

THE CHURCH & THE JEWS
SERIES BY DAVID BIRNBAUM

THE CRUCIFIXION

OF THE JEWS



Book 1

TimeLine:
1 CE - 1300 CE

David Birnbaum

New Paradigm Matrix™

THE DIRECT TRAJECTORY FROM THE CANON GOSPELS IN
THE FIRST CENTURY TO AUSCHWITZ IN THE TWENTIETH

www.Crucifixion1000.com

THE CRUCIFIXION



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21st CENTURY PUBLISHING

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THE CRUCIFIXION OF THE JEWS

David Birnbaum's *The Crucifixion* is a uniquely distinctive work on the extraordinary historical odyssey of the Jews during a pivotal slice of history.

This work focuses on the 1300 year time frame bracketing the emergence of Christianity in the First Century, followed by the Christianizing of the Roman Empire post-Constantine, and finally, by the ending of the Crusades c. 1300 CE.

The author focuses on the crushing historical forces at-play. The Jewish nation which entered this period, is unrecognizable from the Jewish nation which emerged....

* * *



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About the Author

David Birnbaum is known globally as “the architect of Potentialism Theory” – a unified philosophy/cosmology/metaphysics. The paradigm-challenging theory is delineated in Birnbaum’s 3-volume *Summa Metaphysica* series (1988, 2005, 2014).

A riposte to *Summa Theologica* of (St.) Thomas Aquinas, the Birnbaum treatise (see PotentialismTheory.com) challenges both the mainstream Western philosophy of Aristotelianism and the well-propped-up British/atheistic cosmology of Randomness (see ParadigmChallenge.com). The focus of over 150 reviews and articles (see SummaCoverage.com), a course text at over 15 institutions of higher learning globally (see SummaCourseText.com), *Summa Metaphysica* was the focus of an international academic conference on Science & Religion April 16-19, 2012 (see BardConference.com).

David Birnbaum is, as well, the Editor-in-Chief of the in-progress *Mesorah Matrix* series on Jewish thought and spirituality: 10-volume, 10-theme, 150+ global Jewish thought leader essayists (see Mesorah1000.com).

In the history realm, David Birnbaum is the author of the 2-volume *The Crucifixion – of the Jews*, and of the 7-volume *Jews, Church & Civilization*. His *Crucifixion* series, in particular, traces a direct trajectory from the Canon Gospels in the First Century to Auschwitz in the Twentieth.

Birnbaum is a graduate of Yeshiva University High School (Manhattan), CCNY (City College of New York – Engineering) and Harvard. His commentary blog is www.ManhattanObserver.com.

See also www.DavidBacademic.com

(David Birnbaum bio above updated 10/01/15)

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A CHRONICLE

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DAVID BIRNBAUM MAJOR WORKS

As Author

3-volume Summa Metaphysica (www.philosophy1000.com)

2-volume The Crucifixion (www.crucifixion1000.com)

7-volume Jews, Church & Civilization (www.civilization1000.com)

As Editor-in-Chief*

10-volume Mesorah Matrix (www.mesorah1000.com)
(target completion: 2020)

5-volume Commentary Matrix (www.commentary1000.com)
(target completion: 2020)

As Conceptualizer

3-volume Summa Spinoffs (www.Spinoffs1000.com)

8-volume Potentialism Theory via Graphics
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As Commentator

www.ManhattanObserver.com

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Books by David Birnbaum

www.DavidBacademic.com

History-related

www.History1000.com

Jews, Church & Civilization
I, II, III, IV, V, VI & VII
(2005)

www.Civilization1000.com

The Crucifixion

I and II

(2009)

www.Crucifixion1000.com

Metaphysics-related

Summa Metaphysica series

www.Philosophy1000.com

Summa Metaphysica I:

Religious Man: God and Evil

(1988)

[originally published by KTAV Publishing]

Summa Metaphysica II:

Spiritual Man: God and Good

(2005)

Summa Metaphysica III:

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(2014)

Summa Metaphysica:

Supplement: Articles on Summa

(2013 and onward)

