

Unit Twelve:
“Second Temple
Judaism”

The Intertestamental
Period


From Persian Empire to Roman Empire

Israel as a Vassal State to Persia

- Babylon → Medo-Persia → Persia
 - Return of some from captivity
 - Temple built under leadership of Sheshbazzar/Zerubbabel →
- “Second Temple Judaism”
 - Walls of Jerusalem rebuilt under Nehemiah

Second Temple Judaism

The Divine Silence

- From Malachi to John the Baptist (**1 Maccabees 9.27**)
 - We need to look outside of the canon of Scripture for the history of this period
 - Apocrypha
 - Other Jewish writings
 - Secular writings
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Old Testament Apocrypha

1 Maccabees	Judith
2 Maccabees	Letter of Jeremiah
3 Maccabees	Prayer of Manassas
4 Maccabees	Psalms 151
1 Esdras	Susanna
2 Esdras	The Prayer of Azariah
Additions to Esther	Tobit
Baruch	Wisdom of Sirach ("Ecclesiasticus")
Bel and the Dragon	Wisdom of Solomon

Old Testament Pseudepigrapha

1 Enoch (Apocalypse of Enoch)

The Book of Jubilees

2 Enoch (Book of the Secrets of Enoch)

The Book of Moses

Fragments of a Zadokite work (aka: The Damascus Document)

The Book of the Apocalypse of Baruch (aka: 2 Baruch)

Melchizedek

The Greek Apocalypse of Baruch (aka: 3 Baruch)

Tales of the Twelve Patriarchs

The Letter of Aristeas

The Apocalypse of Abraham

The Martyrdom of Isaiah

The Apocalypse of Adam

The Revelation of Esdras

The Apocalypse of Moses (aka Life of Adam and Eve)

The Revelation of Moses

The Ascension of Isaiah

The Second Treatise of the Great Seth

The Assumption of Moses

The Story of Asenath

The Book of Abraham

The Testament of Abraham

The Book of Adam and Eve

The Testament of Solomon

Israel as a Vassal State to Greece

Alexander

- Son of Philip of Macedon
- Tutored by Aristotle
- Defeated Persia
 - Philip had engaged in hostilities with Persia
 - Alexander pushed forward into Asia Minor



Alexander

- Alexander's defeat of Persia was swift
 - lack of a Persian response to Alexander's invasion of Asia Minor, probably due to the concurrent revolt of Egypt requiring the navy of Darius to remain at Egypt
 - Alexander defeated the Persian forces at Issus in 333 BC and Darius retreated to Babylon to rebuild his army

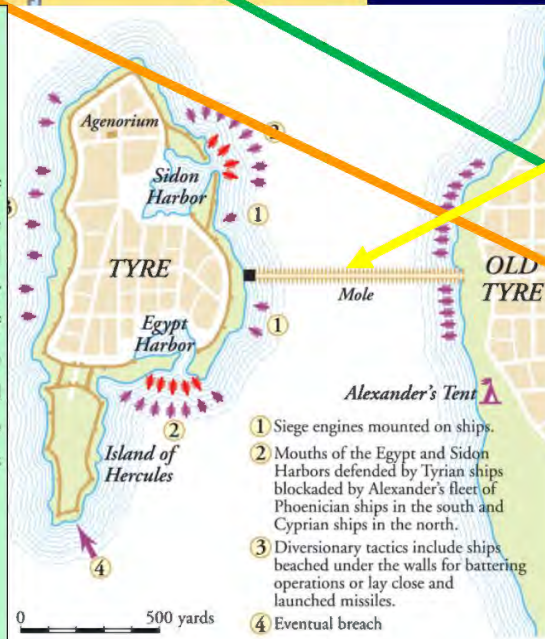
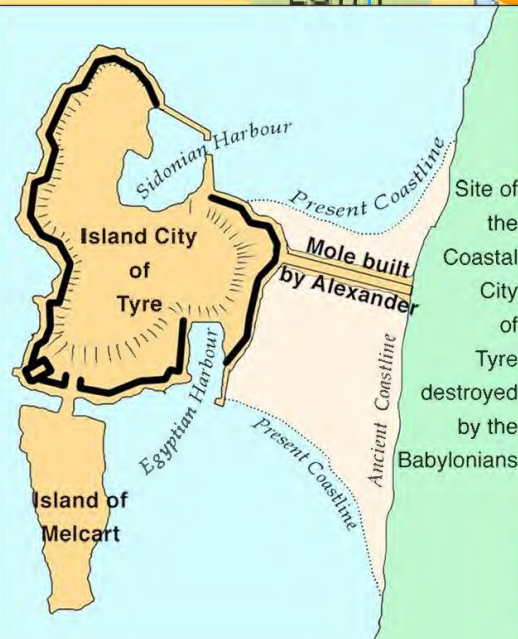


