

The World of the Early Church

Why Study the Background?

Part I Jewish History and Culture

The Babylonian Exile (see map “The Babylonian Empire”)

Cyrus the Great (r. 539-29 BC).

The First Return

The Samaritans.

The Second Temple.

Ezra.

Nehemiah.

Persian Rule (539-332 BC)

Hellenistic Province (332 - 167 BC) (see map “The Empire of Alexander the Great”)

Seleucid Tyranny (198-142 BC) (see map “The Divided Greek Empire”)

Antiochus IV “Epiphanes” (r. 175-165 BC).

Maccabean Revolt (167-142 B.C.)

Hasmonean Dynasty (142 - 63 B.C.) (see map “The Hasmonean Kingdom”)

Roman Conquest of Israel (63 B.C.) (see map “Map of Roman Empire”)

A Roman Province.

The Herodian Dynasty (see maps “Palestine during the Time of Herod the Great and His Sons” and “Palestine during the Time of Jesus”)

Antipater II (r. 47-43 BC).

Herod the Great (r. 37-1 BC).

Archelaus (Herod the Ethnarch, r. 1 BC - 6 AD).

Philip (r. 1 BC - 34 AD).

Antipas (Herod the Tetrarch, r. 1 BC - 39 AD).

Agrippa I (r. 34-44 AD).

Agrippa II (r. 44-92 AD).

**Jewish Sectarianism
Divided Nation.**

Herodians.

Hasidim.

Pharisees.

Sadducees.

Scribes.

Zealots

Essenes.

Diaspora Judaism

The Septuagint.

Major Jewish Institutions
The Sanhedrin.

The Temple.

The Synagogue.

Jewish Messianism.

Jewish and Gentile Tensions: The Alexandria Riots (41 AD).

Honor and Shame

A Collectivist Culture

Jewish/Christian Relations in the First Century Jews and the Jesus Movement

Martyrdom of James “the Just” (c. 61 AD).

Part II

Greco-Roman Culture

Roman Civilization (fl. 390 B.C. - 476 A.D.)

Roman Society.

Imperial Government.

The Military.

Roman Culture.

The Family

Education

Greek and Roman Houses

Patrons and Clients

Roman Religion

General Characteristics.

- **Greco/Roman polytheism.**
- **Superstition.**
- **Religious Syncretism and Pluralism.**
- **Civil religion.**
- **Emperor worship.**
- **Amoral religion.**
- **Fate.**

Religion and Social Class.

The Mystery Cults.

Philosophy

Platonism.

Stoicism.

Epicureanism.

Skepticism.

Cynicism.

Neo-Pythagoreanism.

**Social Morality
Conventional Morality.**

Sexuality.

Homosexuality.

Public Entertainment.

Part III

The Jewish Wars

**The Zealot Revolt (66-73 A.D.) (see map “The 1st Judean Revolt”)
Smoldering Hostility.**

Direct Roman Rule.

Forewarnings.

The Spark.

Escalating Violence and Internal Schisms.

Vespasian’s Campaign.

Titus' Campaign.

Extermination of the Essenes.

Surrender of Herodium.

Siege of Jerusalem.

Destruction of the Temple.

Siege of Masada

Holocaust and Diaspora.

The Religious Legacy.

Jamnia.

The Jewish Canon.

Second Jewish Revolt (132-136 AD)

Christians and the Jewish Wars

**The Last Jewish Christians
The Ebionite Community.**

The Nazarenes.

Extinction of Jewish Christianity.



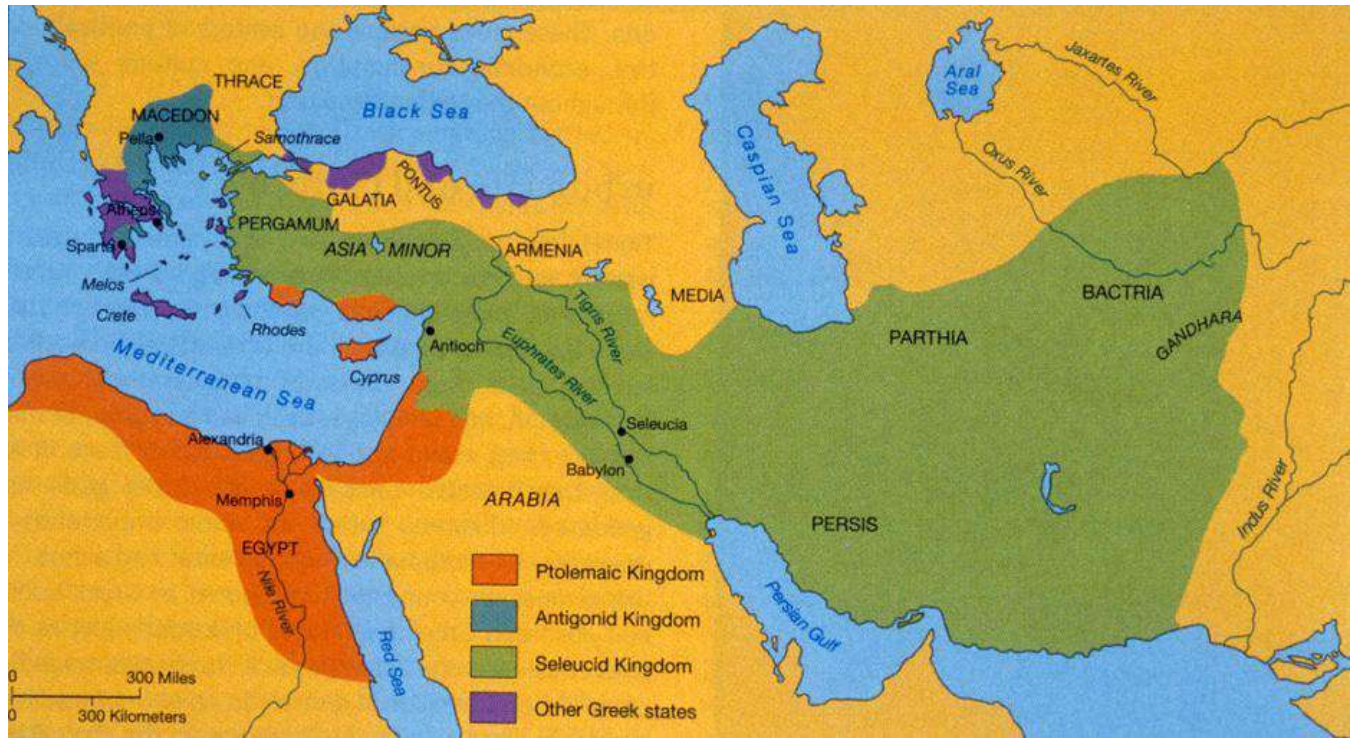
The BABYLONIAN EMPIRE and the deportation of the Judahites

