

REVIEW THE BIBLE

Second Temple Judaism

History



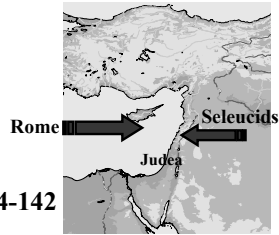
- Persian Empire: 539 - ca. 330 BCE
- Alexander conquers Israel/Palestine in 332 BCE



Hellenistic Kingdoms rule Palestine/Israel

- Ptolemies (Egypt): 301 BCE
- Seleucids (Syria): 198 BCE
- Maccabean Revolt: 167-164 BCE

Hasmoneans



- Maccabees rule semi-independent Judea: 164-142 BCE
- Hasmoneans rule independent Judea: 142-63 BCE
- Romans under Pompey conquer Jerusalem in 63 BCE



Roman rule over Judea

- Major historical source: Josephus
- Through native kings (e.g. Herod) & Roman governors (e.g. Pilate)
- Resentment produced:
 - Riots
 - Assassinations
 - Military crack-downs



Titus (39-80 CE)



Revolts

- First Jewish Revolt: 66-74 CE
 - Jerusalem & Temple destroyed: 70 CE
 - Masada conquered: 74 CE
- Second (Bar Kochba) Revolt: 132-135 CE

Parties in 2nd Temple Judaism

- Sadducees: aristocratic, priestly
 - Controlled Temple
 - Disappeared after revolts
- Essenes: ascetic, apocalyptic
 - Essenes at Qumran?
 - Disappeared after revolts



Qumran

Pharisees: fulfill Torah daily

- Developed interpretive tradition: “oral law”
- Became leaders of (Rabbinic) Judaism after the revolts
- Wrote Oral Law in:
 - Mishnah (ca. 200 CE)
 - Talmuds (ca. 450, 600 CE)



Synagogue mosaic, 300 CE

Pluralism of 2nd Temple Judaism

- Hellenists, revolutionaries, & Christians:
 - Before 70, one more Jewish sect
 - By 2nd cent., a Hellenistic religion
- Greco-Romans & Jews: two attitudes
 - Respect & conversion
 - Prejudice, violence
- NT attacks Pharisees
 - Competition between similar movements
 - After 1st cent, anti-semitic prejudice

SUMMARY:



Synagogue at Herodium

- 1st cent.: many Jewish groups, diverse cultures, languages & religious views
- 2nd cent., only two groups remain:
 - Pharisees / Rabbinic Judaism
 - Greek-speaking Christianity

Dates to know:

- 332 BCE: Alexander over Israel/Palestine
- 167-164 BCE: Maccabean Revolt
- 63 BCE: Romans conquer Jerusalem
- 66-74 CE: 1st Jewish Revolt
- 70 CE: Jerusalem & Temple destroyed:
- 132-135 CE: 2nd Revolt