Alexander's Defeat of Persia



- He moved south to conquer Gaza on his way to Egypt

- he defeated Tyre on his way by building a land-bridge to the island stronghold



- he moved on to conquer Gaza on his way to Egypt

Alexander's Defeat of Persia

- Turning back to the north, Alexander defeated Darius at the battle of Gaugamela in 331 BC
- He then moved on to Babylon, which surrendered quickly



Alexander

- East to India
- Died at age 33
(323 BC)
- His lasting legacy was the Hellenization of the ANE
 - Established Greek cities for the establishment of Greek culture



- Alexandrias
- Greek-named cities

Hellenization

- Hellenism (Hellenistic inculturation)
 - Based on faith in reason
 - *homo mensura*: ‘man is the measure’ → humanism
 - Greek ideas and language
 - Immigration of Greeks as administrators and learned men
 - Syncretistic combination of Greek culture with local customs

Hellenism

Two forms of Hellenism

1. Subtle

gradual introduction of world view
(rationalistic humanism) shaping
perceptions and determining
methodologies

2. Militant

aggressive attempt by Antiochus IV and
Jewish Hellenizers to force Greek culture
and philosophy on others

Hellenism

- Syncretism: Greek + Hebrew ideas
 - Jesus ben Sirach: eloquent spokesman for orthodoxy that wrote in Hebrew but was undoubtedly influenced by Hellenism (→ *Ecclesiasticus*; 196-175 BC)
 - Philo (late 1st cent. BC – middle 1st cent. AD): blended Greek philosophy and the Law of Moses

Hellenization: Religion

- Concord: Greek cults + indigenous cults (syncretism)
 - similar stories (except with Jews)
 - polytheism: adding new gods to the pantheon natural (“To an unknown god” – Acts 17.23)

Syncretism

- Pharisees: Rabbinic emphasis on improvement through education is a direct Platonic theme
- Essenes: asceticism derived from Aristotelean dualism: sinfulness of the body – purity of soul
→ frequently prohibited marriage

Hellenization: Religion

- Precision of celestial sphere + chaos of human history → astrology (this, too, syncretistic with Persian influence; cf. “wise men”)
- Deification of rulers
- Development of mystery religions based on secret knowledge
 - influenced strongly by Greek focus on knowledge, reason

Hellenization

- Greek language required for all 'official' communication
 - it became the most powerful vehicle for Hellenization
 - many of the indigenous elite took Greek names (→ Andrew, Philip)

Hellenization

- Education (literature, math/geometry, science)
- Alexandria became the leading intellectual center
 - *Museum*
 - place of the *muses*: goddesses of literature, science and the arts
 - more akin to our university
 - → encyclopedias of knowledge
 - the famous library with > 500,000 scrolls

Hellenization: Philosophy

- Epicureans (Epicurus; 341 – 270 BC)
 - Atomic materialists
 - Defined reality as the chance combinations of atoms
 - no reason to fear death, which is merely the separation of the atomic combinations
 - Pursuit of pleasure as the absence of disturbance (ἀταράχος; *atarachos*: copasetic → Atarax[®])
 - too much pleasure becomes pain
 - isolation from civil/communal affairs
 - gods don't bother themselves with this world
 - Knowledge is empirical

Hellenization: Philosophy

- Stoics (Zeno – 340 – 270 B.C.)
 - Materialists
 - Pantheistic
 - Knowledge based on rational plus empirical
 - reason emphasized
 - reason, the divine principle that pervaded and controlled all
 - Rational pursuit of virtue as experiential harmony with Nature [→ Fate]