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spin-offs from

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www.Spinoffs1000.com

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Numbers / *Ba Midbar*

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Deuteronomy / *D'varim*

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Summa Metaphysica
[artistic/graphic representations]**

www.MetaphysicsB.com

www.MetaphysicsC.com

Q4P I Theory of Potential

Q4P II Theory of Potential

Cosmic Womb of Potential I Complexification (C+)

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Theory of Everything: Cosmic Tool Kit #I + II

Theory of Everything: Cosmic Tool Kit #II

Quest for Potential[∞] (Q4P)

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end of David Birnbaum book listings

www.PotentialismTheory.com

www.SummaCoverage.com

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“David Birnbaum’s latest book, *The Crucifixion: The Church & the Jews 1 CE – 1300 CE*, provides an amazing wealth of historical information on the struggles of the Jewish people in relation to Christianity during its first thirteen centuries of existence. Dedicated to the “Righteous Gentiles” who risked their lives to save Jews from Nazi persecution, the book nonetheless raises up to Christians a devastating portrait of their ongoing prejudice, hatred, and persecution. The timelines are exhaustive and the photos and maps illustrative. The book leaves the reader stunned into reflection....”

– Judith M. Kubicki
Professor, Department of Theology, Fordham University
President, North American Academy of Liturgy
Former Academic Dean, Christ the King Seminary, NYS

“Important and disturbing”

- Martin E. Marty
Professor Emeritus
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“Birnbaum challenges Christianity to confront core issues.”

- Richard John Neuhaus
Editor, *First Things*

A *“must read”*

- Rabbi Dr. Bernhard H. Rosenberg
Associate Professor, Holocaust Studies, Rutgers
Associate Professor, Communications, Yeshiva University

“He (Fidel Castro) began this discussion by describing his own, first encounters with anti-Semitism, as a small boy.

‘I remember when I was a boy – a long time ago – when I was five or six years old and I lived in the countryside,’ he said, ‘and I remember Good Friday.’

What was the atmosphere a child breathed?

‘Be quiet, God is dead.’ God died every year between Thursday and Saturday of Holy Week, and it made a profound impression on everyone.

What happened?

They would say, ‘The Jews killed God.’

They blamed the Jews for killing God!

Do you realize this?”

– Fidel Castro

Writer Jeffrey Goldberg article
for *The Atlantic Monthly*
September 2010 issue
recounting his interview of
Former Cuban President, Fidel Castro

*kol ha-olam ku-lo
gesher tzar m'od,
gesher tzar m'od*

*v'ha-i-kar, ha-ikar
lo l'fa-ched,
lo l'fa-ched klal*

*v'ha-ikar, ha-ikar,
lo l'fa-ched klal*

*

All the world
is like a narrow, frail footbridge

But the important thing,
the really important thing...

is not to be afraid...
not to be afraid...at all...

*

– modern day Jewish folk song

“We should always be disposed to believe
that that which appears white
is really black,
if the hierarchy of the Church so decides.”

– *Saint Ignatius of Loyola*
c. 1523 CE

"David Birnbaum's *The Crucifixion* traces the multi-century institutional lethal 'negative branding' [of the Jews] which ultimately doomed millions. This politically-raw work is a high-voltage 21st century incarnation of the iconic *J'Accuse* piece by Zola."

Yitzhak Shamir
- former Prime Minister of Israel

Paper cannot wrap up a fire

– ancient Chinese proverb

Population Comparison

	1 CE	2011 CE
(a) Jewish population	7 MM	13 MM
(b) Total world population	750 MM	7 B
(c) Jewish % of global	0.9%	0.2%
(d) change / Jewish share of global		decrease by 78%
(e) total global growth		9.3 x
(f) total Jewish growth		less than 2 x
(g) hypothetical Jewish population if it followed global growth		65 MM
(h) Jewish shortfall / (g) – (a) >		52 MM
(i) ratio: shortfall: actual		4:1*

* Meaning, for every Jewish person alive today, four are “missing”

Dedicated

to the

Righteous Gentiles*

* Valorous European and Asian non-Jews who, during the Holocaust, risked their lives to save Jews from Nazi persecution. The known names and memories are individually recognized at an official state tribute at Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial on the outskirts of Jerusalem, Israel. Individual tributes are located along a memorial path of trees and gardens planted in their honor, commemorating their extraordinary courage and compassion (www.YadVashem.org).



