

- **What is the Intertestamental Period?**
 - Malachi - 433 BC
 - Prophecy ceased and would arise again in connection with the coming of the Messiah
- **Sources**
 - Josephus
 - Jewish Historian AD37-AD100
 - *Jewish Antiquities* - a 20 volume work
 - Apocrypha - Deuterocanonical
 - 1 and 2 Maccabees primarily
 - Pseudepigrapha
 - More the sixty additional works
- **Jews Continue Under Persian Rule (roughly 424 through 331 BC)**
 - Life continued as it had in the period of Nehemiah, Haggai, Malachi
 - Persians for the most part maintained/continued the policy put in place by Cyrus back in 539 BC of allowing Jews in exile to return, and worship God freely, and to obey their own laws
 - Obviously the Jews did not establish a kingship, but looked to the days where they could
 - Preoccupation for the Law began to grow, with the underlying belief that following the Law would bring about their complete and total freedom to God
 - 3 important developments
 - Synagogue
 - Lack of access to temple
 - 1 Sam 15:22 "to obey is better than sacrifice"
 - Prayers and good works became means of atoning for sin
 - Oral Law/tradition
 - Out of a sort of zeal to apply Torah to all areas of life
 - Aramaic
 - Became the primary language from business and international affairs
 - By the 1st century, many Jews were not fluent in Hebrew

- ***Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic Period (331-167 BC)***
- Philip II
 - Athens was defeated by Philip II of Macedon in 338 BC
 - Small kingdom in northern part of modern day Greece
 - Philip II had expansionist goals
 - Greek Historian-philosopher Isocrates challenged Philip with his famous declaration: “Once you have made the Persian subject to your rule, there is nothing left for you but to become a god.”
 - Philip II was assassinated in 336 BC
- Alexander the Great
 - Born in 356 BC
 - Taught by Aristotle
 - Inspired by Achilles (the warrior from the Iliad)
 - In 13 years from 336 to 323 he conquered and controlled virtually all of the former Persian Empire, plus some that weren't under Persian control
 - From Greece to India and from southern Russia to Northern Africa

- ***Greek Rule under Alexander (331-323 BC)***
- Israel came under Greek rule in 331 BC
 - The Jews were relatively free, as long as they remained loyal subjects of Greece
 - Alexander hope to unite both East and West, a hybrid of cultures
 - Permeated by Hellenistic culture and influence
 - There had been a “dispersion of Jews” begun under Persian rule which continued
 - The largest community of Jews outside of Jerusalem was in the newly founded city of Alexandria in Egypt.
 - Even though coming from a history of democratic ideals, Alexander started to accept more and more the idea of worshiping rulers and gods and his morals decayed
 - He died at the age of 32 after a heavy night of drinking
 - Caught a fever, possibly malaria, and died
 - Greek rule brought:
 - Improved standards of living
 - Administrative efficiency
 - The Spread of Hellenistic culture
 - Which presented a challenge and divide for Jews
 - How much to follow after Greek culture and learning?
 - Pressure of Greek culture
 - Forms of Dress
 - Idolatrous associations
 - Athletic competition
 - Nudity
 - Emphasis of sports over worship
 - Greek theatre, with its morals
 - Temptation of non-kosher food
 - Greek language
 - Many Jews by the first century were somewhat trilingual
 - Aramaic, Greek, Hebrew
 - The need to translate the Hebrew Bible in the diaspora (outside of Palestine) into Greek
 - Septuagint
 - (70 or 72 scholars??)
 - Clearly “the Bible” for diaspora Jews
 - NT quotes from Septuagint

- ***Egyptian Rule under the Ptolemies (323-198 BC)***

- Alexander left no living heir so a struggle for succession ensued among generals
 - 328-301 BC is known as the *Diadochoi* which means successors in Greek
 - Initially the empire was divided into 4, then 3, then 2 dynasties
 - The Northern half based in Syria was under Seleucid control
 - Rulers took either the name Seleucus or Antiochus
 - The Southern half, based in Egypt, was Ptolemaic
 - Rulers took the name Ptolemy
 - Israel was located essentially right inbetween and was constantly vulnerable to the desires to expand from both dynasties
- Ptolemaic period from 311 BC is clear
 - Relative peace and freedom for Jews
 - Relative good standard of living
 - But resources are scarce for this time
 - One source - Zenon papyri indicates that the practice of tax-farming i.e. co-opting locals into collecting taxes and thus serving as a go between between the authorities and the people
 - This continued into the NT period under the Romans
 - Also the tension between Hellenism and Judaism continued to grow

