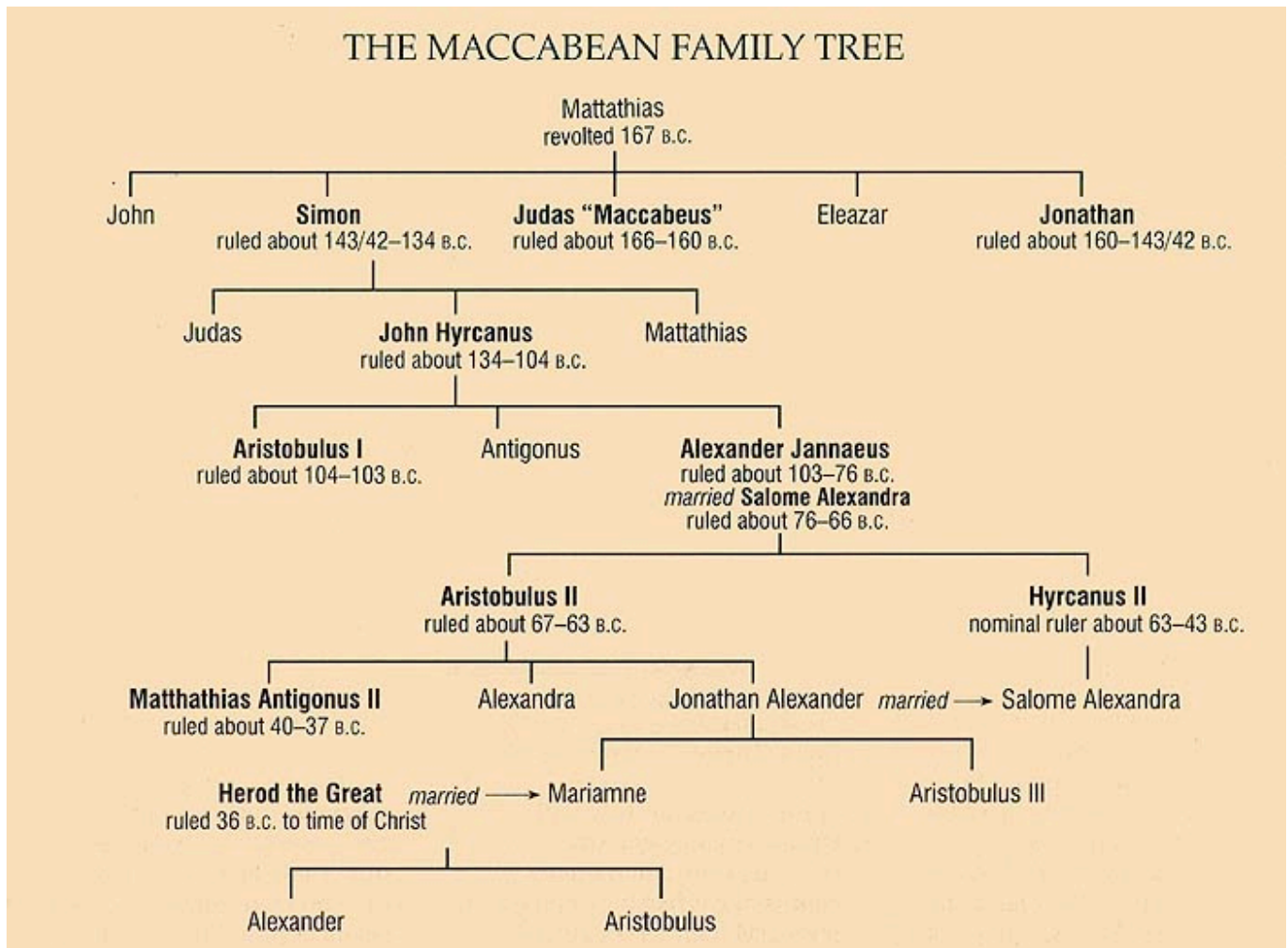
ANT IV died that year of 164 BC [to no one’s sorrow] and the Syrians revoked the repressive policy and granted religious liberty again to the Jews.

But the **struggle with Hellenization** continued [of course] when the next King ANT V appointed another High Priest (Alcinus) from among the priestly elite who were in tune with the *Age of Antiochus*.

- But Judas again asserted Jewish identity and defeated the Syrians and drove out Alcinus.
- Then Judas went to Rome where the Senate proclaimed his legitimacy.
- But the Syrians fought and killed him anyway.
- His brothers take up leadership.
- Eventually Simon (his next older brother) in 142 BC captured the Akra, cleaned out Jerusalem completely of the Syrian power (not the priestly elite, however), And the Jews were granted their independence by the Syrian king who was no longer an “Antiochus.”