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A general overview of this 2–volume set

This work, *The Crucifixion*, is really *two-books-in-one* –

Book 1

- > **TimeLine:** 1 CE – 1300 CE
(but really informally 480 BCE – 1300 CE)

plus the crucial

Book 2

- > **First Century Focus:** 80+ inter-related Exhibits

The TimeLine provides historical *context, overview, drama*
and *texture*

The First Century Focus then *gets to the guts* of the matter

The Crucifixion

A more focused overview of this 2–volume set

The First Century was an inflection–point in Jewish history.

Christianity – which was to emerge as a key nemesis of the Jews – was born.

Rome defeated Judea, destroyed Temple II – and exiled a good portion of the Jews.

Pharisee–Judaism would overtake and then totally eclipse Sadducee–Judaism.

The Canon Gospels would be introduced.

The global demonization of the Jews would commence. This demonization would crescendo in our own times into a blood–climax of degradation and genocide 1900 years later via the Holocaust.

All five of the above components are inextricably inter–twined. Thus, a classic timeline alone cannot truly "tell the story" in full focus and texture.

As a modality to flesh–out these key historical themes, this work employs two companion volumes:

Book 1: TimeLine

Book 2: The First Century

*

Wrapping-around this 2–volume work, The Crucifixion – is another of my works – a later work – my 7–volume TimeLine

Jews, Church & Civilization (see www.History1000.com)

– which spans from the dawn–of–time thru the 21st Century.

a focused note to Catholic readers of this work

This work is measured, but direct.

It was quite carefully crafted over a multi-year period
to be as close as possible to 100% accurate.

One of the intents of the work is for the Catholic laity, in particular,
to more fully *come to grips* with the dimensions of the
(ongoing) impacting 'issues.'

*

As we are aware,
all our genetic coding is 99.9+ percent identical.

Ultimately, we all
sail the sea of life
on this planet
together.

*

Definition: Torah et al.

Definition: Torah et al.

The *Torah* refers to the Five Books of Moses (or Pentateuch).

The *Torah* is the first part of the 3–section TaNaKh (a.k.a. *Tanach*), the Jewish Canon (Holy Texts).

TaNaKh stands for –

<i>Torah</i>	The Law/Teachings a.k.a The Five Books of Moses
<i>Neveim</i>	Prophets
<i>Ketuvim</i>	Writings

The TaNaKh (a.k.a. Mikrah a.k.a. Miqra a.k.a The Masoretic Text) is composed of 24 books.

[Christianity accepts these same 24 books as divine (or divinely–inspired), but using the same texts, albeit more sub–divisions (e.g. Samuel I and Samuel II) arrives at a higher number than 24.]

The *Torah*, (when bound known as a *Chumash* or as *Chamisha Chumshei Torah*) in turn, incorporates:

<i>Bereshit</i>	(Genesis)
<i>Shemot</i>	(Exodus)
<i>Vayikra</i>	(Leviticus)
<i>Bamidbar</i>	(Numbers)
<i>Devarim</i>	(Deuteronomy)

The term “Hebrew Bible” is used by many to refer to the *Torah* alone (and that is how this work employs the term). However, the term “Hebrew Bible” is also used by many, including Christianity, to refer to the entire TaNaKh.

Christianity refers to* the TaNaKh, the Jewish Canon, the Hebrew Bible, as the "Old Testament."

Judaism collectively bristles at the term ‘New Testament’ juxtaposed against a so-called "Old Testament," as the juxtaposition and the term ‘New Testament,’ in particular – implies an updated *divine* document, implies that a contemporaneous witness is relating the vignettes related, implies that a non-anonymous author stands behind the particular homily, implies at least co-equal ‘standing’ to the *Torah*, implies non-hyper-edited texts, and implies *supersession* (i.e. that Christianity displaces Judaism).

To Judaism, there is only one Testament, and it is not "new."

However, the terms New Testament and Old Testament have been successfully implanted by the Church in global society.

* NOTE: The TaNaKh – the Hebrew Bible – ends with Chronicles II and the exhortation to rebuild the Temple. The so-called "Old Testament" – whose precise order was delineated by the Church Fathers – ends with Malachi, whose closing words are framed by Christianity as a prophetic foreshadowing of Jesus.