Alexander

Extent of Empire

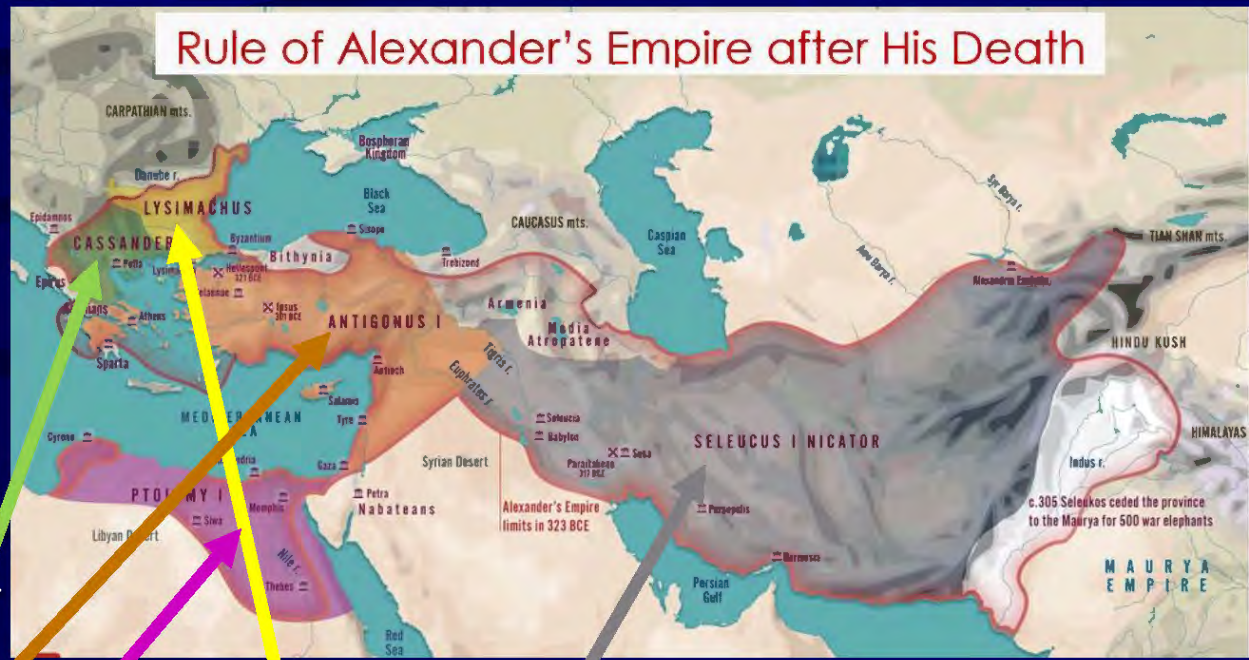


Wars of the *Diadochi*

- “Wars of the Successors”
 - a series of conflicts that were fought between the generals of Alexander the Great for control of the empire, occurring between 322 and 281 BC

Division of the Empire

Rule of Alexander's Empire after His Death



1. Antipater →

Cassander:

Macedonia

2. Antigonus I: Asia

Minor

3. Ptolemy: Egypt, Palestine ("South Syria"), Phoenicia

4. Seleucus: Northern Syria, Mesopotamia, 'Asia Minor'

5. Lysimachus: Thrace

Two Dynasties Emerge

- Ptolemaic
- Seleucid
- Control of Palestine
 - Ptolemy from 323 – 198 BC
 - Antiochus III (“the Great”) wrested Palestine ultimately from Ptolemies after ~ 125-year conflict

Seleucid Control of Palestine

(198-167 BC)

- Antiochus III (223 -187 BC)
 - defeated Ptolemy IV 198 BC and gained Phoenicia & Palestine
 - defeated by Romans in a battle (190 BC)
- Seleucus IV (187-175 BC)
 - Second son of Antiochus III
 - Sent his brother, Antiochus IV, as “hostage” to Rome in place of his son, Demetrius
 - Assassinated by member of his court

Antiochus IV (Epiphanes)

- Son of Antiochus III
- Usurped throne from his nephew, Antiochus (175-170 BC), with support of Pergamon
- Born as Mithradates, he took the name Antiochus when he usurped the throne from his cousin Antiochus



Seleucid control

- Seleucids furthered the Hellenization of the Jewish aristocracy
 - Politically
 - Economically
 - Religiously
- Syncretism flourished
 - high priest appointed by Seleucid kings, ending the traditional hereditary nature of the high priesthood

EXCURSUS ON RIVAL JEWISH 'POLITICAL' HOUSES (HIGH PRIESTS)

Oniads

- Tended to be pro-Ptolemaic
- Joshua, a priest, though not of line of Zadok, was appointed High Priest by Antiochus IV

Tobiads

- Antiochus IV, dissatisfied with “Jason,” appointed Menelaus, a non-Aaronide, to be High Priest
- Probably a descendant of Tobias

Antiochus IV (Epiphanes)

~170 – 163 BC

- Epiphanes (“manifest one” [divine])



– called Epimanes (“madman”) by the Jews

- Plundered the temple treasury
- Attempted to take Egypt (167 BC), but Rome, a growing strength to the west, intervened

In 168 BC, the Ptolemies enlisted the aid of the new world power on the horizon – Rome. Confronting Antiochus outside of Alexandria, the Roman Legate . . . insisted that Antiochus retreat or face the wrath of Rome. Antiochus agreed to consider the request. But [the Legate] drew a circle around the Syrian monarch and, in essence, said, “Take all the time you need – but you must answer before you leave that circle.” Antiochus withdrew, humiliated.

Köstenberger

Antiochus IV

- On return from Egypt, began intense persecution of Jews for their faith, pushing a militant form of Hellenization

1) forced syncretized worship

2) prohibited circumcision (1 Maccabees 1.59-64)

3) prohibited Sabbath observance

4) nullified Jewish dietary laws

5) erected pagan altars

6) death sentence for Jews who refused:

- to sacrifice on these pagan altars
- eat the flesh of pigs

Persecution of Jews

- 7) erected statue of Zeus in the Temple
(15 Kislev, 167 BC)
 - 8) offered sacrifice of swine flesh on altar
of burnt offering (25 Kislev, 167 BC)
- Jewish passive resistance
 - 1 Maccabees 2.1-28
 - Liberated Jerusalem, cleansed Temple
on 25 Kislev, 164 BC → Hannukah
("Dedication"); "Festival of Lights"