

Lesson 13

The Story Between the Testaments

400 YEARS OF SILENCE

Now we have come to the end of the Old Testament.

Before we close this study let's go back to the classroom and take a look at historical facts that come between the Old and New Testaments. Not biblical but historical, for there are 400 years of silence between these two inspired testaments.

What terms refer to the time between the testaments?

- The 400 silent years
- Between The Testaments
- The Intertestamental Period

Old Testament

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song Of Solomon
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

New Testament

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts
Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation

400 YEARS BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS

From **Malachi** to the
beginning of
New Testament Times
no biblical prophet
spoke or wrote.



When the Old Testament closed, a remnant of the Jews had returned to their homeland. The temple had been rebuilt, the walls around Jerusalem had been rebuilt, and the Persian Empire dominated the then known world.

ASIA MINOR



Not all the Jews returned to their homeland. Some stayed in **Persia** and settled in the **Tigris-Euphrates Valley**. Others moved to **Antioch** and **Damascus** of Syria. During the Intertestamental Period large settlements of Jews even appeared in **Asia Minor** and **Egypt**.

Though many dispersed far from the temple in Jerusalem, the Jews remained loyal to their religion.

They kept up their reading of the law and the prophets.

The result was a heightened expectation of the promised Messiah.



To study the later history of the Persians and on into the Grecian empire one must rely upon uninspired historians namely:


- The Jewish historian Flavius Josephus
- Greek and Roman historians
- Inscriptions from archaeological finds
- The apocryphal books

Though not inspired these secular historians give detailed information about the
Intertestamental Period.

To study the later history of the Persians and on into the Grecian empire one must rely upon uninspired historians namely:

- The Jewish historian Flavius Josephus
- Greek and Roman historians
- Inscriptions from archaeological finds
- The apocryphal books

Though not inspire
give detailed i
Intertesta



Are you familiar
with the
apocryphal
books?

THE APOCRYPHAL BOOKS—

There are 14 of them. They were written during the Intertestamental Period. The content of them is Jewish history, yet the Jews never accepted them as inspired. The Jewish Bible consists of the 39 books we generally accept as the Old Testament.

REMEMBER, THE JEWS had the oracles of God committed to them—

Romans 3:1-2

“¹What advantage then hath the Jew? . . .

²Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.”