Definition: Torah et al.

In Christianity, the term 'The Bible' sequentially incorporates two divisions:

First Division: The Jewish Canon^a

Second Division: The Christian Canon

The core of the Jewish Canon is the Torah (the Five Books of Moses).

The core of the Christian Canon is the four Canon Gospels.

The Christian Canon is also known as the aforementioned New Testament a.k.a. Greek New Testament a.k.a. Greek Scriptures a.k.a. New Law.

The New Testament, while packaged back-to-back by the Church with the Old Testament, is simultaneously often (gravely) pejorative to both the letter and spirit of the TaNaKh (Jewish Canon), and to the Jews, the recipients and guardians of the *Torah* and of the TaNaKh, as a whole.

Thus the New Testament is consistently quite significantly derogatory to the Jews on three basic levels simultaneously:

- to Jewish theology, tradition and law
- to the Jewish nation as a whole, *collectively*
- to the Jewish character *individually*

^asee * on prior page

The first four works of the (27–work) New Testament are the Canon Gospels:

"Matthew"

"Mark"

"Luke"

"John"

The work fifth 'in standing' in Christendom's New Testament is "Acts" a.k.a Acts of the Apostles

*

The Christian "Passion Saga" – extrapolated from 'cherry-picked' *intense* vignettes from sundry Gospels (and then often intensely turbo-charged – and not necessarily benignly towards the Jews) – is *more often than not* highly toxic and incendiary towards the Jews, collectively and individually.

The Passion Saga was and is readily accessible to the Christian masses, and its message and imagery are readily comprehensible to even five-year-olds. For the 1300-year span covered by this book and beyond, the intense Passion Saga *de facto* becomes the Christian Bible's projection to the world. And it is a quite-highly toxic projection *vis à vis* the Jews.

Moreover, one should not assume that the humanistic posture in church towards the Jews of a random 2010 Presbyterian minister in Vermont, is emblematic of the posture towards the Jews of a random c. 500 CE Catholic cleric in Medieval France/Germany...

THE CRUCIFIXION

Book 1

TimeLine:
1 CE – 1300 CE

	page no.
Introduction	37
Lead-in #1 480 BCE – 301 BCE	45
Lead-in #2 TimeLine 300 BCE – 1 BCE	61
MAIN TimeLine 1 CE – 1300 CE	131

*

An Integrated
Jewish/Christian/Universal
focused timeline

*

You are in Book 1

c. 1250 BCE

the first two of the Ten Commandments:

I יֵאָנֹכִי הוּא אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הוֹצֵאתִיךָ
מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים יֵאָמַר
לִּי אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים עַל־פְּנֵי:
II לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה־לְךָ פֶסֶל וְכָל־תְּמוּנָה אֲשֶׁר
בַּשָּׁמַיִם מִמַּעַל וְאֲשֶׁר בָּאָרֶץ מִתַּחַת
וְאֲשֶׁר בַּמַּיִם מִתַּחַת לָאָרֶץ: יֵאָמַר
תִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לָהֶם וְלֹא תַעֲבֹדֵם כִּי אֲנֹכִי
הוּא אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל קָנָא...