- ***Syrian Ruler under the Seleucids (198-167 BC)***

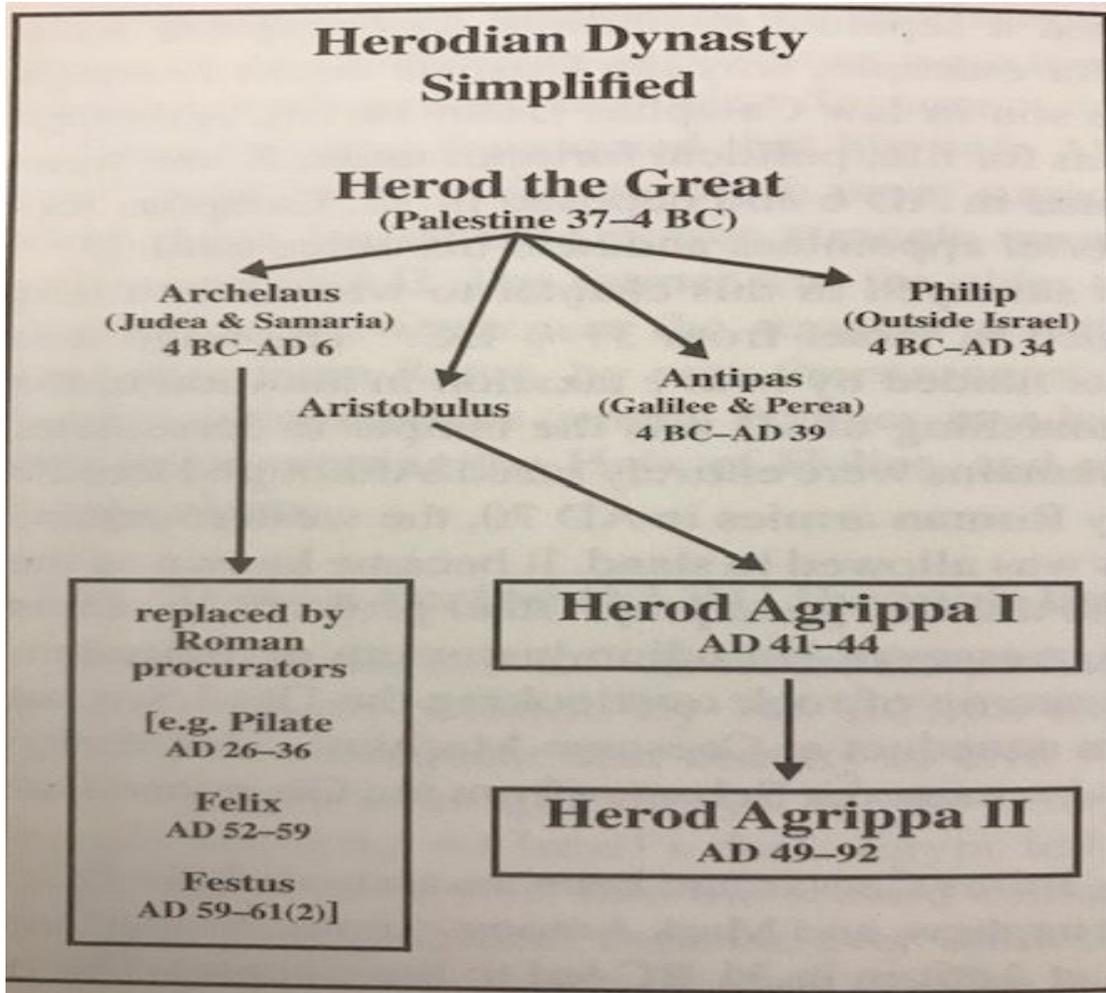
- 198 BC the Seleucid ruler Antiochus III conquered and occupied Israel, and thus the balance of power shifted from south to north.
- Antiochus III (222-187) and Seleucus IV (187-175)
 - Limited freedom and self-government for Israel continued
 - Seleucids also wanted to make sure they stayed on good terms with the growing power of the West, i.e. Rome.
 - A peace treaty was made in 188 BC was made, but it required a heavy annual tribute, which forced the Seleucids to impose heavier taxes
- Antiochus IV
 - Came to power in 175
 - Increased taxes, to keep up with Rome
 - Reversed previous policies and began to actively promote Hellenization.
 - He called himself Antiochus Epiphanes (Gk. manifest)
 - A later historian called him Antiochus Epimanes (the madman)
 - Relationships with the faithful Jews deteriorated
 - By a bribe, installed Benjamite as high priest who wasn't one
 - Stole from the temple
 - Slaughtered many on the Sabbath
 - Outlawed Jewish distinctives
 - Renamed the temple Zeus Olympius
 - Set up a pagan altar and sacrificed pig
 - Ordered pagan sacrifices to be made around the country
 - Prohibited circumcision
 - Prohibited Sabbath observance
 - Banned and burned copies of the Torah
 - Many Jews saw what was taking place as the fulfilment of Daniel's vision - and saw the work of Antiochus IV as the abomination of desolation.