THE 14 APOCRYPHAL BOOKS—

I Esdras

II Esdras

Tobit

Judith

Esther additions

Wisdom of Solomon

Ecclesiasticus

Baruch

Song of Three Holy Children

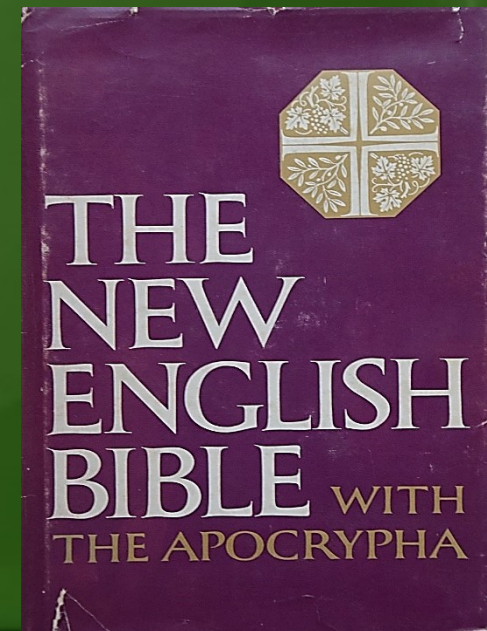
History of Susanna

Bel and the Dragon

Prayer of Manasseh

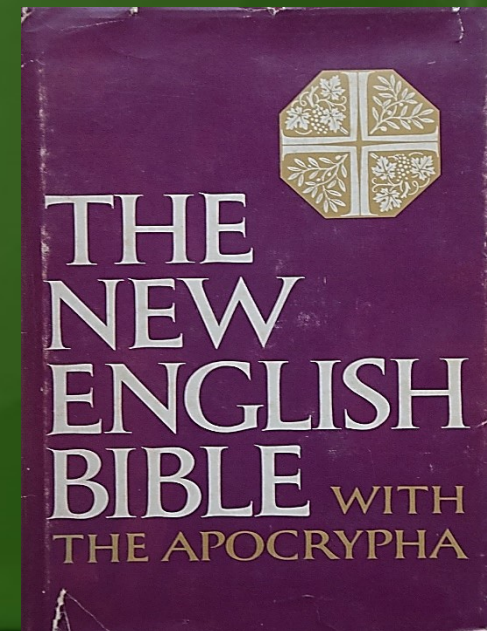
I Maccabees

II Maccabees



There are
NO QUOTATIONS
in the
New Testament from the Apocrypha

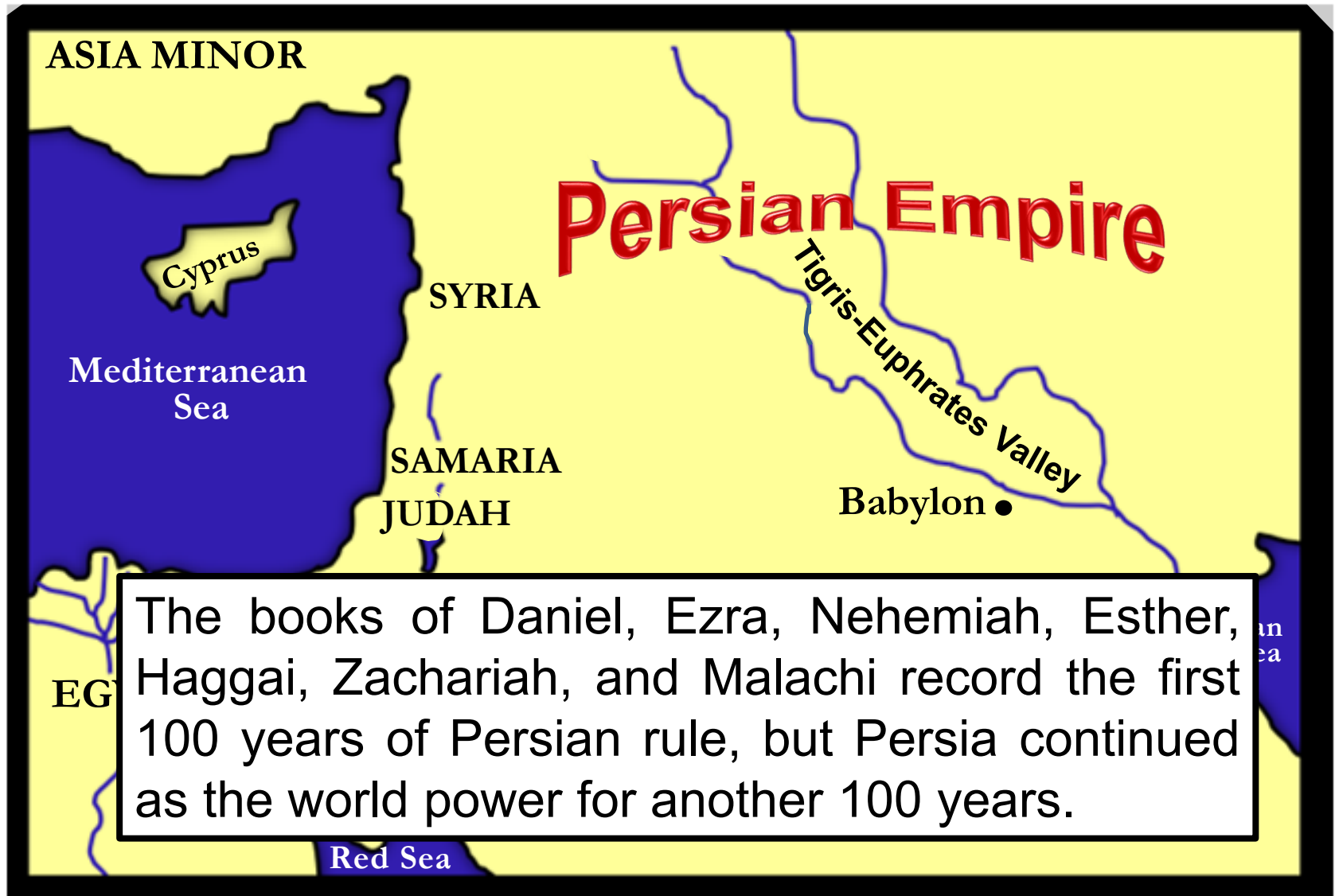
But, there are 250 express quotations in the New Testament from the Old Testament and the number goes over 1,000 when you include partial and indirect references.



YET,
The Catholic Church
ACCEPTS THE APOCRYPHA AS INSPIRED

The Catholic “Council of Trent” in A.D. 1546
decided to include the Apocrypha in their Bible,
though even they assigned them a somewhat inferior rank.