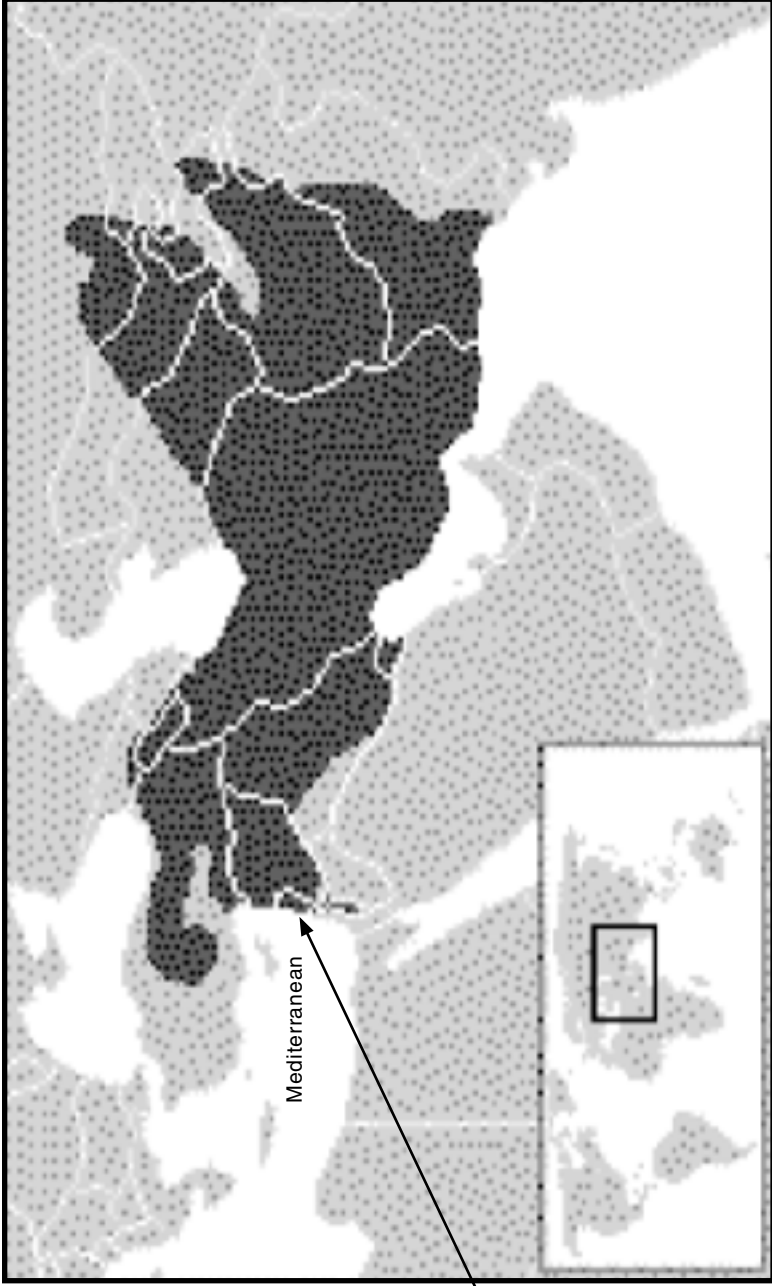
תורה שמות כ יתרו

- I ²I the LORD am your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage:
³You shall have no other gods besides Me.

- II ⁴You shall not make for yourself a sculptured image, or any likeness of what is in the heavens above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I the LORD your God am an impassioned God,...—TORAH EXODUS 20: 2-5 YITRO

Lead-in to

“The Crucifixion”...



Mediterranean

JUDEA

Seleucid Empire
(shaded black)

source: www.wikipedia.org

Introduction

The introductory TimeLine [Lead-in #2] of this work, “Crucifixion,” commences 300 BCE, 23 years after the death of Alexander the Great, and 31 years after pivotal Battle of Gaugamela 331 BCE, which shifted the Near East, the Levant and Judea, among other regions, from Persian dominance to Greek control....

In turn, in 63 BCE, Roman general and master geopolitical player Pompey, politically maneuvering eastward, absorbed what was left of the disintegrating Seleucid Empire, into a Roman province – incorporating Judea...

By the year 1 CE, Judean King Herod’s super-renovated and gold-leafed extraordinary Temple II glistened on its Jerusalem hilltop plateau, a Wonder of the Ancient World, visible and awe-inspiring from the approaches to Jerusalem.

Hillel (110 BCE – 10 CE) the renowned Jewish sage, preached humanism and “love thy neighbor” as key Jewish tenets; his philosophical standard bearers, the Pharisees, would emerge as mainstream/normative Judaism.

