

Where we left off:

Babylon conquered in one night –
Dammed up river... went underneath

Persia stepped into shoes of Babylonians
Ruled from 532 to 332
De-centralized → allowed societies some self rule
Would let local governors decide things
Jews relatively free at this time.

Objective of Babylon and Assyrians → push people out DISPERSION
Destroy conquered culture/religion
By dispersion (diaspora) → Assyrians
By Deportation (Babylon)

Persia – Dispersion job was done.... No more need
Proved by Jews... 1Million deported... 50K return

Through these conquerers (Assyria, Babylon and Persia)

– **Jews kept identity → HOW?**

- *Knew the story*
- *Celebrated the story (feasts)*
- *Memorized/studies/discussed the story*

Why would identity be important?

Why would this be part of the hatred of Jews:

(Religion is ALWAYS the enemy of Politics)

- except when used to manipulate
 - Catholic church/Holy Roman Empire,
 - Iran since 1970's
 - Islamic Radicals today

After Alexander died, Judea was ruled by a series of successors, culminating in Antiochus Epiphanes. Antiochus did far more than refuse religious freedom to the Jews. Around 167 BC, he overthrew the rightful line of the priesthood and desecrated the temple, defiling it with unclean animals and a pagan altar

Antiochus Epiphanes

Antiochus the great
Antiochus Epimenes
Antiochus the small..... tells you what they thought of him

Hated anything NOT greek

Jewish religion direct opposition to greek culture

One God

No graven images (Athens had 5000 gods with images at the time of Paul)

Greek Theater, gymnasium and sports competition (all nude)

Antiochus believed

→ he needed to destroy Jewish faith to accomplish goal (greek world)

**December 25, 167 BC – Antiochus goes to Jerusalem – deposes the priests
SACRIFICES A PIG ON THE ALTER OF GOD!!!!**

Jesus refers to this metaphorically - Apocalyptically

→ Matthew 24:15

¹⁵“Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

By the way.... Titus did the same thing in 70AD before they set the temple on fire

What would the Jewish listener hear in this?

Like SF Earthquake.... When you feel the earth shake...

Not there in 1906... but part of my history... strikes a nerve

Thereafter....

Forced all Jews to worship greek gods.... Sent forces town to town

Forcing sacrifice a pig to greek gods

Modein (just outside Jerusalem) → new city now

Mattathias → religious leader... commanded to do sacrifice → refuses

Another Jew – goes to do the sacrifice (the greeks will slaughter the town without it)

Mattathias → kills that guy...then kills all the kings soldiers (goes postal)

Paraphrase from 1st Maccabees:

Mattathias was overcome with a passionate zeal to defend his God, and he killed this Jewish man, as well as the officers of the king. He then tore down the altar to the pagan gods and ran through the village shouting, "Let everyone who is zealous for the Law and who stands by the covenant follow me!" (I Maccabees 2:27). He and his sons, along with a good number of followers, fled to the mountains of the Judean wilderness.

These men organized themselves into a large, powerful guerrilla-warfare army, and soon began to launch raids against the towns and villages of the land, tearing down

the pagan altars, killing the officials of Antiochus, and also executing those Jews who were worshipping the pagan gods.

Flees to the hills with his sons – they start a revolt

Maccabean Revolt (Maccabee is not their name → means HAMMER)

That's what they did.... They HAMMERED the greeks

Won independence from Antiochus

Interesting.... 430 years from deportation of Judah (597-167BC)

Significant number – 430 years of Egypt

430 years of Judges (speculative)

Ezekial's vision... remember 430 days on two sides

Mattathias/Judas believed to be Messiah

You KNOW they are seeing it that way....

What would they think of this time period?

What would they think of the Maccabees/hasmonians?

Hanukkah

On December 25, 165 BC (exactly three years after Antiochus had defiled the altar of God by offering a pig upon it), the Temple of God was rededicated to God with rejoicing and sacrifices. The celebration continued for eight days. This is the famous "Feast of Lights" (*Hanukkah*) which is still celebrated by the Jews to this day.

BUT.... Within 10 yrs or so... corruption of kings

Attacked by greeks...

forced to pay taxes/tribute

sell out politically

Saducees: (politics marries religion)

Hellenistic Jews – still Jewish.... But loving greek culture...

Politically sold out....

Start civil war with Judas Maccabee (son of Mattathias)

Hellenistic Jews called in greeks to help

They won.....

Thus.... Early beginnings of Hellenistic Jews ruling (early Sadducees)

Started "Sanhedrin" → like Supreme court

1. Priests.... Served at temple (Hasmoneans {also priests} stayed in control
2. Accepted ONLY Mosaic law as valid....

Like greeks.... Humanistic;

No divine providence....they suppose that all our actions are in our power, so that we are ourselves the causes of what is good, and receive what is evil from our own folly

Like Deists today.... God may have started creation.... But not terribly involved now

Begs question – If you think God is not involved→ why do priestly duties/sacrifices/thank offerings

*Like Greek gods.... They had power, not very nice, not caring about humans
But you'd better not make them mad!!!*

How did the Sadducees miss this?