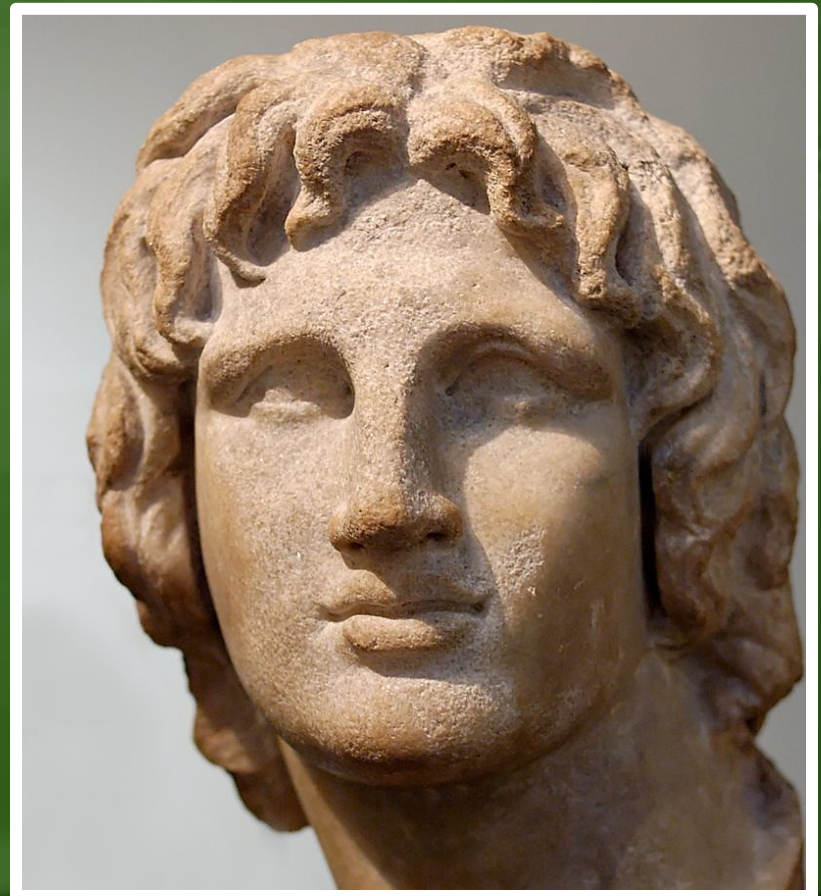




Alexander The Great
conquered Persia—
The 3rd world empire
represented in Daniel's
vision by the body and
thighs of brass.



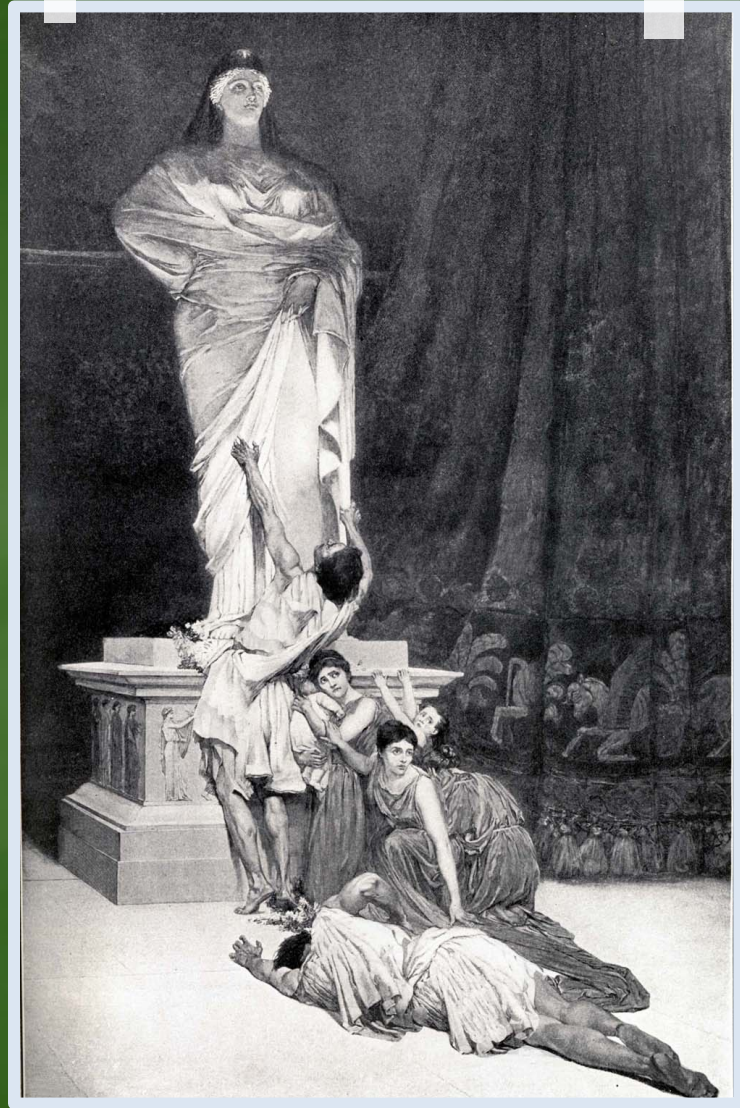
Alexander III of Macedon,
commonly known as
Alexander the Great,
was King of the
Greek Empire.



Extent of Alexander the Great's Empire

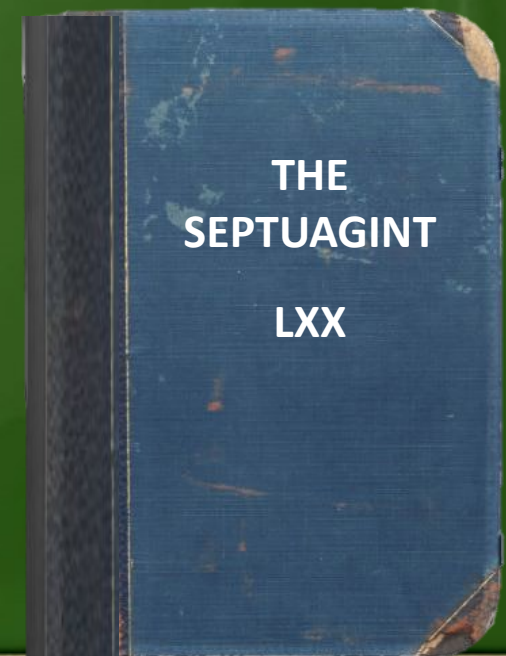


With Alexander the Great's
Greek World Empire
came Greek gods, Greek
law, and Greek language.



The Grecian Civilization gave the world a universal language resulting in the Old Testament Scriptures being translated and accessible to all.

