

Between the Testaments

~420 BC – 6 AD

Week 3: October 19, 2020

Recap from last week...

Mattathias (of the family of Hasmon) and his five sons lead a successful revolt against the Seleucids of Syria.

Mattathias and his sons were for the most part honorable; they provided competent leadership to the Jews and Judea.

Their descendents... not so much...

Jannaeus (grandson of Simon) was a tyrant and killer... and was the civic, military, and religious leader(!). (Crucified 800 Pharisees and executed their families).

Jannaeus' wife, Salome Alexandra, rules after Jannaeus' Death.

Jannaeus' sons Aristobulus II and Hyrcanus II squabble over who will control the Jewish nation.

Rome is invited to intervene and settle the matter.

Messianic Hopes During the Intertestamental Period

No scholarly consensus!

In the O.T., “*messiah*” = Anyone considered to be properly installed and in place with the blessing of Yahweh. (Kings, High Priests, etc.)

Intertestamental Period: A messiah was...

- Human; would establish a God-centric Jewish kingdom.
- Priestly; would reconcile mankind’s souls with God.

“*Son of Man*” is an enigmatic term; used 4 ways...

- Heavenly representative of God.
- Suffering Servant; a maybe-divine person.
- Mankind in general.
- A specific person (e.g. Ezekiel)

Essenes / DSS: Two messiahs: Warrior & Priestly.

Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha

Apocrypha: “Hidden books”. All are Hebrew in origin.

Pseudepigrapha: “Falsely attributed writings”. Mostly Greek origin.

These books date from ~300 BC to ~70 AD.

The Apocrypha is fixed at 14 (or 15...) books...

- **First Esdras (Third Ezra) ***
- **Second Esdras (Fourth Ezra) ***
- **Tobit**
- **Judith**
- **Additional chapters of Esther**
- **Wisdom of Solomon**
- **Wisdom of Jesus the Son of Sirach; or Ecclesiasticus**
- **Baruch**
 - **Letter of Jeremiah (Sometimes printed as chapter 6 of Baruch)**
- **Song of the Three Children (also called Prayer of Azariah)**
- **History of Susannah**
- **History of Bel and the Dragon**
- **Prayer of Manasses ***
- **First Maccabees**
- **Second Maccabees**

*** Not in Catholic Deuterocanonical Writings.**

Christians have a complex relationship with the Apocrypha...

Bible

Septuagint (~200 BC)

Hebrew to Greek

Oldest Masoretic Texts

Hebrew

Vulgate (384 AD)

Hebrew to Latin (O.T.); Greek to Latin (N.T.)

Wycliffe (1382 AD)

Latin to (Middle) English

Lutheran (1534 AD)

Hebrew & Greek to German

Coverdale (1535 AD)

Latin & German to English

Council of Trent (1546 AD) decreed 11 Apocryphal books are canon.

King James (1611 AD)

1827 AD British & Foreign Bible Society in London decrees they will not print the Apocrypha nor fund societies that do.

Result by mid-1800's: Apocrypha drops out of Protestant bibles.

Now: Apocrypha is included in Catholic, Anglican, & Lutheran bibles.

Apocrypha?

Probably not...

No

Yes; mixed in with other books

Not initially; later included

Yes; separate section

Yes; separate section

Yes; separate section

Books Cited in the Old Testament... But are Missing...

- **Book of the Wars of Yahweh** **Num. 21**
- **Book of Jashar** **Joshua 10**
- **Annals of King David** **I Chron. 29**
- **Visions of Iddo the Seer** **II Chron. 9**

Navigating the Turmoil in Rome...

~15 years of status quo, then turmoil in Rome rocks all boats.

The Edomite – Antipater – is a strong supporter of Pompey.

- Hyrcanus II is along for the ride; Antipater calls the shots.

49 BC Pompey opposes Julius Caesar and is killed.

- Antipater switches sides; supports Julius Caesar.

- Antipater gains benefits for Jews... but Jews don't like him.

47 BC Julius Caesar designates Antipater governor of Judea.

- Grants Roman citizenship to Antipater and his family.

- Reappoints Hyrcanus II as High Priest.

- Hyrcanus II truly did not want to govern... just be High Priest.

Antipater appoints his son Herod military governor of

Galilee; and his son Phasael military governor of Judea.

- Galilee is awash with bandits; Herod summarily kills them.

- Herod's actions earn admiration from Jews and Romans.

Navigating the Roman Turmoil... con'd...

Julius Caesar is assassinated in 44 BC, precipitating turmoil in Rome, Syria, and Palestine.

Cassius, the Roman governor in Syria, aligns with Brutus against Octavian and Marc Antony.

**Antipater and Herod support Cassius & Brutus... Oops...
- Antipater & Herod change loyalty to the victorious Antony.**

**Antigonus, son of Aristobulus II, is released by Rome, allies with Parthians, and captures Jerusalem.
- Antigonus is the last Hasmonean to rule Judea... briefly.
- Promised Parthians 1,000 talents and 500 patrician women.**

Navigating the Roman Turmoil... con'd 2

Many Jews welcomed Antigonus to Jerusalem and Judea.

