

Lectures 1-2:

History Between the Testaments

Time frame:

Malachi: c. 450 B.C.

Birth of Christ: 4 B.C.

The Persian Empire



From World Book © 2002 World Book, Inc., 233 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60601. All rights reserved. World Book map

Final Persian emperor: Darius III, ruled 335-332 B.C.

Alexander the Great: 356-323 B.C.

- born in Pella (capital of Macedonia) to Philip II of Macedon
- tutored by Aristotle
- first battle: 338 B.C., Battle of Chaeronea
- 336 B.C.: Philip's assassination
- 335 B.C.: Alexander destroyed Thebes
- 334 B.C.: crossed the Hellespont to Asia; invaded the Persian Empire
- 333 B.C.: defeated the Persians at Issus
- took Darius' family hostage
- Crowned pharaoh in Egypt; founded Alexandria in 331 B.C.
- Blessed by the High Priest on his way to Egypt (impressed by Daniel's prophecies)
- Defeated and destroyed Tyre (Ezekiel 26)
- 331 B.C.: defeated the Persian army at Gaugamela (47,250 Greeks against over 200,000 Persians)
- Darius was murdered in Media
- Marched on to Susa and Persepolis

- continued his march into Afghanistan and India
- turned back to Babylon, his capital
- June 323 B.C.: died in Babylon



From World Book © 2002 World Book, Inc., 233 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60601. All rights reserved. World Book map

Alexander's influence:

- spread Greek culture and language throughout the known world
- united the Near East with the West
- tolerated the Jews and allowed them religious freedom (as had the Persians)

Division of the empire

- Ptolemy: Egypt and southern Syria
- Seleucus: Mediterranean to central Asia
- Tysimmachus: Thrace
- Cassander: Macedonia

Judea under the Ptolemies

Judea: part of Seleucus' empire; annexed by Ptolemy I in 320 B.C.

continued Alexander's benevolence toward the Jews

Temple renovation under Simon I, high priest (300-287 B.C.)

large numbers of Jews emigrated to Egypt

Ptolemy II (285-246 B.C.)

beginning of the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Jewish Scriptures (LXX)

constructed cities in Palestine

Ptolemy III (246-221 B.C.)

Alexandria became center of Jewish culture

High Priest, Onias II, decided to withhold tribute paid to the Ptolemies; thwarted by his nephew Antiochus III of Syria

ascended to the Seleucid throne in 223 B.C.

instigated trouble with the Jews

occupied Palestine in 218 B.C.; driven out by Ptolemy IV in 217 B.C.

Ptolemy IV desecrated the Temple in revenge for Jewish treachery

203 B.C.: Antiochus invades again

198 B.C.: Ptolemies defeated at Sidon; Judea becomes part of Seleucid empire

Antiochus continues tolerance of the Jews

187 B.C.: Antiochus III killed; succeeded by Seleucus IV (187-175 B.C.)

Tension grew between the Jews and the Greeks

Additional tension: orthodox Jews vs. Hellenized Jews

Antiochus IV Epiphanes: 175-163 B.C.

Epiphanes (illustrious) or Epimanes (madman)?

replaced Onias III as High Priest with Jason, Onias' brother and member of the Hellenistic party (Jason bribed Epiphanes)

Jason later replaced by Menelaus, who paid a higher bribe than Jason had

168 B.C.: Antiochus attacked Egypt

met by a Roman envoy (circle in the sand)

humiliated by Romans

Jason attacked Jerusalem to depose Menelaus (thought Antiochus was dead)

Antiochus sent 20,000 men into Jerusalem on a Sabbath day

burned copies of the Law

erected an altar to Zeus in the Temple

166 B.C.: invaded again

carried 10,000 Jews into captivity

built a tower overlooking the city and manned it with Macedonian mercenaries

offered a sow on the altar in the Temple

prohibited circumcision and Sabbath observances

The Maccabees

Mattathias

priest in Modin

killed a Greek emissary who tried to force him to sacrifice to Zeus (killed a Jewish collaborator, too)

The war is on!

pronounced that self-defense was not a Sabbath day offense

initiated guerilla warfare against the Greeks

Mattathias died; succeeded by his son Judas Maccabaeus in 167 B.C.