This Old Testament translation was called the Septuagint. The name Septuagint comes from the Latin word for “seventy” also known as LXX. It is believed that the Septuagint got its name because it was translated by seventy scholars. Christ himself read from this version of the Old Testament Scriptures.



Division of Alexander The Great's Empire—

Daniel predicted the empire of Alexander would separate into 4 parts, that the great horn would be broken and in its place would arise 4 horns (Daniel 8:5-10).

Following Alexander's death his empire was divided between his 4 generals.



Alexander the Great's Coinage

Photo: Wikimedia / Link: Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. <http://www.cngcoins.com>



The Greek King Antiochus Epiphanes who ruled over the Seleucid State was a bitter persecutor of the Jews.



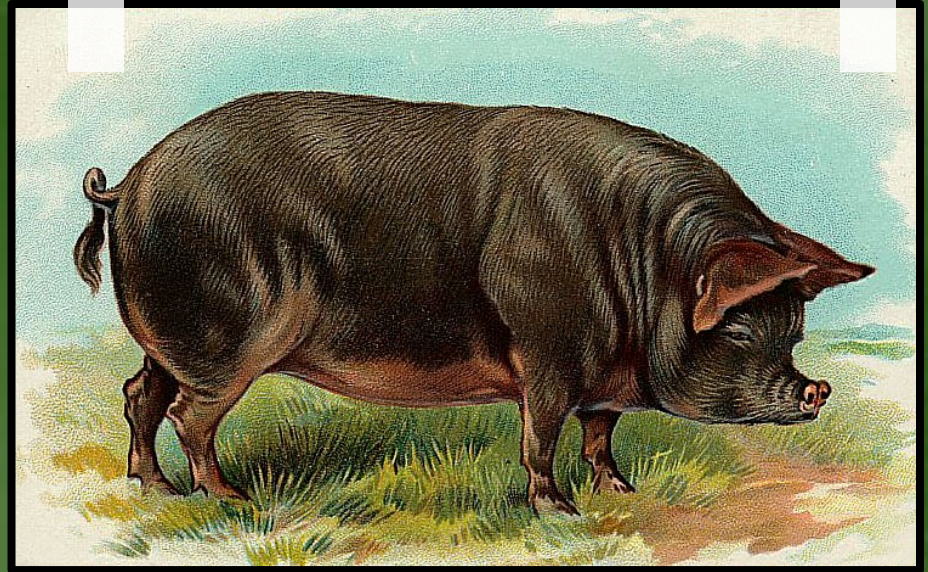


Jewish culture and religion had been respected and protected by previous dynasties, but Antiochus Epiphanes drastically reversed this policy.

PHOTO:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bust_of_Antiochus_IV-Altes_Museum_\(Berlin\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bust_of_Antiochus_IV-Altes_Museum_(Berlin).jpg)

A notable event of his reign was the near conquest of Egypt, and during his efforts there the Jews heard a report that he had died in Egypt, but alas, the report was false.



He returned to Israel, slew 40,000 Jews, and profaned the temple by offering a sow on the altar. Not only that but the Jews were compelled to eat the flesh of swine, an unclean beast.

The cruelties of Antiochus Epiphanes brought about a revolt of the Maccabees under the leadership of Mattathias.

The Maccabees aroused the patriotism of the Jews.

Maccabees (hammer)—

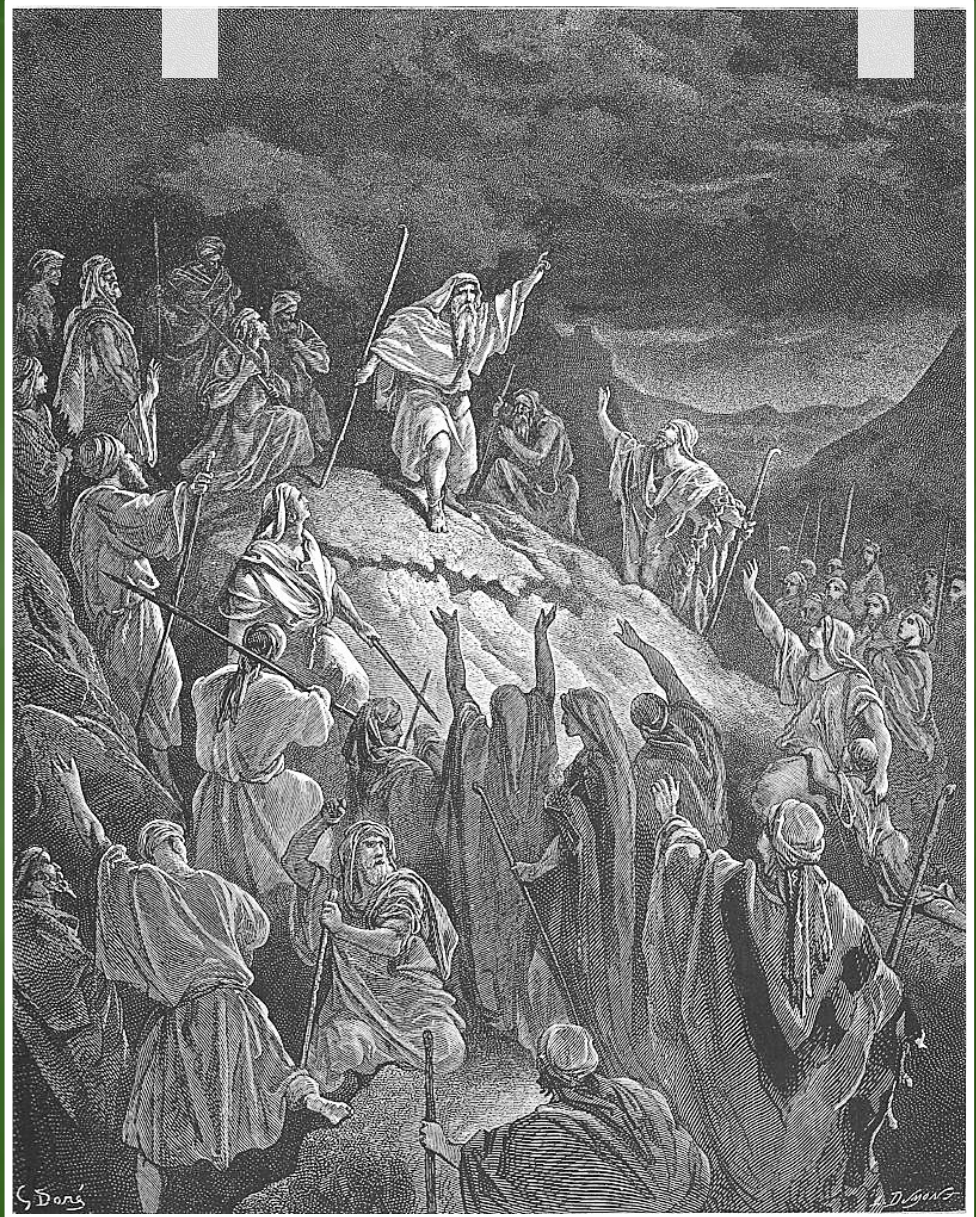
A name given to a Levitical Jewish family that had the courage to “hammer” their enemy. Mattathias, the father, was a priest. He had 5 sons.



