

Brief Outline of Early Palestine (Work in Progress)

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Sources

E.P Sanders (1993) *The Historical Figure of Jesus*, Penguin Books, London.

Donahue Harrington (1979) *Interpreting the New Testament*, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville Minnesota.

| Period | Events |
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| 330-323 BC | Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.), a Macedonian who largely practiced Greek culture, conquers the Mediterranean world. After his death in 323, Seleucids in Egypt and Ptolemies in Syria fight for control of his empire. |
| 300-200BC | Ptolemies have the upper hand |
| 198-167BC | Seleucids have the upper hand |
| 175-163BC | Seleucid emperor Antiochus IV Epiphanes conquers Egypt and adds it to his sphere. He introduces the gymnasium and Jewish sacrifice to pagan gods. He profanes the temple and ignites a Jewish revolt led by Judas Mattathias who led a priestly family known as Maccabees ("hammers") or the Hasmoneans. Priesthood was hereditary and priestly families traced their lineage to Aaron, Moses' brother who is considered the 1 st H. Priest (Exod. 28:1) and from then the HPs were considered to belong to the family of Zadok, the HP who anointed Solomon (I Kgs. 1:28-45). The Hasmoneans, with Simon the Hasmonean ascending to HP, disposed the Zadokites as HPs. |
| 143-134BC | Simon Maccabee (eldest son of Mattathias) imposes more Hellenistic (Greek) culture (this is distinct from "Hellenic"). |
| 134-104BC | John Hyrcanus I conquers the Samaritans, destroys the temple in 128BC and incorporates Idumea (Edom) into his Kingdom. |
| 104-77BC | Alexandra Jannaeus is imprisoned by his brother Aristobulus |
| 77-67BC | Alexandra (wife of Aristobulus) takes political power and favors the Pharisees. She makes John Hyrcanus II the high priest. Upon her death people want Aristobulus II to be the high priest. |
| 63BC | Roman general Pompey invades Jerusalem and makes Hyrcanus II ethnarch and high priest ('ethnarch' is a title less than King but is a ruler of a Nation). He also makes Antipater the Idumean the procurator (a kind of military governor). |
| 37-4BC | Antipater's son (Herod) aka Herod the Great marries daughter of a HPriest and endears himself to the Maccabees. |
| 4BC-36AD | Herod Antipas (Herod's son) is made tetrarch of Galilee and Paraea and kills JBap and according to the NT, kills Jesus of Nazareth. Pontius Pilate is the prefect of Judea – which included Samaria, Judaea and Idumea. Joseph Caiaphas is the H. Priest of Jerusalem. |
| 4BC-6AD | Herod Archelaus is made ethnarch of Judea, Samaria and Idumaea and has an unstable reign so Roman emperors Augustus and Tiberius decide to appoint a series of governors and procurators from AD6-44. |
| AD26-36 | Pontius Pilate procurator |
| AD44-66 | Controversial procurators leading to full-scale revolt in AD 66. In May 66 anti-Roman riots in Caesarea Maritima and Jerusalem led by aristocratic patriots from Jerusalem |

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| | and Zealots in Galilee. |
| AD 67-69 | General Vespasian conquers Galilee, Perea and Western Judea and becomes Emperor. Josephus son of Mattathias receives command of Galilee in AD 66. He flatters Vespasian that he will become emperor. In AD66 Titus (Vespasian's son) uses Josephus as an interpreter and spokesman to Jewish defenders of Jerusalem. After the war, Titus took Josephus to Rome where he wrote <i>Antiquities of the Jews</i> , <i>Against Apion</i> (a defense of Judaism against critics) and an apologetic autobiography (<i>Life</i>). |
| AD 70 | Vespasian's son Titus succeeds him as army general, he destroys the temple and consequently the political independence of the Jews and the Jewish Council (Sanhedrin) consequently shuts down. |