

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
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 Maccathias 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

	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.