By Ariel Palmor - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=15216687>

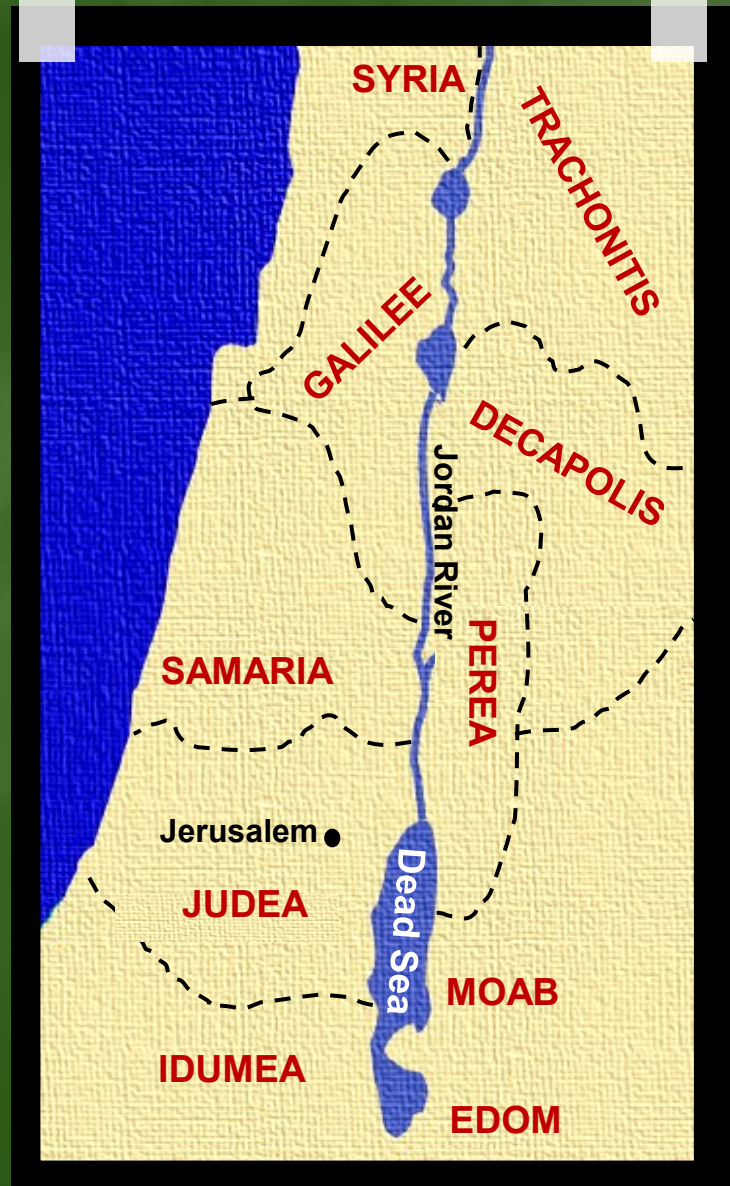
**Tomb Of Mattathias
Leader Of Maccabees**

The Maccabees led the Jews as they recaptured Jerusalem from Antiochus Epiphanes' grasp, and the Jews resumed their sacrifices at the holy temple.



The result of the Maccabean Revolt and the Maccabee's subsequent control of Judea was a dynasty, an independent kingdom ruled by the Maccabees. The boundaries of Judea were expanded.

