

## THE NEW TESTAMENT WORLD

### PART 1: THE HISTORY OF THE JEWS BETWEEN THE PERSIAN AND ROMAN EMPIRES

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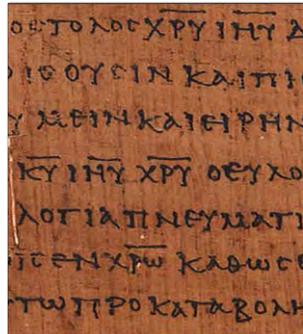
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## HISTORY: TOURING A NEW WORLD

- The Bible is a historical document as well as a spiritual one
- History sets context for the text
- Understanding the world in which the New Testament was written enables us to understand the text more clearly



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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TIME BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS

- Jews allowed to return to Israel by the Persian King Cyrus (Nehemiah, Ezra)
- Rebuild the Temple, but still under foreign rule
- Undergo a succession of oppressors
  - Persians
  - Greeks (under Alexander the Great)
  - Ptolemies (Egypt)
  - Seleucids (Syria)

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## ANTIOCHUS IV (EPIPHANIES)

- Seleucid King
- Attacked Jerusalem in 167BC
- Outlawed Jewish rites and worship
- Sacrificed a pig on the altar in the Temple
- Dedicated the Temple to Zeus



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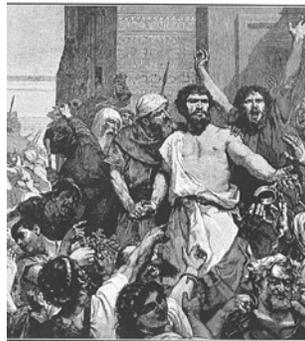
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## THE MACCABEAN REVOLT

- A Jew named Mattathias stepped forward and killed a Hellenized Jew who was sacrificing to an idol in the Temple.
- He and his five sons fled into the Judean wilderness and gathered a rebel army.
- Waged a guerrilla war against the Seleucids and their Jewish collaborators (Maccabee = "hammer")
- Defeated the enemy and cleansed the Temple.
- Hannukah commemorates this event.



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## THE HASMONEAN CIVIL WAR

- Hasmonean dynasty emerges from Maccabees
- 100 years of Israel's self rule
- Conflict between two brothers for the throne (Hyrcanus and Aristobulus)
- Both invite Rome to intercede on their behalf



COIN FROM THE HASMONEAN PERIOD

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## ANTIPATER - HEROD'S FATHER

- Idumean (formerly "Edom")
- Promised to elevate Hyrcanus as ruler
- Antipater sets himself up as the power behind the throne



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## THE ROMAN WORLD FIRST CENTURY BC

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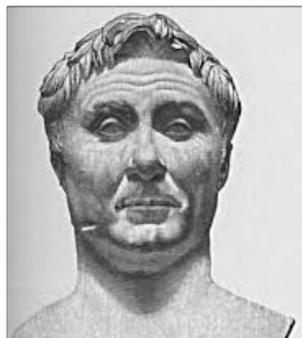
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## POMPEY CONQUERS JERUSALEM

- 63BC - Roman General Pompey lays siege and conquers Jerusalem
- Sides with Hyrcanus, installs him as a "puppet" king
- Takes Aristobulus back to Rome as a prized prisoner



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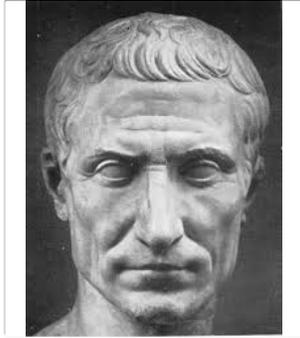
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## A SHIFT IN POWER

- 48BC - Julius Caesar defeats Pompey in the first Roman civil war of this period
- Antipater transfers loyalty to Caesar and is made administrator of Judea
- Appoints his two sons, Herod and Phasael as governors (Herod given Galilee region)



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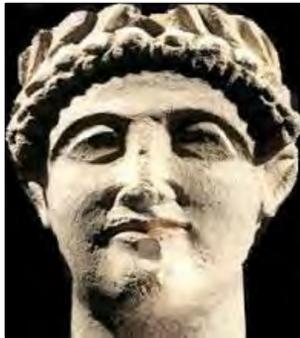
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## HEROD AS GOVERNOR

- Made a name for himself by putting down a revolt and through his skill at collecting taxes for Rome



