

I. History

A. Conquered by Persians 394

-Aramaic-like Hebrew

B. Persians defeated by Alexander

-koine greek

-Hellenism and compromise

*Reaction- hasidism "pious ones"

*How greeks kept control- centralizing culture, syncretism (gks don't care too much about religion)

-Strategic importance of Israel (seleucids, ptolemaics)

C. Last straw- antiochus epiphanes

-Antiochus (seleucid), squashed revolt by robbing temple and killing 40000 jews on the Sabbath (when they couldn't resist). made Jewish distinctives illegal

renamed temple for zeus, burned Torah, ordered pagan sacrifice, sacrificed pigs.

-"Abomination of desolation" (dan. 11)

D. People have enough, revolt. Notice jew/gentile hatred growing in this era

- 167 BC: Mattathias, an old priest refused to sacrifice on pagan altar. Killed people who tried to make him do it, fled to mountains with sons, created rebel force using guerilla warfare.

Fought on Sabbath

-Son Judas (Maccabeus 'hammerer") continued leading attacks after dad dies

-Seleucids couldn't fight wholeheartedly against jews because of wars on borders

-Jews regain control of temple, purify the sanctuary. Hanukkah begins.

-Messiah as priest/king

-Maccabeas made high priest

*Nicer antiochus (v) replaces iv; negotiates peace w/ Jews

*Jews live free for 80 years

-Messiah hopes reinstated

-"Hasmonean" dynasty- Israel led by Priest-kings

New language for messiah

-Later leaders lose sight of Maccabees' original intention.

E. Enter Rome- 63 BC

-Invited in by both sides of the hasmonean debate that arose. (hasidim - emerging pharisees - opposed leaders who lost sight of Jewish ideals)

-Judaism granted status as acceptable religion, peace during time of Jesus.

-Jews get antsy waiting for Messiah, revolt (64 AD)

-Christians didn't help

-Christianity viewed as new religion, not just part of Judaism by both Jews and Rome

-Persecuted under Nero (mid 60s)

F. Rome destroys Jerusalem 70 AD

II. Ways of ruling:

Babylon- take the best and brightest for babylon, mix up common population (scrabble)

Persia- leave people in their homes, allow relative freedom of worship, just add persian worship.

Greece- religion not so important. Stay in line and take on our culture.

Rome- Do what you want, but remember you're under our domain. No revolts!

III. The Herods

-Herod the Great- "A man of great barbarity towards all equally and a slave to his passions"- Josephus.

- *Tried to kill baby Jesus
- *built up Israel
- Three sons (tetrarchs, not kings)
 - *Philip- not really mentioned in Bible, best of the three (unselfish, not lavish). Governed NE Israel- Bethsaida
 - *Antipas- key in Jesus' ministry. Over Galilee and Perea.
 - Who Jesus was tried before
 - *Archelaus- mentioned once, like his dad.
 - Caused Joseph and Mary to settle in Galilee vs Bethlehem after Egypt.
 - Lost position because of his brutality. (jews petitioned rome)
 - Position ruled by procurators (Roman representatives)- Pilate.
- Agrippa- grandson of Herod the great.
 - *became king of Israel (took over archilaeus' spot, and later Philip's land)
 - *Worshipped as a god, killed by angel, eaten by worms
- Agrippa 2- like his gramps. Heard Paul, not impressed

IV. Jewish thought (vs Jesus taught)

- Temple- Sadducees
 - *Synagogue- Pharisees (hasidim remnants)
 - *Jesus taught the body is the temple of H.S. (esp jesus)
- Torah
 - *Diet
 - *Sabbath
 - *Circumcision
 - *Jesus taught that it's the spirit of the law, not letter.
- Messiah
 - *Jesus taught that the messiah must die
- Monotheism- because lost land due to worshipping false gods.
 - *Jesus taught Trinity (looked polytheistic)
- Land
 - *Jesus reached out to gentiles.

In the fulness of time...

- Roads
- Koine gk
- LXX-result of hellenism & diaspora

Judaism of the day

- Pharisees- Lawyers, experts in law-
- Sadducees- Priests, sell-out aristocrats-
- Essenes- Monks, hid away-
- Zealots- Fighters,

- in the world, not of it
- in the world and of the world
- not in the world, not of the world
- used force- not in the world, but of the world