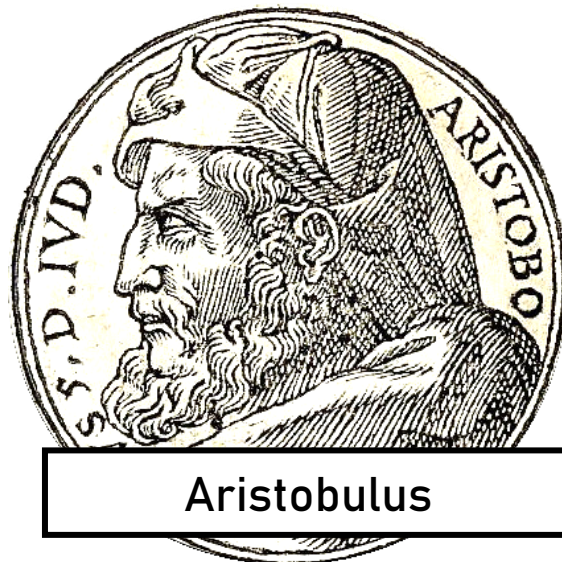
The division of the land into tribes had long been forgotten and provinces appeared: Judea, Samaria, Galilee, and Perea . . . all quite familiar to the New Testament reader.



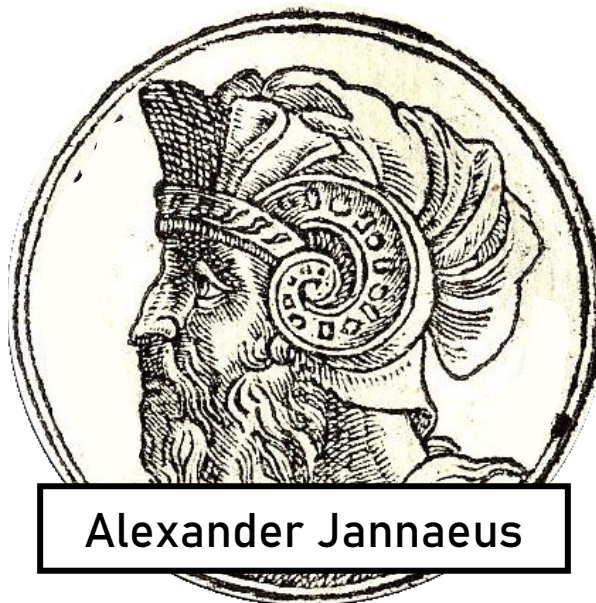
Peace prevailed until the government fell into the hands of tyrants such as—

**Aristobulus
And
Alexander Jannaeus.**

These two men were brothers and though descendants of the Maccabees they were very corrupt.

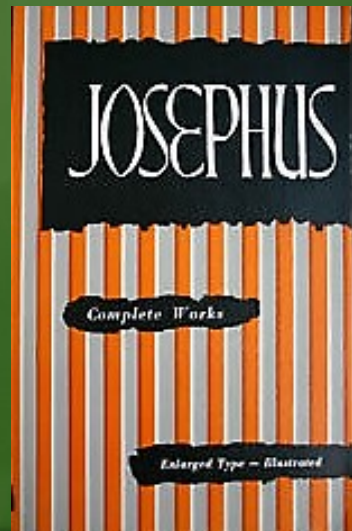


Aristobulus



Alexander Jannaeus

The book of Josephus delves deeply into the Maccabean dynasty; its corruption and bloodshed.



THE TEMPLE

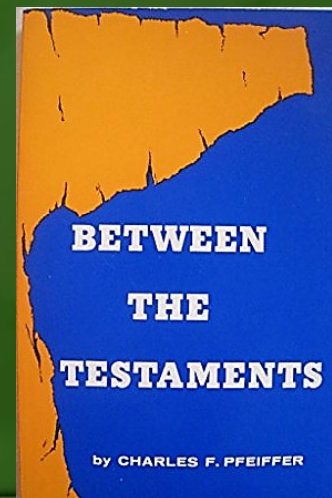
During the Maccabean dynasty the temple became more than a place of worship, for the offices of priest and high priest became that of rulers and privileged leaders in society.



RELIGIOUS DIVISION

The Jews divided into sects two of which, the Sadducees and Pharisees, caused a conflict with such contempt that a rebellion brought about a civil war, which ended with 800 Pharisees being crucified.

(Between the Testaments,
by Charles F. Pfeiffer, p. 100).



Pharisees:

