

The Jewish World of the New Testament



From Exile to the Maccabees

Josephus

- From Jewish general to Roman protégé
 - A cultured apologist
- Greek works for Roman audience
 - Jewish War (75 AD)
 - Antiquities of the Jews (94 AD)
 - Against Apion (97 AD)
 - Life (99 AD)



1 Maccabees

- 104-63 BC
 - Under Alexander Jannaeus
- Biblical-styled history
- Hebrew
- Founding & establishment of Hasmoneans



2 Maccabees

- Alexander Jannaeus?
- Greek
- Condensation
 - Jason of Cyrene's history
 - Hellenistic crisis
 - Focus on Judas Maccabee
 - “Pathetic” history
- Response to 1 Maccabees?



Life as a Persian Province

- Sources
 - Late-biblical books
 - Ezra, Nehemiah
 - Haggai
 - Malachi
 - Trito-Isaiah?
 - Ecclesiastes and Job?
 - Scant coverage in Josephus
 - The Zenon papyri
- Persian policy
- A Temple-state



Xerxes

The Persian Empire



Life as a Persian Province

- Sources
- Persian policy
- A Temple-state
- Judean life



Judean Life





Judean Life



Judean Life



A Wider Persian World



Greek vase, from Persian
grain depot near Gaza

Alexander and Hellenization

- Alexander the Great



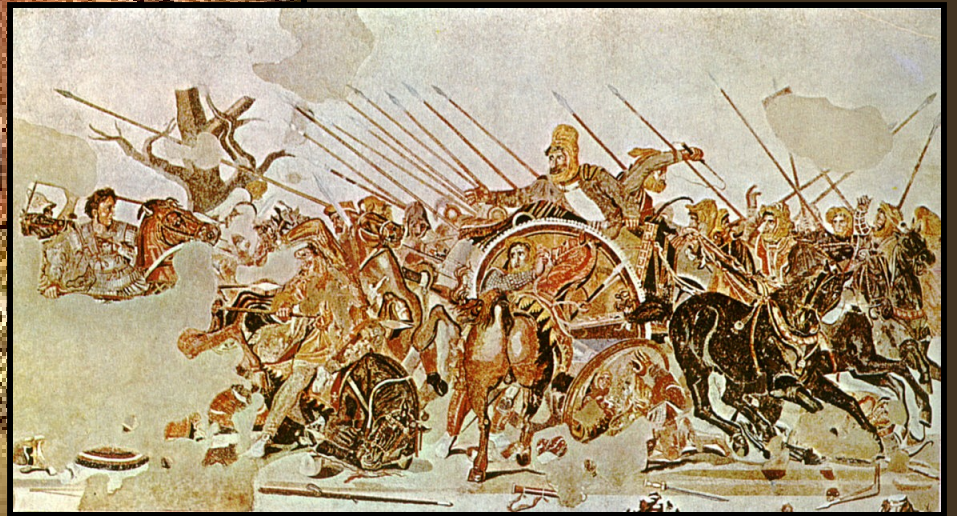
Alexander's Empire



Alexander's Empire



The Battle of Issus



Alexander and Hellenization

- Alexander the Great
- The Hellenistic kingdoms



Seleucus I Nicator

The Hellenistic Kingdoms



Antiochus III The Great



Alexander and Hellenization

- Alexander the Great
- The Hellenistic kingdoms
- Cultural Hellenization
 - Pervasive
 - A broad spectrum
 - Attraction
 - Resistance