Judas Maccabaeus (167-161 B.C.)

defeated the Samaritans

defeated the Seleucids

took Jerusalem in 165 B.C.

purified the Temple (origin of Hannukah)

restored the daily sacrifice

Lysias, the Syrian regent, signed a treaty restoring Jewish religious liberties

sought Roman help

killed in battle 161 B.C. with the Seleucids over the High Priest
Jonathan (161-143 B.C.)
signed a treaty ending the struggle
accepted office of High Priest
involved with struggle for Syrian throne; killed in an ambush by the Syrians

Simon (143-135 B.C.)
founded the Hasmonean dynasty
took the citadel in Jerusalem
accepted the title of High Priest and Prince. Problem: he wasn't of the Davidic line
murdered by his son-in-law, who imprisoned his wife and 2 eldest sons

John Hyrcanus I (135-105 B.C.)
youngest son of Simon
held both civil and priestly power (reserved only for the Messiah)

Aristobulus (104-103 B.C.)
John's son; imprisoned and starved his mother, killed his brother

Alexander Jannaeus (104-78 B.C.)
married Aristobulus' widow, Salome Alexandra (she inherited the power)
killed one brother and sent the other into seclusion
made treaties with Egypt
in a revolt, crucified 800 Pharisees and killed their families in front of them while they died
pelted with fruit at a festival

Salome Alexandra (76-67 B.C.)
made her oldest son, John Hyrcanus II, high priest
wise ruler
relied on the Pharisees, but refused to execute some of their oppressors (exiled them instead)

Aristobulus (67-63 B.C.)
ruled as civil ruler when his mother became ill (proclaimed himself king)
grudgingly accepted his brother as high priest
Hyrcanus was persuaded by Antipater of Idumea that Aristobulus was plotting against him

Aristobulus (67-63 B.C.)
Hyrcanus besieged Jerusalem with 50,000 men
both Aristobulus and Hyrcanus sought help from Pompey, the Roman general

The Romans

63 B.C.: Pompey entered Jerusalem, put down the war
entered the Holy of Holies
reinstated Hyrcanus as High Priest
took Aristobulus and his family to Rome
Aristobulus escaped and continued the fight
Roman civil war: Hyrcanus and Antipater supported Julius Caesar

44 B.C.: Julius Caesar murdered
Jews suffer under Cassius and Antony

40 B.C.: Antigonus (Aristobulus' son) joined the Parthians, captured Jerusalem, and cut off John Hyrcanus' ears to deprive him of the office of High Priest

41 B.C.: Herod, son of Antipater and ruler of Galilee, captured Antigonus; he was beheaded by the Romans

ruled 37 B.C. to 4 B.C.

great builder

built Casarea, Masada, new Temple

brutal ruler

executed his own sons to preserve his rule

banished his first wife and her son and married Mariamne, daughter of John Hyrcanus II

appointed High Priests at his whim

appointed 7 high priests in his tenure

he and his sons kept the High Priest's holy garments unless they were needed

gave the people a generation of peace after the Hasmoneans

executed Mariamne when she was 25

made his firstborn son, Antipater, his heir (son of Doris, his first wife)

executed Mariamne's sons for treason

executed Antipater for treason

died in 4 B.C.

son Archelaus was to be king, but Augustus Caesar modified his will

sons inherited his territory:

