

THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD

I. ALEXANDER III (THE GREAT; 336-323 BC): Son of Philip of Macedon

A. Conquests

1. 334 BC: Crossed the Hellespont into Asia Minor; Defeated Persians at Granikos
2. 333 BC: Battle of Issus, Darius III Defeated
3. 333-332 BC: Syria, Palestine, and Egypt Taken by Alexander
4. 331 BC: Battle of Gaugamela, Final Defeat of Darius III
5. 330-324: Alexander Pushed East into Indus Valley, Back to Babylon

B. Attempts at Consolidation: Alexander Failed to Effectively Organize Conquests

1. Alexander portrayed himself as appointed by local deities (i.e., Amon in Egypt)
 - a. In some cities of Greece, Ionia, and east, cults of Alexander sprang up
 - b. Alexander may have seen himself as a divine figure; a foundation for later emperor worship
2. Alexander's orientalizing policies created dissent among Macedonians

II. HELLENISM

A. Greek Language and Culture was Spread Throughout Near East

1. Greek Culture = Hellenic; **Greek-based culture with oriental elements = Hellenistic**
 - a. Hellenizing of the East; Orientalizing of Greeks
 - b. Gradually Developed in last centuries BC
 - c. Classical Greek evolved to Hellenistic Greek (called Koine Greek in New Testament circles)
2. Numerous Cities Founded on Model of the Greek *Polis*
 - a. Many Est. by Alexander; Most Important = **Alexandria** in Egypt
 - b. *Poleis* had Certain Standard Elements + Citizenship

B. Greek Language and Culture also Hellenized the Roman West

III. THE DIADOCHI (323-301 BC)

A. 323 BC: Alexander Contracted Fever, Died With No Apparent Heir

1. A son, Alexander IV, by Roxanne born After Alexander's Death
2. Alexander's Brother, Philip Arrhidaeus, was incompetent, unfit to rule

B. 323-301 BC: Alexander's Generals Struggle for Control

1. **Diadochi** ("Successors"): Those Who Struggled for Control
 - a. **Perdiccas** as regent tried to Control Empire; Killed 321 BC
 - b. **Antipater**
 - 1) Became Regent 321 BC, Died 319 BC
 - 2) Antipater's son **Cassander** won Macedonia and Greece; killed Alexander's Son/Roxanne
 - c. **Ptolemy** ruled Satrapy of Egypt from soon after Alexander's death
 - d. **Seleucus** Received Babylon after Perdiccas' Defeat
 - e. **Antigonus Monophthalmus**
 - 1) Received Central/Southern Asia Minor
 - 2) Was Defeated by a Coalition at Ipsus in 301 BC
 - f. **Lysimachus** Ruled Thrace
2. Battle of Ipsus, 301 BC: Antigonus defeated and Alexander's Empire was divided
 - a. **Cassander**: Greece
 - b. **Lysimachus**: Thrace and Asia Minor
 - c. **Seleucus**: Mesopotamia and Syria = Seleucid Empire
 - d. **Ptolemy**: Egypt = Ptolemaic Empire

IV. THE PTOLEMAIC EMPIRE

- A. Based in Egypt; Ruled Palestine 301-198 BC
 - 1. Wealthy Period for Egypt; Cities Refortified in Palestine
 - 2. No Forced Hellenization of the Jews
 - 3. Wars with Seleucid Empire Beginning with Ptolemy II
- B. Rulers
 - 1. Ptolemy I Soter (306-283 BC)
 - 2. Ptolemy II Philadelphus (283-246 BC): Most Powerful Ruler
 - a. Tradition: Septuagint (LXX) Produced
 - b. Zenon Papyri (259-258 BC): Journeys of Zenon in Palest.; some Jews resisted Hellenization
 - 3. Ptolemy III (246-221); Ptolemy IV Philopator (221-204 BC)
 - 4. Ptolemy V Epiphanes (204-181): Lost Battle of Paneas (198)
 - 5. Ptolemy VI Philometor (180-145 BC): Antiochus IV in Egypt