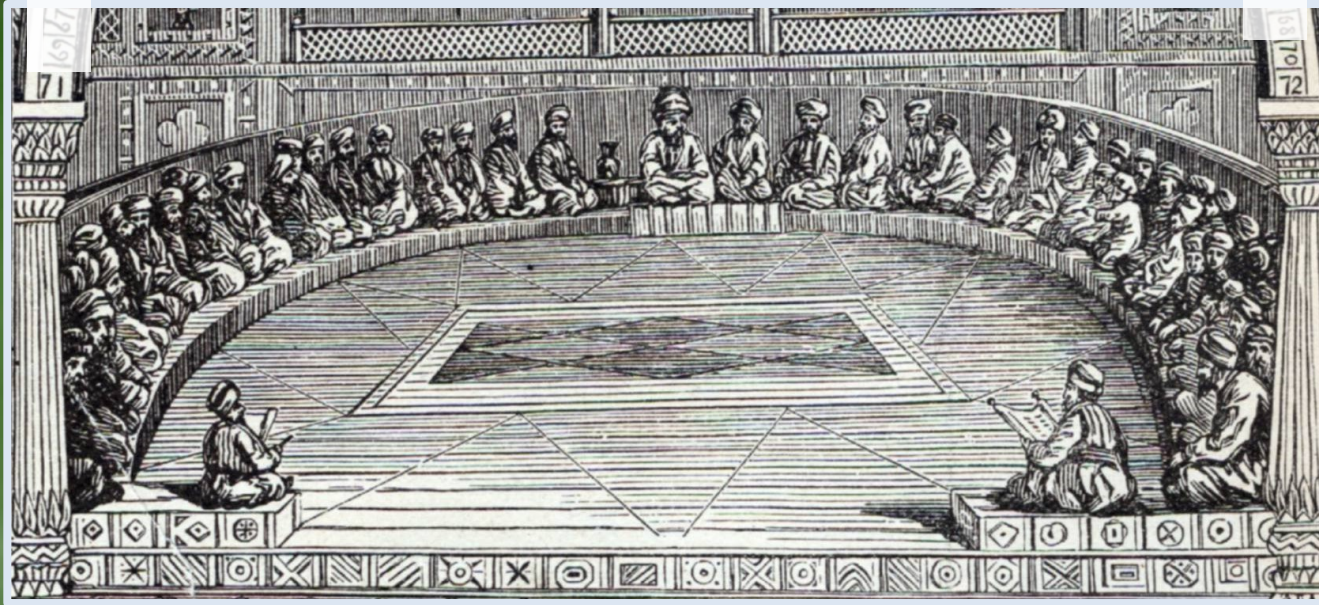
- Pharisee means separated ones.
- It was the strictest sect of the Jews.
- They were sticklers for ceremonial purity.
- They wore distinguishing garb so as to be recognized.
- They controlled the temple and maintained the synagogues.
- They opposed Roman rule.
- They taught predestination.
- They were hypocritical.



Sadducees:

- The sect of the High Priesthood.
- They rejected the Pharisee's oral laws.
- They did not believe in **spirits, angels, or the resurrection** which was very "Sad U see."





Who were the Sanhedrin?

The highest legal and administrative body among Jews in the Greek and Roman periods. They were a council of 70 elders plus the president who was the High Priest.

The origin of the Sanhedrin is unknown, and there is no historical evidence for its existence before the Greek period.



Enter the Romans . . .

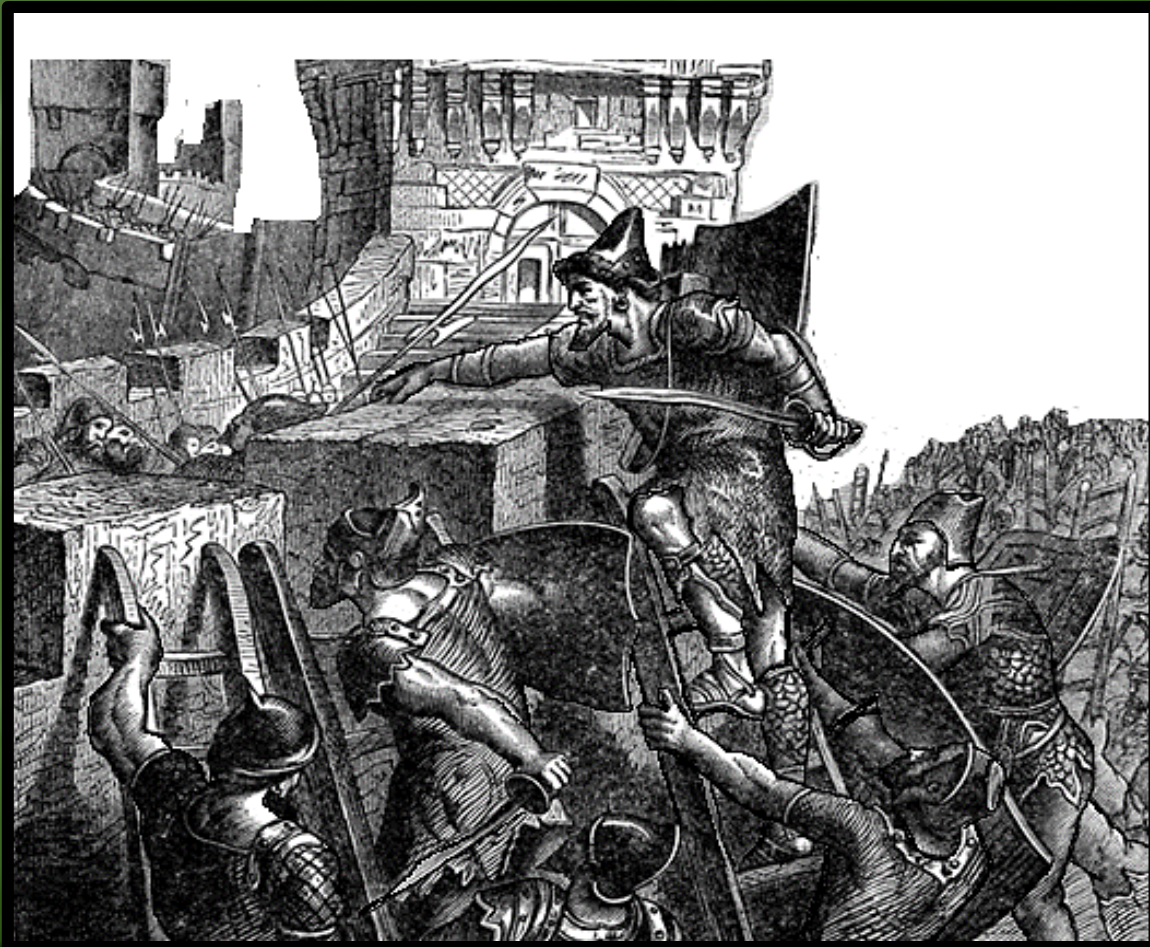
The Roman general Pompey saw the political difficulties of the Jews as an opportunity to obtain power over Palestine.