- ***Maccabean Revolt and Hasmonean Dynasty (167-63 BC)***

- The Syrian army was divided due to internal divisions and attacks from the Parthians to the NE
- Antiochus IV died in 164
- Antiochus V and Rome were prepared to be more favorable towards the Jews
- Jews enjoyed roughly 80 years of independence after driving out the Syrians from 142 BC - 63 BC when it was ended by Rome.
- Judas to Jonathan to Simon
 - The Jews decided that Simon should be their king and priest
 - Hereditary succession of priest-kings - Hasmonean dynasty

- ***Roman Period (63 BC through the NT Era)***

- From at least 280 BC on Rome had been slowly growing the explicit expansionist policies
- Macedon fell to Rome by 148 BC
- Rome then entered into a period of almost a century long civil war which kept the from conquering more territory more quickly
- Pompey invaded Jerusalem in 63 BC
- Egypt fell in 30 BC
- The Roman empire continued to grow into the 2nd Century AD, by which time it embraced the largest geographical expanse ever unified by one political administration in antiquity, including major sections of modern day:
 - Britain,
 - France,
 - Spain,
 - Germany
 - As well as the former Persian and Greek empires
- In general, Rome established “client-kings” at the provincial or regional levels
- Pompey, after entering Jerusalem, recognized:
 - Hyrcanus II as high priest
 - Antipater was given local political leadership of Judea from 63-43 BC
- Julius Caesar
 - Due to Antipater’s crucial help for Roman troops in 47 BC in Alexandria, Julius reduced Israel’s taxes, gave her permission to rebuild Jerusalem’s walls and fortify other cities, and gave Israel unique freedoms of religion
 - The origin of Judaism as a religio licita (legal religion)
 - The jews also didn’t have to sacrifice to emperors who came to believe in themselves as gods
 - High Priesthood remained a separate institution during this time, with Roman appointees
 - Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 BC
- Caesar Augustus (27 BC - AD 14)
 - After Julius Caesar was assassinated
 - Octavian, Caesar’s nephew, and Mark Antony eventually vied for power
 - Octavian defeated Antony at Actium in 31 BC which led to the suicide of both Antony and his wife Cleopatra.
 - Octavian took the title Augustus and reigned until AD 14
 - During this time Herod the client King of Judea pursued his policy of Hellenization and Romanization while still insisting that he was a faithful and obedient convert to Israel.



-
- Explain photo above as it relates to Pilate
- Pilate was especially offensive
 - According to Josephus he:
 - Installed military standards and shields in Jerusalem with imperial images that violated the second of the ten commandments
 - Took funds from the temple treasury to build an aqueduct;

- Roman rule under Caesar Augustus, really all the way up through Nero in AD 54 was relatively peaceful
 - Greek continued as the common language, Latin was not imposed
 - Minus skirmishes with Parthia to the NE and Germany to the N the Pax Romana was largely in place
 - Advanced transportation systems
 - Advanced communication systems
 - Its mail service covered 45 miles to 60 miles per day
 - Soldiers were expected to march 18 miles a day
 - Growth of a cosmopolitan spirit
 - Old tribal barriers breaking down
 - Religio licita (Christianity eventually was seen outside of this)
 - Rome had some of the most enlightened and advanced judicial processes of antiquity
 - Sure there was corruption, but the due process of law, at least for citizens was much more advanced than in other older empires

*For more info see *Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction and Survey* by Craig Blomberg.
Much of what was presented was drawn for this work