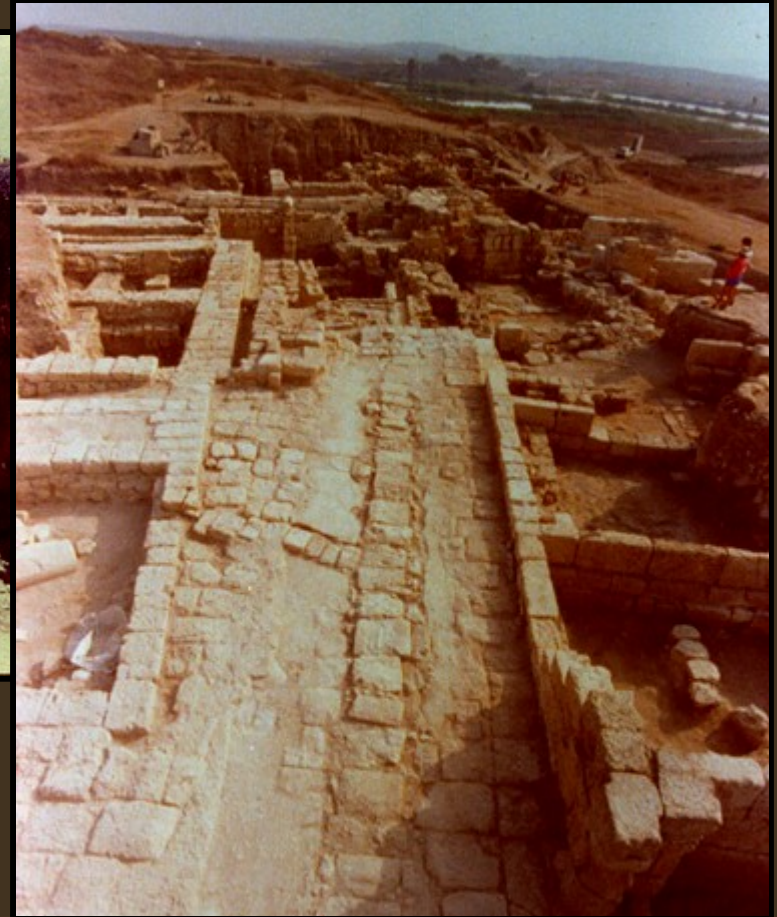


Antiochus III The Great

Hellenistic Architecture around Judea



A round tower (Samaria, ca. 300 BC)



Street from Dor in Galilee
(built by Ptolemy II Philadelphus)

Alexander and Hellenization

- Alexander the Great
- The Hellenistic kingdoms
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Antiochus III The Great

The Hellenization of Jerusalem

- Sources
 - Josephus, *Antiquities* 12
 - 2 Maccabees
 - Ben Sira
- The events (ca. 270-175 BC)
- The players
- The motives

The Hellenization of Jerusalem

- Sources
- The events (ca. 270-175 BC)
 - The Tobiad dynasty
 - The conversion of Jerusalem
- The players
- The motives

The Hellenization of Jerusalem



Remains of the Gymnasium at Herculaneum, Italy (1st century AD)

The Hellenization of Jerusalem

- Sources
- The events (ca. 270-175 BC)
 - The Tobiad dynasty
 - The conversion of Jerusalem
- The players
- The motives

The Hellenization of Jerusalem

- Question
 - How does 2 Macc view the Hellenization of Jerusalem by Jason and Menelaus?
 - How does he convey this judgment?
 - Is this in line with Josephus' view?

The Seleucid Crisis

- Sources
 - 1 Maccabees
 - 2 Maccabees
 - Josephus, *Antiquities*
- Life under Antiochus III
- The events under Antiochus IV
- The players
- The motives



Antiochus IV Epiphanes



The Seleucid Crisis

- Sources
 - 1 Maccabees
 - 2 Maccabees
 - Josephus, *Antiquities*
- Life under Antiochus III
- The events under Antiochus IV
- The players
- The motives



The Seleucid Crisis

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 - 1 Maccabees
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- The players
- The motives



The Seleucid Crisis

- Question:
 - Do 1 Macc and 2 Macc agree about why the Seleucid crisis happened?



The Seleucid Crisis

- Question:
 - Do 1 Macc and 2 Macc agree about how the crisis had to be solved?



The Seleucid Crisis

- Question:
 - How is God's justice manifested in each text?



The Seleucid Crisis

- Question:
 - How are these views about the crisis and appropriate response related to the eschatology of each text?



The Seleucid Crisis

- Question:
 - What political/religious program is suggested by each text for later Jews?



The Seleucid Crisis

- Question:
 - Is it significant that 2 Macc is written in the Diaspora, while 1 Macc is written in Judea?



The Festival of Hanukkah

- Significance?
- Ongoing influence?



The Hasmonean Dynasty

- Sources
 - Josephus
- The Dynasty
 - Judas
 - Jonathan
 - Simon
 - John Hyrcanus
 - Alexander Jannaeus
 - Salome Alexandra

The Hasmonean Dynasty

- Sources
- The Dynasty
- Aggressive expansion
 - Egypt & Syria weak
 - Forced conversions
- Controversy
 - Torah observance
 - Continued Hellenization
 - Illegitimate priesthoods



Coins of John Hyrcanus



Coins of Alexander Jannaeus

The Hasmoneans



First-century BC tombs (Jerusalem)



Diaspora

- Why were Jews scattered?
 - Remained in mesopotamia
 - Ptolemy's deportations
 - Seleucid re-settlement
- Diaspora identity
 - “Jew” or “Judean”?
 - The “ancestral laws”

