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19) Alexander the Great and Greece defeats the Persians and controls Israel.

Date: 332 B.C. – 63 B.C.

The Greeks basically permitted Israel to run their own state. The Greeks built travel roads and they promoted a common Greek language among the Empire.

During this time, when the Greeks controlled the land, the Temple in Jerusalem was desecrated. It was this that brought about the Maccabean revolt that established the independent rule of Israel.

20) The Hebrew Old Testament was translated into the Greek Language. The name of this translation is the Septuagint. Date: 250 B.C.

The name Septuagint is a Latin word that means 70. In fact, the Septuagint is sometimes called the LXX due to the fact that 70 Jewish scholars worked on the project. Actually the number was 72. Six scholars from each of the twelve tribes of Israel supposedly worked on the project. According to history, Ptolemy II, who was the Greek King of Egypt, asked the Jewish scholars to translate the Hebrew O.T. into Greek, which was the common language of the people (Koine Greek).

This translation from Hebrew to Greek was not originally accepted in the Jewish synagogues but according to God it was considered inspired. The Septuagint is quoted some 340 times in the New Testament and Jesus Christ Himself quotes the Isaiah 29:13 passage from the Septuagint in Mark 7:6-7.

21) Antiochus Epiphanies, one of the Greek/Syrian leaders who followed after Alexander, desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem by sacrificing a pig on the altar.

Date: 175 B.C.

22) Judas Maccabeus led a Maccabean revolt against this desecration of the Temple and restored proper worship to the Temple. **Date: 165 B.C.**

Judas was a Jewish priest and the son of a priest, who became a guerilla leader who led a revolt against the Syrian/Greeks, who had desecrated the Temple and were trying to superimpose Greek religion and restrictions on Judaism.

23) Israel enjoyed independence and freedom for the next 79 years under the Hasmonean Monarchy, a descendant of Judas Maccabeus. **Date: 142 B.C. – 63 B.C.**

The Hasmonean family were descendants of the Maccabee family. They ruled Judea as a family dynasty and Israel had an autonomy in a limited extent at this time.

24) Jerusalem is captured by the Roman general Pompey and Israel is conquered and controlled by Romans. Date: 63 B.C. – A.D. 313