Jesus was brilliant with them.... They only recognized the Pentatuch.... Does not directly mention the resurrection or any idea of it.... Developed idea much later

Luke 20:34

³⁴And Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage,

Luke 20:35

³⁵but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage;

Luke 20:36

³⁶for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

Luke 20:37

³⁷“But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the *passage about the burning bush*, where he calls the Lord THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB.

Luke 20:38

³⁸“Now He is not the God of the dead but of the living; for all live to Him.”

He is quoting.... NOT prophets, or oral teaching.... But Pentatuch

Exodus 3:6

⁶He said also, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<http://www.bible.ca/d-jewish-sects-pharisees-sadducees-essenes-zealots.htm>

Ultimately – Jesus is killed by the Sadducees:

Caiaphas:

Joseph Caiaphas was the high priest of Jerusalem who, according to Biblical accounts, sent Jesus to Pilate for his execution.

As high priest and chief religious authority in the land, Caiaphas had many important responsibilities, including controlling the Temple treasury, managing the Temple police and other personnel, performing religious rituals, and--central to the passion story--serving as president of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish council and court that reportedly considered the case of Jesus.

The high priest had another, more controversial function in first-century Jerusalem: serving as a sort of liason between Roman authority and the Jewish population. High priests, drawn from the Sadducean aristocracy, received their appointment from Rome since the time of Herod the Great, and Rome looked to high priests to keep the Jewish populace in line. We know from other cases (such as one incident in 66 C.E.) that Roman prefects might demand that high priests arrest and turn over Jews seen as agitators.

Caiaphas was the son-in-law of Annas, high priest from 6 to 15 C.E. and head of a family that would control the high priesthood for most of the first century. Annas is also mentioned in Biblical accounts. It is possible that he, as a high priest emeritus, might have served at the side of Caiaphas in the Sanhedrin called to resolve the fate of Jesus.

Although little is known of Caiaphas, historians infer from his long tenure as high priest, from 18 to 36 C.E., that he must have worked well with Roman authority. For ten years, Caiaphas served with Roman prefect Pontius Pilate. The two presumably had a close relationship. It is likely that Caiaphas and Pilate had standing arrangements for how to deal with subversive persons such as Jesus.

High priests, including Caiaphas, were both respected and despised by the Jewish population. As the highest religious authority, they were seen as playing a critical role in religious life and the Sanhedrin. At the same time, however, many Jews resented the close relationship that high priest maintained with Roman authorities and suspected them of taking bribes or practicing other forms of corruption.

In the year 36 C.E., both Caiaphas and Pilate were dismissed from office by Syrian governor, Vitellius,

Matthew 26:63

⁶³But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, “I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God.”

Matthew 26:64

⁶⁴Jesus said* to him, “*You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.*”

Matthew 26:65

⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy;

But this was a passage the Sadducean Caiaphas did not recognize!!!!

Why does Jesus do it this way?

What does it communicate/show about the trial of Jesus?

Daniel 7:13

¹³ “I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a Son of Man was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days
And was presented before Him.

Daniel 7:14

¹⁴ “And to Him was given dominion,
Glory and a kingdom,
That all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language
Might serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
Which will not pass away;
And His kingdom is one
Which will not be destroyed.

Pharisees:

Disgusted with Sadducees sellout....

Want to return to true faithfulness in God

They were educators:

. . . wished to embrace the whole people, and in particular through education. It was their desire and intention that everyone in Israel achieve holiness through the study of the Torah

Became a force.... BECAUSE of influence on common people...

BECAME MORE AND MORE RIGID

As kingdom/Pharisees/Hasmoneans.... Became more like greeks

One time – 76BC

Things got much worse for the Pharisees during the reign of Hyrcanus' son, Alexander Jannaeus (103-76 BCE). One year during the Feast of Tabernacles, Alexander, (King and High priest) , corrupted the libation ceremony by pouring the water over his feet instead of on the altar as the Pharisees decreed. For this, he was pelted by the religious Jews with lemons. Outraged at this affront, he had his soldiers slay 6,000 of the offenders. This brought on a civil war which lasted six years and cost 50,000 Jewish lives. When the war eventually ended, Josephus records that Alexander transported some of his Jewish prisoners of war, most of them probably Pharisees, "to Jerusalem, and did one of the most barbarous acts in the world to them; for as he was feasting with his concubines, in the sight of all the city, he ordered about eight hundred of them to be crucified; and while they were living, he ordered the throats of their children and wives to be cut before their eyes " (bk. 13, ch. 14, sec. 2, *The Antiquities of the Jews*).