VI. Maccabean Rule—Jewish Independence 142-63 BC—*details, details, details ...*

The Maccabees/ Hasmoneans thus achieved their political goals and also ushered in the principle of the dominance of the “Law” which was later to judge their rule and end their power.



[Maccabees are referred to as “Hasmoneans” because the grandfather of Mattathias was named Hasmoneas.]

The Maccabees /Hasmoneans themselves were corrupted like the Hellenizers before them through their attempt to keep and wield political power as an end in itself.

They [Simon] made a treaty with the new rising power of the times Rome in 142 BC.

Priesthood passed out of hands of Zadokites

About 160 BC Jonathan another brother of Judas M. was appointed High Priest by Alex. Balas a pretender to the throne, son of ANT IV.

Zadokites had been deposed from Priesthood when Onias III was outbid for that position by Jason. **Onias IV migrated to Leontopolis, Egypt** about 161 BC where he built a new temple there modeled on Jerusalem that lasted 230 years to just after 70 AD when Vespasian destroyed Leontopolis just after Jerusalem.

Meanwhile back in Jerusalem Jonathan is assassinated [143] and another brother **Simon** was acclaimed civil governor, military leader and “High Priest forever, until a trustworthy prophet should arise” (1Macc. 14.41) with Roman collusion including a plaque set up in temple by Romans proclaiming MCCABEAN RULE BOTH RELIGIOUS AND CIVIC.

All this in the year (142) when independence is granted to Judea under Simon. Simon thus founded the hereditary line of priests that followed.

Here the **Hasidim break with the nation. And “Pharisees” come into the record** – one derivation for the name is from the word to separate.

The Hasmoneans now saw great expansion and opportunity. They ruled an independent Judea for 75 years and kept priesthood for next 100. John Hyrcanus, Simon’s son completely overran Idumea, Samaria and part of Galilee and added them to his realm.

His sons Aristobulus [104-3 and Alexander Jannaeus [103-76] [took title King] extended kingdom to Mediterranean and into Transjordan – to place where the Hasmonean kingdom **rivalled or exceeded the Solomonic kingdom**.

These kings were unprincipled – acted just like Hellenistic rulers—but without the redeeming features of high Hellenism.

Alex Jan. was particularly unworthy both as ruler or priest – only out for his own power and conquest. A complete vandal without the redeeming graces of Hellenism –FF Bruce Succeeded by wife **Salome Alexandra** who made her son Hyrcanus II [who had no ambition] high priest and her younger son –Aristobulus II who had enough ambition for the whole family – a military command. **Her 9 years considered a “golden age”**.

Her death in 67 BC was followed by Civil war between partisans of the 2 brothers.

Hyrcanus unambitious though he was was used as a front man by the Idumean politician, **Antipater** (Herod’s father), who saw clearly the need to cooperate with Rome.

Jews appeal to Rome and Pompey marches on Jerusalem in AD 63.

Rome occupied Judea in 63 BC on pretext of settling civil war.

Pompey occupied and reorganized Syria as Roman province. Aristobulus resisted. Jerusalem occupied in Spring 63 and became subject to Rome.

VII. Roman Rule begins in 63 BC

Pompey desecrates the temple by entering the Holy of Holies. Destroys city walls.

Hyrcanus II was confirmed HIGH PRIEST. Titular leadership of nation.

Antipater continued behind the scenes to cultivate the Romans, particularly Julius Caesar, whom he

assisted when **Julius Caesar defeated Pompey** (when the First Triumvirate fell apart) at **Pharsalus** and killed him in Alexandria with help from Antipater whose friend was Marc Antony.

Made Antipater a tax-free Roman citizen with the title of Procurator of Judea. Allowed to rebuild walls, taxes reduced for Jews and religion was respected.

Julius Caesar assassinated in 44 BC. Antipater assassinated 43. Sons Phasael and Herod continued the pro Roman politics on the side of Caesar's heir apparent

Augustus/Octavian who with Marc Antony defeated Cassius and Brutus at **Philippi in 42** and Phasael and Herod were appointed **co-tetrarchs of Judea. -42 BC**

IN 40 BC Parthians overran and destroyed the Roman occupation placed another Hasmonean – Antigonus [son of Aristobulus II] -- on the throne and killed Phasael while Herod fled to Rome where Octavian and Antony had him declared *King of the Jews* by the Roman Senate.