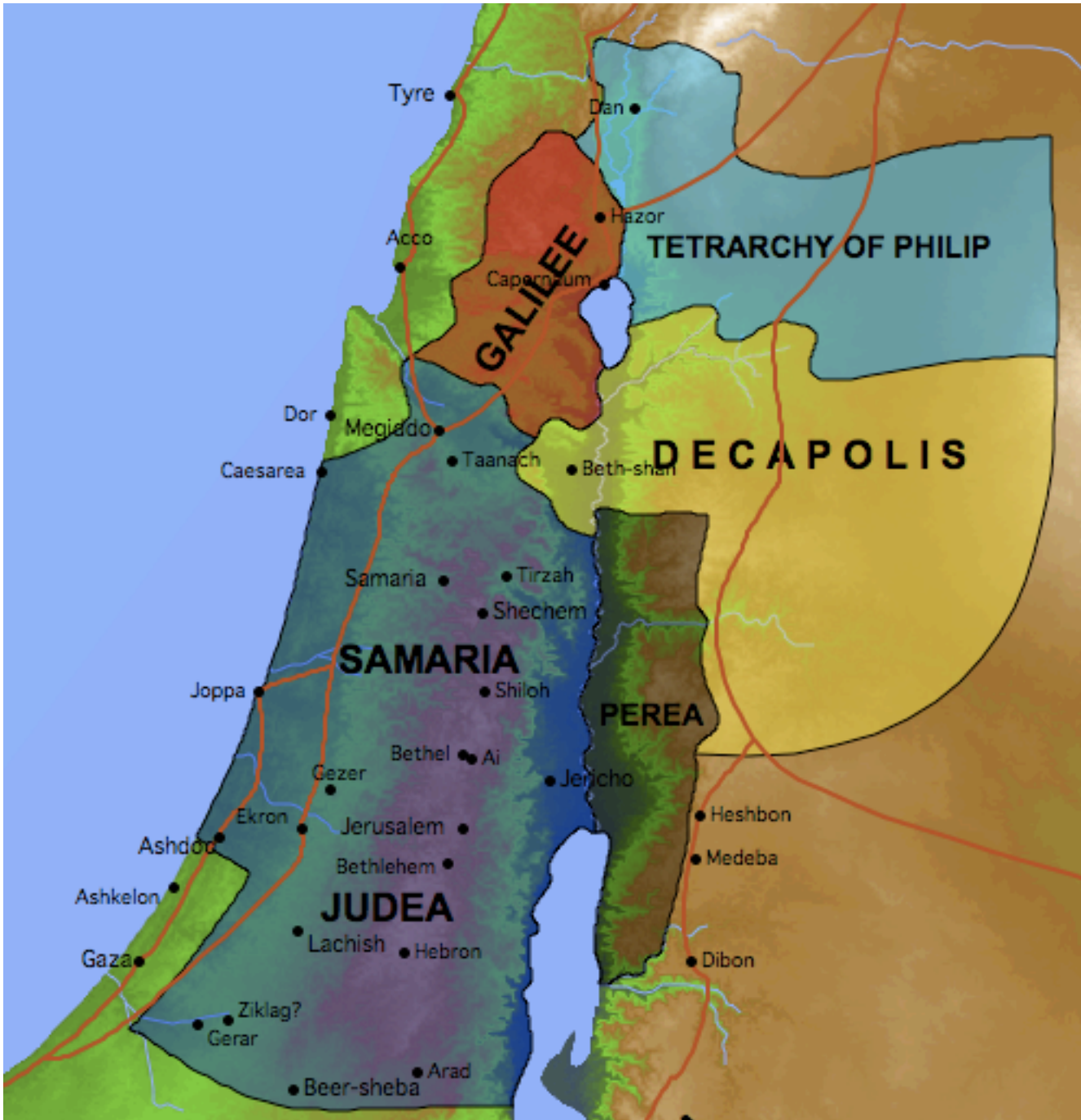
Philip: tetrarch in northeast

Antipas: tetrarch of Galilee

Archelus: ethnarch of Judea, Samaria, and Idumea (soon deposed by the Romans)

at Archelus' banishment, Judea was ruled by procurators

Judea at Jesus' Birth:



Rome at Jesus' Birth:



From World Book © 2002 World Book, Inc., 233 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60601. All rights reserved. World Book map