- Jews did not like having an Idumean family in charge.**
- Time may have muted their memory of Hasmonean rule.**

Herod sent supporters and patrician women to Masada.

- Antigonus paid the 1000 talents but didn't have the women.**

Herod travels to Rome (40 BC) to meet Marc Antony and seek Roman help in removing Antigonus.

- Antony likes Herod. (Antony also likes the large bribe...)**

Antony gets Herod designated "King of the Jews".

- All Herod has to do is oust Antigonus and the Parthians.**
- Rome gives Herod two legions to accomplish the task.**

In 37 BC Herod captures Jerusalem amidst great slaughter.

37 BC: Herod is King of the Jews in fact as well as in name.

Between the Testaments – Outline and Timeframes

TIMEFRAME

EVENTS

1000 – 420 BC	King David to Malachi.
539 – 332 BC	Persians are mostly benign rulers of Palestine.
332 – 323 BC	Alexander conquers Persia and Palestine.
323 – 301 BC	Macedonian generals vie for control of Palestine.
301 – 198 BC	Ptolemies of Egypt rule Palestine.
198 – 166 BC	Seleucids of Syria rule Palestine.
166 – 142 BC	Jewish revolt against Seleucid rule.
142 – 63 BC	Hasmoneans rule.
63 – 37 BC	Romans move in.
37 – 4 BC	King Herod rules as a vassal of Rome
4 BC – 6 AD	Herod's son Archelaus rules as a vassal of Rome

Three Periods of Herod's Reign

- 37 – 25 BC: Consolidation
- 25 – 10 BC: Build and Prosper
- 10 – 04 BC: Decline

Herod Consolidates His Rule 37 – 25 BC

Marries Mariamme – a Hasmonean.

Executes 45 Hasmonean family leaders, confiscates property.

Appoints Ananelus (from Babylon) High Priest.

- Mother-in-law issues arise... Antony gets involved...

Mother-in-law – via Cleopatra VII – makes more trouble...

- Herod must walk a thin line between balancing the demands of Rome versus the demands of the Jews.

32 BC Antony and Octavian go to war.

- Herod backs Antony... Oops...

- Herod switches his allegiance to Octavian... now Augustus.

- Herod's meeting with Octavian confirms Herod as king.

29 BC Herod executes his wife Mariamme for infidelity.

- Very unlikely she was unfaithful; trumped-up charges.

Herod's Glory Years: 25 – 10 BC

Herod embarks on a massive building campaign.

- Provides employment; consumes tax revenue.**
- 25 BC: Antonia Fortress**
- 22 BC: Starts construction of Caesarea Maritime.**
- 20 BC: Starts reconstruction of the temple.**
- 10 BC: Builds Herodium; completes Caesarea Maritime.**

Romans: Herod is an outstanding provincial governor.

- Obtained religious freedoms for Diaspora Jews.**
- Sponsored agricultural development, economic expansion, social welfare, and even foreign aid.**
- Saved the Olympic Games by providing critical funding.**

Demanded peace; killed anyone who threatened status quo.

Anyone marrying into his family must accept Jewish custom.

Herod's Decline & Family Problems 10 – 4 BC

Executed several of his sons for perceived plots against him.

On his deathbed, Herod...

- Burned alive 40 Pharisees who removed the Roman eagle from the temple entrance.**
- Named his 18 year old son Archelaus ruler of Judea and Samaria, and his son Antipas ruler of Galilee.**

Scholars don't know what illness Herod suffered from... possibly diabetes or cancer...

Herod's body is taken to his fortress / palace in Herodium for burial.

Jews did NOT mourn Herod's passing.

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Archelaus' Reign – Mostly Tragic... 4 BC – 6 AD

Jews were initially favorably disposed toward Archelaus.

4 BC Jews demand retribution for the Pharisees burned alive for removing the Roman eagle from the temple.

- Archelaus is sympathetic; but cannot take harsh action until confirmed as king by Augustus.

- Jews riot; army kills thousands and restores order.

Archelaus travels to Rome...

In Palestine, riots and anarchy are brutally suppressed.

Archelaus ruled as an inept and brutal tyrant.

- United Jews & Samaritans in common hatred for Archelaus.

6 AD Archelaus is deposed and Roman military rule imposed.

The Situation “On the Ground” at the Dawn of The New Testament...

- Roman military rule headquartered in Caesarea.**
- Sadducees run the temple and try to keep status quo.**
- Pharisees have the hearts and minds of most Jews.**
- Common people struggle to eke out a living.**
- Messianic expectations are high.**
- Tax collectors – usually Jewish turncoats – are hated.**
- Scholars know Hebrew but speak Aramaic.**
- Common people speak Aramaic.**
- Some Greek is spoken by scholars and commoners.**
- Hellenists are focused on the here and now.**
- Apocalyptists are focused on the heavenly.**
- Herod the Great’s son Herod Antipas – the Herod of Jesus’ trial and crucifixion – rules Galilee from Tiberias.**
- Archelaus retires in Vienne in the Rhone Valley.**