The preeminent Roman rulers spanning the capture of Jerusalem by Pompey (63 BCE) and the three Jewish rebellions (through 135 CE) are listed along with some salient events relevant to our Integrated TimeLine during the period of latter days of First Roman Republic:

Early days Roman Empire Emperors

- # 63 BCE
Cicero and Antonius are the two Roman Consuls
[Gen. Pompey readily captures Jerusalem 63 BCE after adroit alliance with one of the two contending Jewish forces in the internal Jewish civil war]
- # Various Roman 2–Consul leaderships
63 BCE–60 BCE
- # The First Triumvirate
60 BCE–53 BCE
Caesar/Crassus/Pompey
- # Pompey
52 BCE–49 BCE
- # Caesar
49 BCE–44 BCE
[Caesar crosses the Rubicon (river) 49 BCE]
- # Mark Antony / Octavian (Augustus) / Lepidus
known as “The Second Triumvirate”
44 BCE–33 BCE
[Herod named tetrarch of Jerusalem 42 BCE]
- # Octavian (Augustus)
33 BCE–27 BCE
(but Octavian not ruling as emperor yet)
- # During subsequent period of Roman Empire:

continued (on next Left-side page)

Christianity would absorb some of Hillel's key humanistic motifs in the decades that followed his death.

The Jews, heirs to the heroic and glorious legacies of Moses, Mt. Sinai, David, Solomon and the Maccabees, stood at the very apex of Mediterranean civilization and society.

It was widely disseminated and/or suspected that something profound and cosmic had occurred *vis à vis* the Jews at Sinai. The Jews—and only the Jews—had this distinct claim on *destiny*.

In the year 1 CE, the ~7 million Jews represented approximately 2.8% of the world's population of approximately 250 million.

The Roman Empire was eventually to fall under the control of the Catholic Church by the mid-300s CE. It had been *de facto* Church policy since c. 68 CE to demonize and de-humanize the Jews. Now, with control of the *organs of state* of the Roman Empire, the Catholic Church would disseminate these themes with a vengeance. The Jews became total pariahs throughout the empire.

Between the years 68 CE and 1300 CE, the Catholic Church persuaded the world that “the Jew” was a cross between an evil *sub-human* and a conspiratorial *diabolical* entity.

Latter days Roman Republic Rulers

- # And the Roman emperors:
- # Octavian (Augustus a.k.a. Caesar Augustus
a.k.a. Augustus Caesar)
27 BCE to 14 CE
[Herod dies 4 BCE; Jesus born c. 5 BCE]
- # Tiberius
14 CE to 37 CE
[Jesus crucified by Pontius Pilate 33 CE]
- # Caligula
37 CE to 41 CE
- # Claudius
41 CE to 54 CE
[“Letter to Alexandrians” (i.e. Alexandrian Jews)]
- # Nero
54 CE to 68 CE
[1st Jewish Revolt c. 67 CE;
General Vespasian dispatched to Judea]
- # [“Year of the Four Emperors”:
Galba; Otho; Vitellius... Vespasian 68 CE]
- # Vespasian
69 CE to 79 CE
[son Titus ends Jewish Revolt I in 70–73 CE]
- # Titus
79 CE to 81 CE
[Arch of Titus; Vesuvius erupts 79 CE;
Fire of Rome 80 CE;
multi-year notable public romance with (Jewish ‘royal’) Berenice]
- # Domitian
81 CE to 96 CE
- # Nerva
96 CE to 98 CE
- # Trajan
98 CE to 117 CE
[2nd Jewish Revolt (Kitos) 115 CE–117 CE]
- # Hadrian
117 CE to 138 CE
[3rd Jewish Revolt (*Bar Kochba*) 132 CE–136 CE]

A random Roman Empire Jew would be born into this nightmare, and die 40–50 years later within its toxic envelopment, if he survived at all: isolated, denigrated, powerless – a shadow of the Jews in the non-Christian empires preceding the birth of Christianity.

By the year 1300 CE, the end of the last Crusade, the number of Jews had radically decreased. The historical estimates of the remaining Jews at that point (1300 CE) ranges from 1.4–3.0 million. So, at a maximum, assuming the figure was 3 million Jews, by the year 1300 CE, the Jews represented .0068 (approximately 7/10 of 1 percent) of the world's total population of 440 million.

Thus, calculating the decimation of the Jews very conservatively, the ratio of Jews in the world decreased from six million equaling .02181 (approximately 2.2 percent in year 0) of the world population, to three million equaling .0068 (approximately 7/10 of 1 percent in year 1300 CE) of the world's population over the 1300 year span.



