

Second Temple Judaism

516BC - 70AD

1. First Temple Destruction under Babylon (586BC)
2. Restoration under Cyrus, continuing under Cambyses and Darius
3. Second Temple Dedicated in 516BC
4. Malachi the Prophet (Last of the OT prophets) -432BC)
5. Hellenism and the Maccabean Revolt (167BC)
 1. Priestly family of Mattathias
 1. Judah and his brothers lead guerrilla assaults on Seleucids for 3 years.
 2. 164BC Judah captures Jerusalem and reconsecrates the Temple
6. Hasmonean Dynasty (165-37BC)
 1. 161BC emissary to the Romans
 2. 160BC Judah killed in battle with Seleucids
 3. Brothers Jonathan and Simeon continue war and secure treaty with Seleucids
 4. Continued pushing back of Selucids/Decisive victory at Acra
 5. Jonathan recognized by Seleucids as Leader/High Priest of Jerusalem
 6. Solidification of Leadership/Priesthood under Simon 142-141BC)
 7. 135BC Simon assassinated and Eldest 2 sons (Matthathias and Judah murdered)
 8. John Hyrcanus (3rd son of Simon) and expanded kingdom from 135 to 104BC
 9. Aristobulus seizes power / imprisons family (104-103)
 10. Alexander Jannaeus (103-76)
 1. Pharisees and Saducees
 1. Former connected with Maccabeans / wanted separation of powers
 2. Latter were more embracing of reform and hellenism (given Temple)
 11. Civil War between Hyrcanus II (76-67)and Aristobulus II (67-63)
 12. Antipater the Idumean (making deals with Rome behind the scenes)
7. Roman Occupation (Pompey in 63BC)
 1. Caesar preferred Hyrcanus II over Aristobulus, restores Hyrcanus
 2. Antipater conspires with Romans on the side against Hyrcanus
 3. 47 BC Antipater is named to Protectorate.
 4. Hyrcanus is weak and used as pawn by Antipater's sons, Phasael and Herod
 5. Hyrcanus and Phasael go to make peace with a Parthian invasion from the North; are tricked and maimed/killed by Parthian-appointed leader Antigonus (Aristobulus' son). Herod escapes for 3 years

6. Mark Antony names Herod ‘King of the Jews’ in 40BC; ruthlessly destroys all competitors from the Hyrcanean line. Establishes his own family as rulers of Israel
8. Herodian Dynasty
 1. Herod the Great (40BC-4BC)
 2. Aristobulus IV
 3. OTHER WIFE Herod Archelaus (4BC-6AD); Herod Antipas (4BC-39AD); Philip Tetrarch (4BC-34AD)
 4. Agrippa I (37-41AD) (son of Aristobulus)
 5. Herod V (41-48AD)
 6. Agrippa II (48-70); Deposed by Jewish patriots, sided with Romans in Jewish-Roman War
9. Religious Sects
 1. Pharisees claimed Mosaic authority and became experts of the Law/Tradition, compiled an Oral Torah of wisdom teachings interpreting the Torah which took on varying degrees of binding authority; were instrumental in establishing Rabbinic Judaism, which survived the fall of Jerusalem from the time of Alexander Jannaeus; opposed hellenization and opposed imperial expansion
 2. Saducees: political party supportive of reform and hellenization; courted Seleucid support and then Roman support; claimed authority from Aaronic Priesthood through the prerogatives of the High Priest Zadok who was graced by Kings David and Solomon.
 3. Essenes: Priestly group practicing notable asceticism; probably seceded from Zadok line (Saducees); ritualistic, monastic, and mystical—probably lived in Qumran near Dead Sea
 4. Zealots: a group similar in ideology to Pharisees but politically-active in declaring that they have no ruler but God directly. They participated in revolts, were consistently executed by Rome, and took a leading role in the ruinous Jewish-Roman War. One sub-group among the zealots were the “sicarii” or “dagger men” who killed both Romans and those fellow Jews they deemed to be sympathizers with Rome or opposed to their call to war.
 5. Sanhedrin
 1. Lesser Sanhedrin 23 Judges in every city
 2. Greater Sanhedrin 71 Judges in Jerusalem
 3. Nasi — "Prince" of the court
 4. Av Beth Din - “Chief Justice” of the court
 6. Zugot — Spiritual “Leaders” of the People taking over from the Post-Exilic Prophets
 1. Hillel and Shammai in the time of the NT