V. SELEUCID EMPIRE: Ruled Palestine 198-140 BC

- A. Early Seleucids
 - 1. Seleucus I Nicator (312-281 BC): Founded Vast Empire
 - 2. Antiochus I Soter (281-261 BC): Founded Capital Antioch
 - 3. Antiochus II (261-246 BC): Regained Some of Asia Minor
 - 4. Loss of Territory under Seleucus II and III
 - a. Asia Minor, Bactria Seceded
 - b. Parthian Kingdom Established in Persia
- B. Antiochus III the Great (223-187 BC)
 - 1. Temporarily Took Palestine; Defeated at Raphia, 217 BC
 - 2. Victories in Asia Minor and the East (213-205 BC)
 - 3. 198 BC: Conquered Palestine at Battle of Paneas
 - 4. Invasion of Greece Caused Roman Intervention
 - a. Repulsed; Defeated by Rome at Magnesia on the Meander
 - b. Treaty of Apamea (188 BC) Imposed Heavy Reparations
 - 1) Financial Burden on Seleucids
 - 2) Antiochus Killed While Plundering a Temple (187)
- C. Seleucus IV Eupator (187-175 BC): Assassinated
- D. Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-163 BC): Hostage 14 Years in Rome
 - 1. Allowed Jewish High Priesthood to be Sold to High Bidder
 - a. 174 BC: Replaced Onias III with Jason (2 Macc 4)
 - b. 171 BC: Menelaus Outbid Jason: Unrest in Jerusalem
 - 2. Invasion of Egypt
 - a. 1st Aborted (Because of Unrest in Jerusalem)
 - b. 168 BC: Renewed Invasion Blocked by Romans
 - 3. Attempted to Force Hellenization of the Jews, 167 BC
 - a. Syrian Garrison Stationed at *Akra* in Jerusalem
 - b. Sacrifice of Swine to Zeus at Jewish Temple
 - c. Forbade: Scriptures; Circumcision; Sabbath Worship
 - 4. Killed in Battle in Armenia 163 BC
- E. Demetrio-Seleucid Line vs. Antiochan Lines (164-139 BC)
 - ** Antiochus V (w/Lysias), Demetrius I, Alexander Balas, Demetrius II, Antiochus VI

VI. THE MACCABEAN REVOLT (167-140 BC)

- A. *Hasidim* ("Pious Ones") in Jerusalem Resist Priestly Hellenization
- B. Armed Revolt Begun by **Mattathias**, A Priest in Modein (1 Macc 2)
 - 1. Slew Local Jew and Greek Who Were Going to Sacrifice a pig
 - 2. Fled to Hills; Supported by *Hasidim*; Guerrilla Warfare
- C. **Judas Maccabeus** (the "Hammer") 166-161 BC
 - 1. Military Successes after Death of Mattathias
 - 2. 164 BC: Partial Maccabean victory
 - a. Temple in Jerusalem Taken, Cleansed, Rededicated
 - b. Festival of Dedication/Lights (*Hannukah*)
 - 3. 163 BC: Antiochus IV killed in battle; **Antiochus V** and **Lysias** rule Seleucid Empire
 - a. Menelaus Killed; Alcimus (Zadokite) = New High Priest
 - b. Hellenistic Alcimus Accepted by *Hasidim*; not by Judas
 - c. 162: Religious Freedom Granted by Antiochus V (163-162)
 - 4. Demetrius I Soter (162-150) (& *Hasidim*) Supported Alcimus
 - 5. 160: Judas Defeated by gov./gen. Bacchides & killed in Battle
- D. **Jonathan** (also son of Mattathias)
 - 1. Played Seleucid Rivals for Jewish Advantage: **Demetrius I**
 - 2. 152 BC: Appointed High Priest by **Alexander Balas** (152-145)
 - 3. Temporary Compromise with **Demetrius II** . . . but Supported **Antiochus VI**
 - 4. Killed by **Trypho**, a supporter of Antiochus VI
- E. **Simon** (another son of Mattathias)
 - 1. 142 BC: Granted Political Autonomy by Demetrius II for support vs. Trypho; *Akra* vacated
 - 2. 140 BC: Proclaimed "High Priest and Ethnarch Forever"
 - 3. 135 BC: Killed in Conspiracy by Son-in-Law Ptolemy

VII. THE HASMONEAN DYNASTY (140-63 BC)

- A. **John Hyrcanus** (134-104 BC): Son of Simon; Overcame Ptolemy
 - 1. Initially a Vassal of Antiochus Sidites
 - 2. Expanded Jewish Territory: Took Hellenized Cities
 - a. Idumea Taken, Forcibly Judaized
 - b. 128 BC: Samaritan Temple Destroyed; Samaria Taken 109
 - 3. Ideals of Macc Revolt Lost; Lost Support of Pharisees
 - 4. Designated Wife as Secular Ruler; Aristobulus High Priest
- B. **Aristobulus I** (104-103 BC): Imprisoned His Mother
 - 1. Seized Control; 1st Hasmonean to Claim Title of King
 - 2. Gained Control of Galilee; Jews Settled There
- C. **Alexander Jannaeus** (103-76 BC): Son of John Hyrcanus
 - 1. Ruled Over Most of Palestine
 - 2. Uprising of Pharisees (supported by Demetrius III) 94-88 BC; violently suppressed; 800 crucified
- D. Alexandra (76-67 BC): Wife of Alexander, Promoted Pharisees
- E. Civil War: **Hyrcanus II** (Supported by Idumean **Antipater**) vs. **Aristobulus II**