Whereupon, not without considerable effort, Herod reconquered Judea for the Romans. Antigonus sent in chains to Antony at Antioch and executed there at Herod's request.

Herod divorced his first wife (Doris) to marry the Hasmonean princess Mariamne (granddaughter of both rival brothers Hyrcanus II and Aristobulus II)

Jews nevertheless continued to look on him as Idumean interloper, who had usurped the throne over the "rightful" Hasmonean King, Antigonus.

Cleopatra VII took Jericho from him, even though he was Marc Antony's friend who was also Cleopatra's consort.

Hasmoneans kept right to succeed in the High Priesthood – therefore Mariamne insisted that Herod appoint her brother, Aristobulus III, 17, to that post. A few months later, however,

Aristobulus III was drowned in "unfortunate" swimming accident at one of Herod's palaces.

Mariamne accused Herod who then had to appear before Antony and Cleopatra but was acquitted giving rise to the famous Cleopatra epigram:

"one must not inquire too closely into the actions of a king, lest he cease to be king."

However, Antony and Cleopatra were to be defeated at **Actium by Octavian in 31 BC** after which they fled to Egypt and committed suicide the next year.

As Antony's friend Herod was summoned before Octavian at Rhodes.

He did not hide his friendship for Antony, but convinced Octavian that he could serve Rome best in Judea.

So Octavian reappointed him and even gave him back Jericho from Egypt, along with a number of Greek cities.

Octavian handed the republic back to the Senate and people of Rome" and was proclaimed princeps, chief citizen of the republic, and given the name Augustus – but the republic had become an empire.

Jerusalem was recognized as a temple city, at first administered by "client King" Herod the Great.

Hierosolyma [like Hieropolis] temple-state with special privileges:

Roman military standards were not permitted inside city walls.

We will have more to say about the Herods in the course of the NT studies, but for now, Josephus is often quoted as saying that it was ***safer to be Herod's enemy than to be his relative***.

We have told how he killed his brother-in-law the high priest age 17.

His sons enjoyed more popular favor than he because they had the blood of the Hasmonean princess whom Herod married. She bore two boys: Aristobulus and Alexander.

They were nominated as heirs by their father.

But he executed their mother while they were still very young – 29BC

Later, after having been educated in Rome, they, too, were executed at his insistence in 7BC. Herod was incited by his eldest son Antipater by his first wife Doris.

Herod elevated Antipater to be joint king, but changed his mind and banished him when he suspected Antipater of plotting against his life. 4 or 5 days before his death, he ordered Antipater's execution.

Herod was a great builder. He built fortresses everywhere—because he was paranoid. He wanted a place to escape in any direction.

South—Herodium

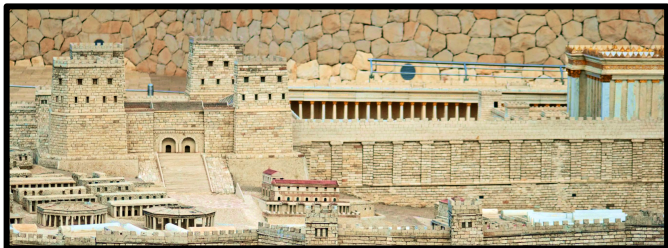


East – Masada (and Machaerus)



West—Caesarea Maritima





Judaism a different religion from OT times

1. Law obedience

Eventually the idea of faithfulness to the covenant relationship with God became interpreted to mean rigid observance of the law, particularly circumcision, Sabbath observance, purification and food laws, rather than the moral law.

“Here law has ceased to be the definition of the requisite response to the gracious acts of God and becomes the means by which men might achieve divine favor and become worthy of his promises.”
—John Bright

History conspired to make these legal requirements the test of faithfulness. So that the outcome of the Maccabean struggle was so to mold Jewish experience that its law became THE expression of its national identity and Mission.

2. Origin of a wide variety of sects and parties. (Metzger, *NT, Background, Growth and Content*)

Largest was the Pharisees, heirs of the Hasideans who began as a reaction to the aggressive Hellenizing influences preceding the Maccabeans under the Seleucids.

Maccabean struggle ceased to be about religious liberty and became contest for political power, Hasids lost interest.