- Babylonian Empire
- Northern Israelites deported by the Assyrians
- Medes Kingdom (allied with Babylon)
- Kingdom of Judah (before the Exile)
- Lands of Resettlement of the Judahites



- #### THE EMPIRE OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT
- Alexander's route
 - Alexander's empire
 - Battle

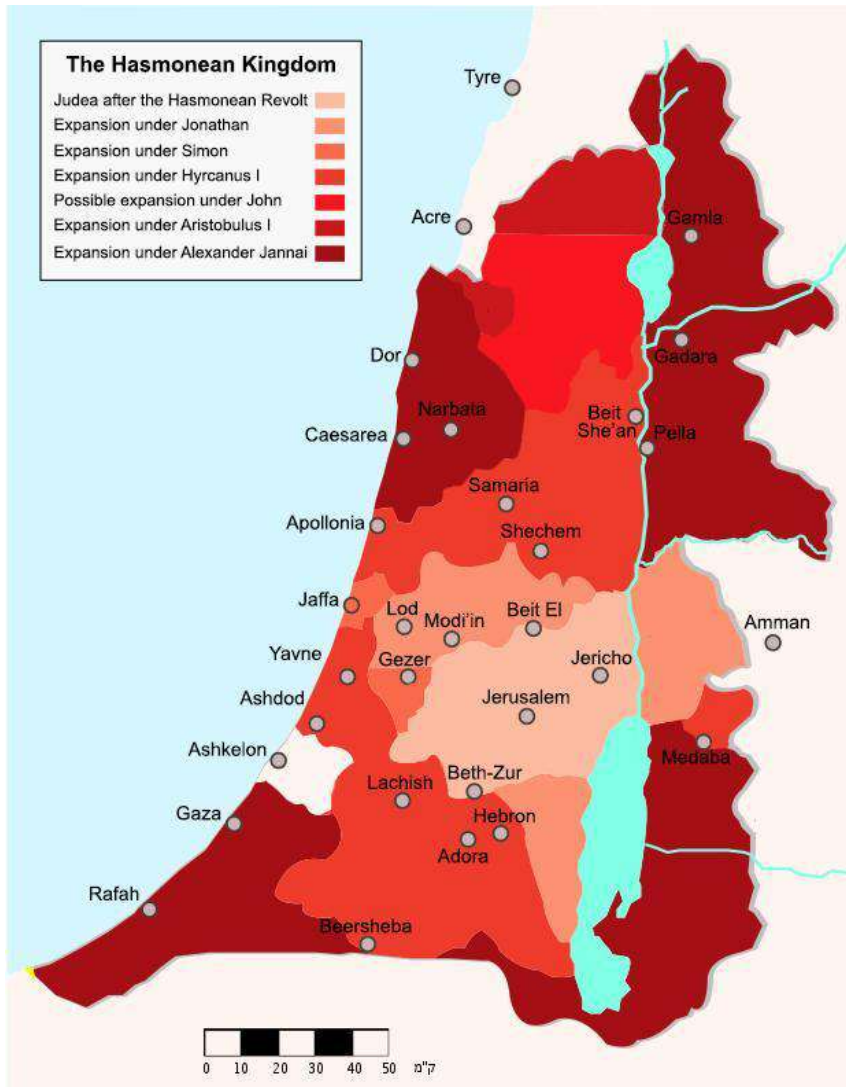
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The Divided Greek Empire

The Hasmonean Kingdom

- Judea after the Hasmonean Revolt
- Expansion under Jonathan
- Expansion under Simon
- Expansion under Hyrcanus I
- Possible expansion under John
- Expansion under Aristobulus I
- Expansion under Alexander Jannai



PALESTINE DURING THE TIME OF HEROD THE GREAT AND HIS SONS

- Boundary of Herod's kingdom (20 to 4 BCE)
- Boundary fixed by Augustus in 4 BCE
- Other boundaries

Division between Herod's sons

- Archelaus
- Antipas
- Philip

Revenues of Jamnia, Azotus, and Phasaelis bequeathed to Salome, Herod's sister





Palestine in the Time of Jesus