Whole period marked:

1. Civil war..... started by lemons.... Etc
2. Many Messiah's

As part of this.... 65 BC → 2 Hasmonean princes – fighting for power

One – supported by Sadducees (aristocracy)

Other – supported by Pharisees

Pharisee one – asks for support from Rome (Pompey)

Wrong people to invite to the party

Rome comes → takes over – Judea is now part of Rome! 63BC

Imagine yourself then....

God gave your people this land 2000 years ago.

Since 600 BC you have been trampled (with exception of 10 yrs)

By Babylon

By Persia

By Greece

By Greek culture (as your leaders sold out to them)
By Rome (Iron empire from Daniel)

Prophecies:

Daniel points to an empire just after Rome → antichrist's empire

Joseph (Zealot) after Jesus during revolt –

Says to Vespasian → YOU ARE ANTICHRIST!!!!

The Old Testament – JEWISH CANON → SEPTUAGINT

Septuagint – greek translation of Jewish scriptures.... Completed about 100BC

Contains a list of books (what is God's word, what is not)

If you were a scholar from then.... You would realize....

GOD IS NOT SPEAKING TO HIS PEOPLE ANYMORE!!!!

From Moses → he spoke

Through Joshua

Through the Judges → despite their faithlessness

(they did what was right in their own eyes)

Through David and Solomon

Through the bad kings of Israel and Judah (prophets spoke)

But by 100 BC.... They must have realized... not speaking anymore

Not that there were not great FAITHFUL ORATORS

Mattathias' speech (in Apocrapha) from 167BC

WOW... faith filled

Cites the STORY... Abraham.... Moses... Joshua

See why Pharisees would have become HYPER DILLIGENT

Base example – bad marriage – spouse not speaking

Like bad marriage... not speaking anymore

Husband might think.... She complained about

Feet on coffee table

Cleaning up after myself, etc....

So now, since she is not speaking.... I will become hyper-diligent about that.

This rush of events that set the stage for Christ had a profound impact on the Jewish people. **Both Jews and pagans from other nations were becoming dissatisfied with religion.** The pagans were beginning to question the validity of polytheism. Romans and Greeks were drawn from their mythologies towards Hebrew scriptures, now easily readable in Greek or Latin. The Jews, however, were despondent. Once again, they were conquered, oppressed, and polluted. Hope was running low, faith was even lower. They

were convinced that now the only thing that could save them and their faith was the appearance of the Messiah.

Jesus says a lot to the Pharisees:

John 5:39

³⁹“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

John 5:40

⁴⁰and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

Matthew 23:13

¹³“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because **you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people;** for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

Matthew 23:14

¹⁴“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites,** because you devour widows’ houses, and for **a pretense you make long prayers;** therefore you will receive greater condemnation.

Matthew 23:15

¹⁵“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one **proselyte;** and when he becomes one, **you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.**

Matthew 23:16

¹⁶“Woe to you, **blind guides,** who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, *that* is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple is obligated.’

Matthew 23:17

¹⁷“You **fools and blind men!** Which is more important, the gold or the temple that sanctified the gold?

Matthew 23:18

¹⁸“And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, *that* is nothing, but whoever swears by the offering on it, he is obligated.’

Matthew 23:19

¹⁹“You blind men, which is more important, the offering, or the altar that sanctifies the offering?

Matthew 23:20

²⁰“Therefore, whoever swears by the altar, swears *both* by the altar and by everything on it.

Matthew 23:21

²¹“And whoever swears by the temple, swears *both* by the temple and by Him who dwells within it.

Matthew 23:22

²²“And whoever swears by heaven, swears *both* by the throne of God and by Him who sits upon it.

Matthew 23:23

²³“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and **have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness;** but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

Matthew 23:24

²⁴“You blind guides, **who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!**

Matthew 23:25

²⁵“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you **clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence.**

Matthew 23:26

²⁶“You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.

Matthew 23:27

²⁷“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like **whitewashed tombs** which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are **full of dead men’s bones** and all uncleanness.

Matthew 23:28

²⁸“So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are **full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.**

Matthew 23:29

²⁹“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous,

Matthew 23:30

³⁰and say, ‘If we had been *living* in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in *shedding* the blood of the prophets.’

Matthew 23:31

³¹“So you testify against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.

Matthew 23:32

³²“Fill up, then, the measure *of the guilt* of your fathers.

Matthew 23:33

³³“You serpents, you **brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?**

Matthew 23:34

³⁴“Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city,

Matthew 23:35

³⁵so that upon you may fall *the guilt of* all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

Matthew 23:36

³⁶“Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

**Wow..... but these were the guys who set up education of Jesus
They made the Jews biblically literate....
Allowing much of the dialogue with Jesus
What happened to them?**

Romans 7:5

⁵For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were *aroused* by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

Essenes:

**Through all this → other separate peoples – Essenes
Rejected the Sadducees.... Corrupt
Rejected the Pharisees – also corrupted**

Move to Dead Sea (Qumran) – write the dead sea scrolls

strictly celibate but communal life

show summary....