Europe and the Mediterranean area
– at the time of the Crusades

JUDEA

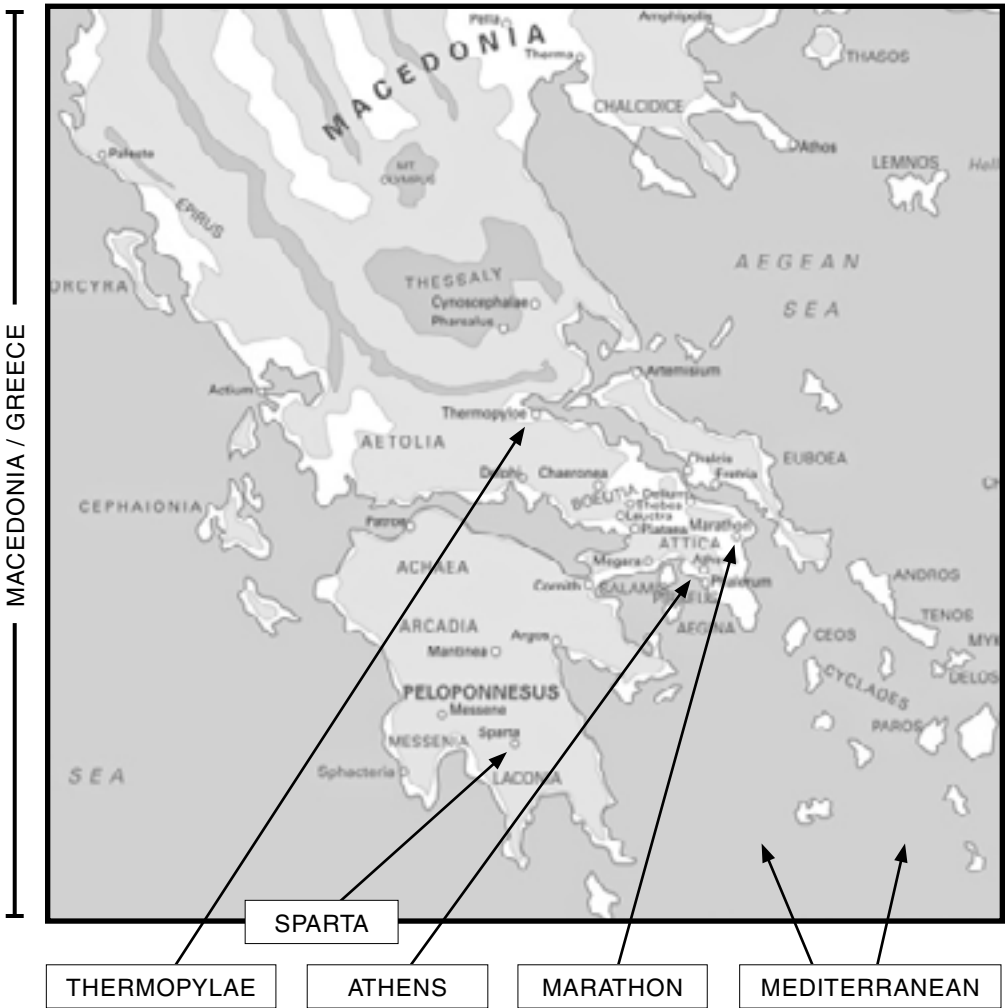
Meaning, by the end of the Crusades, the Jews represented at a maximum less than 1/3 of their former *ratio* of the world's population prior to the advent of the Catholic Church. In absolute numbers, over the 1300 year span, the Jewish population, at a minimum halved, while global civilization grew by about 60 percent.

The statistics, of course, do not *tell the story*, by any means; they merely frame-out the skeletal parameters – of a grand multi-century saga of betrayal and infamy.

And of survival – physical and spiritual....