12,000 Jews were killed as the Roman army took the city of Jerusalem. This was the year 63 B.C.



Pompey

Palestine was now under Roman rule.

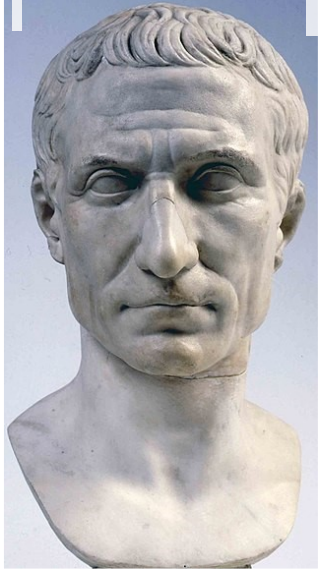


VOCABULARY—

Palestine: From Hebrew *Pelesheth* "Philistia, land of the Philistines."

Josephus describes it as the country of the Philistines which extended under Roman rule to all Judea and later to Samaria and Galilee.





Julius Caesar
was Emperor
of Rome.

His empire was
organized into provinces
each having a ruler.

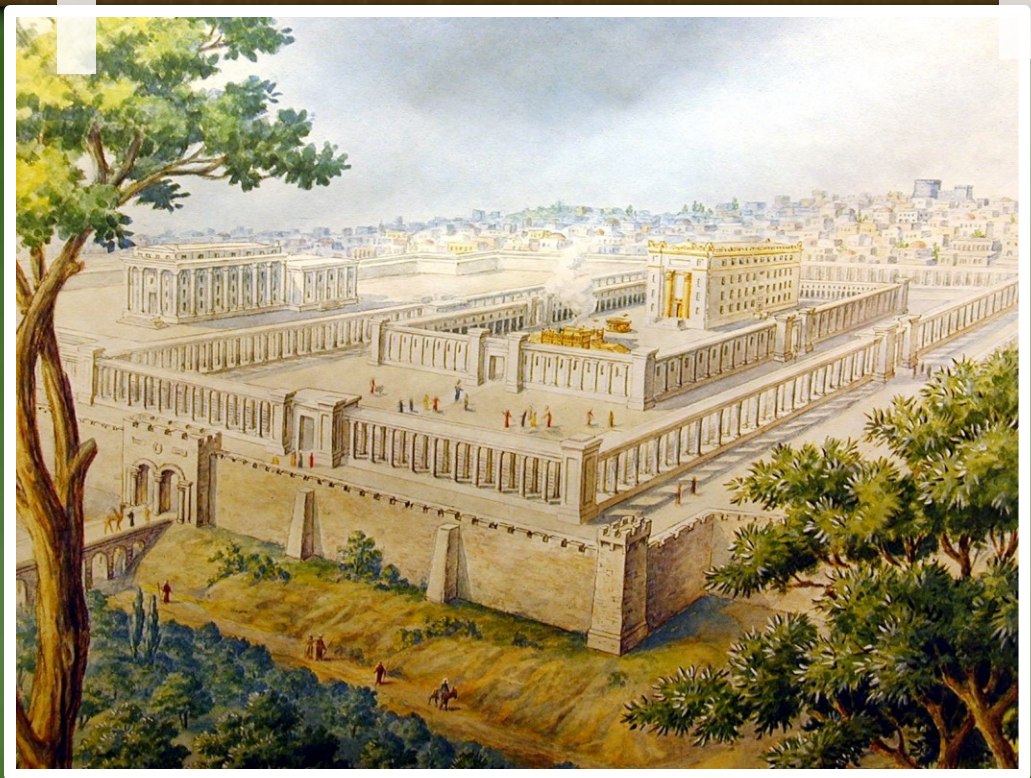
Herod the Great was
granted the title "King of
Judea" by the Roman
Senate.

MAP OF PROVINCES



As much as possible Rome allowed the local people to rule themselves.

Herod granted the Jews religious liberty. In fact, Herod even funded renovations to the 500-year-old temple that the Jews had built after their return from captivity. It was a time of peace and renewal.



Rome constructed roads throughout the empire; the very roads Jesus would walk and later the Christians would use to take the Gospel to the whole world.



By Davidbena - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=68161669>



When Christ was born the “silent years” ended.

THE END