Matthew 5:43

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’

Matthew 5:44

⁴⁴“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Actually that's NOT scripture:

Leviticus 19:16

¹⁶You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:17

¹⁷You shall **not** hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him.

Leviticus 19:18

¹⁸You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

Zealots;

Zealots → God is King.... NO MORE OPPRESSORS

Insisted upon.... FULL RESTORATION of Jewish rule

They were Revolutionaries....

LOOKING FOR A KING....

No longer interpreting prophecies as lion laying down with lamb....

Now → main point MESSIAH AS RULER OF EARTH

Seen as the one to now OPPRESS THE OPPRESSOR

Look at this....

John 6:15

¹⁵So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.

Herod the Great

Manipulated to get the throne

His Father – temporary ruler of area by Rome (supposedly converted to Judaism)

Herod started out ruling in Galilee

Put down zealots.... Accused of murder by Sanhedrin

Actually went to go on trial there.... But brought HUGE force with him.... Charges were dropped

Parthians (enemies of Rome to the East) – attacked/captured Jerusalem & Israel....

Herod went to Rome... Friends with Mark Antony – and Octavian (later Ceasar Augustus)

Convinces them to give him Judea as his kingdom

He then worships Jupiter on Palatine Hill with Mark Antony and Octavian

Then Herod named King of the Jews

He has to conquer his kingdom though

Hasmonean kings – civil unrest....

He marries Hasmonean princess

Legitimizes him (a little) with Jews

Mark Antony/Cleopatra and Octavian → embroiled in Civil War

Where do you think they meet for the final battle

Land in the middle

Herod supports Mark Antony/Cleopatra...OOPS

Octavian now Emperor

Herod sails to island of Rhodes....

“I will support you with the same loyalty I had for Mark Antony”

Octavian is IMPRESSED with this AUDACITY

Kills hasmonean king....marries his daughter

Actually really loves her.... But has her killed later

Kills a few sons....

Not until July 37 B.C. did he get Jerusalem.

the priesthood had become only a temporary office held at the King's pleasure.

First Appointed High Priest by Herod:

Brother in law of Hasmonean wife (young – 20 or so)

People LOVE him..... Herod Jealous

Family swimming party.... wrestling with Herod's thugs....

Held him under a bit too long....

Herod is blamed and HATED for this

Wife NEVER forgives him

Accused later of adultery and EXECUTED

Herod the Great:

Believes he is Messiah....

Builds Herodium... in Bethlehem

Manmade mountain.... Believed to be referenced by Jesus:

Known as one of the largest Palaces in Roman empire

NOT called Ceasaria, Antonia, or

NOT named after another king....

Named after himself.... King of the jews.

Matthew 21:21

²¹And Jesus answered and said to them, “Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ it will happen.

Matthew 21:22

²²“And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

Ruthless Ruler

- Had decided which of his heirs would take the thrown

Killed the other 2 sons shortly before his death...

Augustus Ceasar jokes.....

better to be Herod’s pig (hus) than his son (huis)

- Built the temple... put a golden eagle above the entrance

‘ (honor Rome)

- Two rabbis got the young pupils to tear it down

(when Herod took ill)

Herod had them burned alive

Clawed his way to power → named King of the Jews

Kills whoever threatens him....(including family)

After 31 years or reign.... Alone.... Paranoid...

Imagine....here come the Magi...

Matthew 2:1

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, ^omagi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

Matthew 2:2

²“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

Herod freiks.... Kills all babies in Bethlehem

But he sets up Jesus in many ways:

Temple – largest religious complex in Ancient World

Herod's motive → keep Saducees happy...

→ Every great king had a great temple

Temple becomes backdrop for Jesus....

started Temple in 20BC

10000 workers

1000 priests trained on how to build the holy of holies

1000 wagons

Foundation stone – where ark went

Holy of holies was now empty... no ark

So Jesus interacts with the Temple

Goes to every feast his whole life

Teaches at the Temple

Overturns the money changes

Yells at the Pharisees....

But something is terribly wrong with this Temple..... what?

How was atonement achieved for the Jews?

Ephesians 2:19

¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

Ephesians 2:20

²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,

Ephesians 2:21

²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,

Ephesians 2:22

²²in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Herod Antipas.....

One of the spoiled sons of Herod the Great

Builds Sephoris (Zappora) in Jesus day

Jesus probably worked there....

Herod – Jesus lives in Nazareth... Herod building Sephoris (Zappora) nearby
(Jesus probably worked there)

Herod moves to Sea of Galilee around 30AD

Jesus moves down the road (Capurnuum) around the same time