

Timeline of Roman Judaism and Christianity

	Judaism	Christ-followers	
161 BC	Maccabean embassy to Rome (2 more in 143 and 142 BC)		1 Macc 8:17-32; 12:1-4; 14:24; 15:15-24
139 BC	Jew expelled “to their homes” (also Chaldean astrologers) - charge is attempting to spread way of life		Valerius Maximus, <i>Fact. et dict.</i> 1.3.3
59 BC	Significant numbers of Jews in Rome, participating in public assemblies		Cicero, <i>Pro Flacco</i> 28, 66
63 BC	Pompey brings Jewish prisoners-of-war to Rome - many later become citizens - many settle in Trastevere district		Philo, <i>Legat.</i> 155 Cicero, <i>Pro Flacco</i> 28, 67-68
47 BC	John Hyrcanus II and Antipater help Julius Caesar in his Egyptian campaign		Josephus, <i>Ant.</i> 14.127-139; <i>J.W.</i> 1.187-194
	Julius Caesar excepts Jews from a ban on religious associations		Josephus, <i>Ant.</i> 14.215-216
	Herod the Great aids Caesar Augustus		Josephus, <i>Ant.</i> 15.183-218; <i>J.W.</i> 1.386-397, 431-434
30 BC-AD 14	Augustus treats Roman Jews favourably - allows them to retain citizenship - allows “houses of prayer” and meetings - allows annual collection for temple - allows study of Torah - allows participation in welfare - accommodates Sabbath practice		Philo, <i>Legat.</i> 156-158
	Most Roman Jews by this time are Roman citizens		Philo, <i>Legat.</i> 155
4 BC	Roman Jews side with Palestinian embassy against Archelaus after Herod the Great’s death		Josephus, <i>J.W.</i> 2.80-83; <i>Ant.</i> 17.299-303
AD 19	Tiberius expels Jews along with similar groups - 4000 deported to fight bandits in Sardinia - Egyptian cults also expelled		Tacitus, <i>Ann.</i> 2.85.4; Suetonius, <i>Tib.</i> 36; Dio Cassius, <i>Hist. rom.</i> 57.18.5; Josephus, <i>Ant.</i> 18.81-84
AD 31-	Tiberius restores status of Jews after Sejanus dies		Philo, <i>Legat.</i> 159-160
AD 37-41	Gaius Caligula does not disturb Roman Jews		
AD 41	Claudius bans Jewish meetings - too numerous to be expelled?		Dio Cassius, <i>Hist. rom.</i> 60.6.6
AD 30/33	Roman Jews and proselytes hear Pentecost message		Acts 2:10-11
AD 49?	Conflicts re. “Chrestus,” Claudius expels Jews from Rome - including some Jewish believers in Christ		Suetonius, <i>Claud.</i> 25.4; Acts 18:2
AD 49-?		Gentile churches grow independently while Jews are absent ?	
		Returning Jewish believers join separate Christian groups ?	
AD 64		Persecution of “Christians” by Nero - significant numbers have joined group - regarded by some as corrupt & dangerous - not perceived any longer as Jews - Peter and Paul probably killed	Tacitus, <i>Hist.</i> 15.44; <i>1 Clement</i> 5-6; Euseb., <i>Hist. eccl.</i> 5.25.5-7