Pharisees [Ps] first appear under John Hyrcanus (135-105 BC) Probably means “separated ones”

Josephus: “The Pharisees are a group who have the reputation of excelling the rest of their nation in the observance of religion, and as exact exponents of the laws” (War, I.v.2)

| Pharisees | Saducees |
|---|--|
| foreordination consistent w/freewill | history not divinely controlled, individual freedom directs life and history itself |
| immortality of soul AND resurrection of body with rewards and punishments based on virtue | did not believe in afterlife |
| Angels, demons | did not believe in anything other than this world. |
| Authority: Hebrew scriptures + tradition of rabbis through the generations | scripture only; therefore rejected outright nothing they did not find taught in the OT |

Pharisaism essence:

Religion consists in conformity to the Law

Promises God’s grace only to doers of the Law

Scrupulous adherence to legalistic traditions created the Pharisaic ethos.

Outward formalism more important than inward disposition of heart
It was heroism of those who opposed the idolatrous humanism of the Hellenistic ideal

Talmud

- “Wait-a-little” P – procrastinated doing good
- “bruised” or “bleeding” P – avoids looking at woman, shuts eyes and stumbles into wall
- “Shoulder” – wears his good deeds on shoulder
- “hump-backed” P – walks about stooped over in false humility
- “ever-reckoning” P – constantly counting his good deeds to balance against sins
- “God-fearing” P – stands in awe and dread of God
- “God-loving” P – a true son of Abraham and a genuine P

Sadducees – probably comes from Zadok written *Saddouk* in Greek

As political authority grew, spirituality waned – accommodated the Hellenizing to maintain power.

By NT – small group in number.

Influential in politics and religion

Wealthy, politically connected, landowners

Masses sided against them with Pharisees.

Their conservatism religiously served their liberal political ends.

ESSENES

- Information from Josephus, Philo and Pliny
- 4000 in number
- simple, abstemious life.
- The most strict refrained from marriage to keep pure.
- Communal life required three year probation, after which turned over property
- Primary religious observance: ritual washings, stated periods for prayer, continuous reading and study of OT scriptures
- The applied the prophecies and promises to their own community
- Did not participate in sacrifices at temple because they held temple worship polluted
- Wore white robes as symbolic of inward purity
- Sabbath law more rigid than Pharisees
- Qumran

HERODIANS

Lots of theories about these people – not an organized party, but an attitude

Jews of influence who supported Herodian rule and therefore Roman rule

Asked Jesus about taxes

ZEALOTS

Founded technically by Judas the Galilean a rebel in AD 6 (Acts 5.37)

Opposed paying tribute on ground that this was treason to God

Pharisaic religion

Throwback to Judas the Maccabee

AKA Sicarii (Assassins) Ac 21.38 Fomented last war and died in Masada

Scribes & Rabbis

Goes back to Ezra

Began in Babylon as the preservers of tradition

Most scribes were Pharisees

Called rabbi – “my great one”

Profession:

careful theoretical development of law
the teaching of the Law to pupils who followed them dutifully
practical administration of law in pronouncing legal decisions.

Theoretical development

613 commandments, 248 positive, 365 negative

a bandage might be placed on a boil on the Sabbath to prevent it from becoming worse, but not to promote its healing.

You could walk through a grain field on S when ankle high, but not knee high because later grain might accidentally be threshed.

Sometimes ingenuity was applied to provide relief from legislation –Sabbath day's journey was about 3/5 of a mile from home – could be extended if at that point the man had deposited enough food for 2 meals, arrive there, constitute that his dwelling and then move on from his home another Sabbath Day's journey and so on. Or the "Eruv."

Teaching: memory

"Essene oath: "to impart to no one a knowledge of the doctrines in a different manner from that in which he has received them himself."

Always appealed, therefore, to the authority of the scribes from whom they learned.

Contrast Jesus

Applying the law – "Binding and Loosing—depends on your rabbi.

Rabbi Jochanan said, "Concerning gathering wood on a feast day, the school of Shammai binds it and the school of Hillel looses it."

COMMON PEOPLE – 90%-- AM HA-ARETZ

Mishnah – About 200 AD Rabbi Jehuda ventured to commit the "tradition of the elders" to writing. 63 tractates in 6 major divisions

Seeds

Set Feasts.

Women

Damages

Hallowed Things

Cleannesses

New Concepts that arise in the Inter-testamental period that profoundly affect NT

1. Scripture as canon
2. Apocalyptic view of history
3. Messiah – Daniel – son of Man
4. Day of the Lord (cosmic)
5. Spiritual Kingdom of God
6. After life
7. Satan

Essential marks of observant Judaism

- Circumcision
- Sabbath observance
- No idols
- Ritual purity
- Legal regulation
- Kosher