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## ANOTHER SHIFT IN POWER IN ROME

- 44BC - Julius Caesar murdered by Brutus and Cassius
- They flee to Syria and promise to make Herod king of Judea after they defeated Octavian (Caesar's adopted son) and Antony (his co-regent)
- Antony defeats the conspirators, but takes a liking to Herod and Phasael and appoints them as tetrarchs of Judea



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## THE PARTHIAN INVASION

- Parthians invade Judea
- Herod flees to Rome, Phasael killed
- Octavian and Antony declare Herod as King of Judea
- Herod recaptures Judea in 37BC
- Marries a Hasmonean princess named Mariamne to legitimize his reign



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## THE SECOND ROMAN CIVIL WAR

- Antony and Octavian go to war with each other. Antony was Herod's patron.
- Octavian defeats Antony and Cleopatra at the Battle of Actium in 31BC
- Herod goes to Octavian (crown in hand) and offers him loyalty
- Herod retains his throne and Octavian becomes Augustus Caesar



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## HEROD THE BUILDER

- As long as Herod kept the Romans happy, he could do as he wished.
- Generated incredible income from taxes
- Began a series of major building projects



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**CAESAREA MARÍTIMA**  
NAMED AFTER CAESAR AUGUSTUS

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**MASADA**  
FORTRESS/PALACE BY THE DEAD SEA

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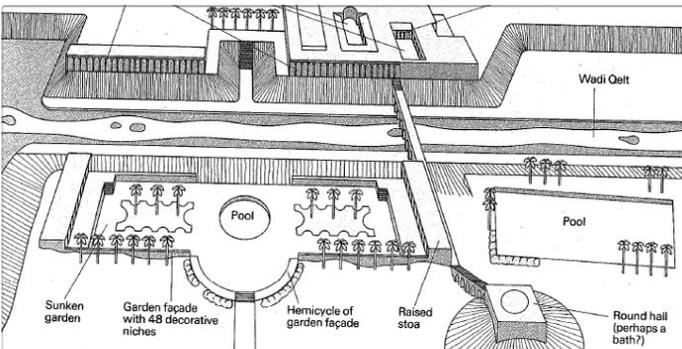
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**WINTER PALACE AT JERICHO**

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## HEROD AS HUSBAND AND FATHER

- Had his wife Mariamne killed for conspiracy
- Had her two sons, her grandfather, her brother, and her mother killed as well
- Augustus once remarked that it would be better to be one of Herod's pigs than one of his sons
- Herod drew up multiple wills based on who he believed was loyal or disloyal at a given time



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## HEROD, THE MAGI, AND JESUS

- Matthew 2:1-12
- Herod thinks this is a diplomatic mission (Parthians?)
- Hears of another threat to his kingdom
- Orders children under 2 in Bethlehem killed (v. 16-18)
- No outside sources, but certainly within Herod's character



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## THE DEATH OF HEROD

- 4BC
- Constructed a massive tomb in anticipation of his death (Herodium)
- Died from kidney disease and gangrene
- Ordered all the elites of Jerusalem gathered into the hippodrome and slaughtered at his death so that there would be crying and mourning in Israel on that day (not carried out)



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## HEROD'S SUCCESSORS

- After his death, Augustus divided Herod's kingdom among three of his sons
- Herod Antipas - Galilee
- Philip - east of the Jordan
- Archelaus - Judea and Jerusalem (deposed by Rome in 6BC)



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## ROMAN EMPERORS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT PERIOD

- Augustus - 27BC-14AD
- Tiberius - 14-37AD
- Gaius Caligula - 37-41AD
- Claudius - 41-54AD
- Nero - 54-68AD
- Four Emperors - 69AD
- Vespasian - 69-79AD
- Titus - 79-81AD
- Domitian - 81-96AD



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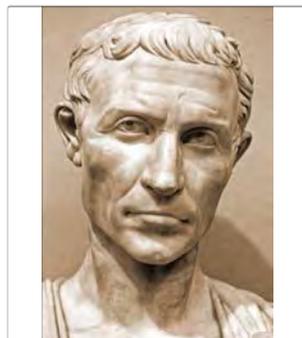
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## PONTIUS PILATE - GOVERNOR OF JUDEA - 26-36AD

- From Spain or Germania?
- Likely part of knightly class
- Military veteran
- Judea a dubious promotion
- History of provoking Jews



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