Note: The Black Death only made an appearance in 1348, after the time frame of this work, and outside the parameters of the above statistics.

end of Introduction



Ancient Greece (Macedonia)

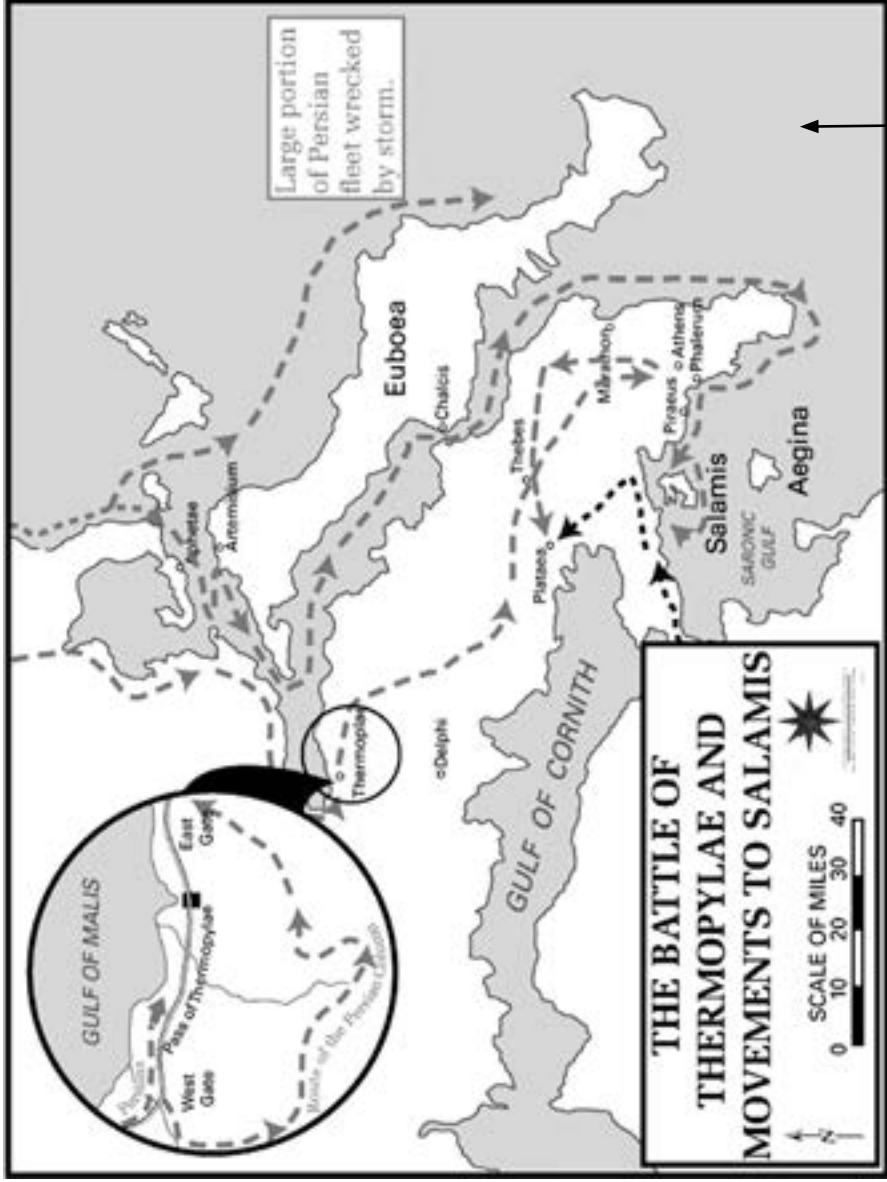
Lead-in #1
480 BCE – 301 BCE

**pivoting around the
“The Spartan 300”**

“The 300” is the historic shorthand applied to the legendary Spartan (Greek) core defensive force commanded by King Leonidas I at the iconic Battle of Thermopylae (Greece) in August/September 480 BCE.

“The 300” were pitted against the Persian Empire’s elite 10,000 “Persian Immortals,” themselves a sub-component of the forward-force of 200,000+ soldiers of Xerxes I, Emperor of Persia. The total Persian expeditionary force mustered by Darius I numbered between 250,000 (the current consensus) and 2 million+ (historian Herodotus).

The massive Xerxes I invasion itself was a delayed response to the Athenian/Greek victory over the Persians at Marathon (Greece) ten years earlier (c. 490 BCE). The earlier Persian invasion had been orchestrated by Darius I (reign: 522 BCE – 486 BCE), the late father of Xerxes I.

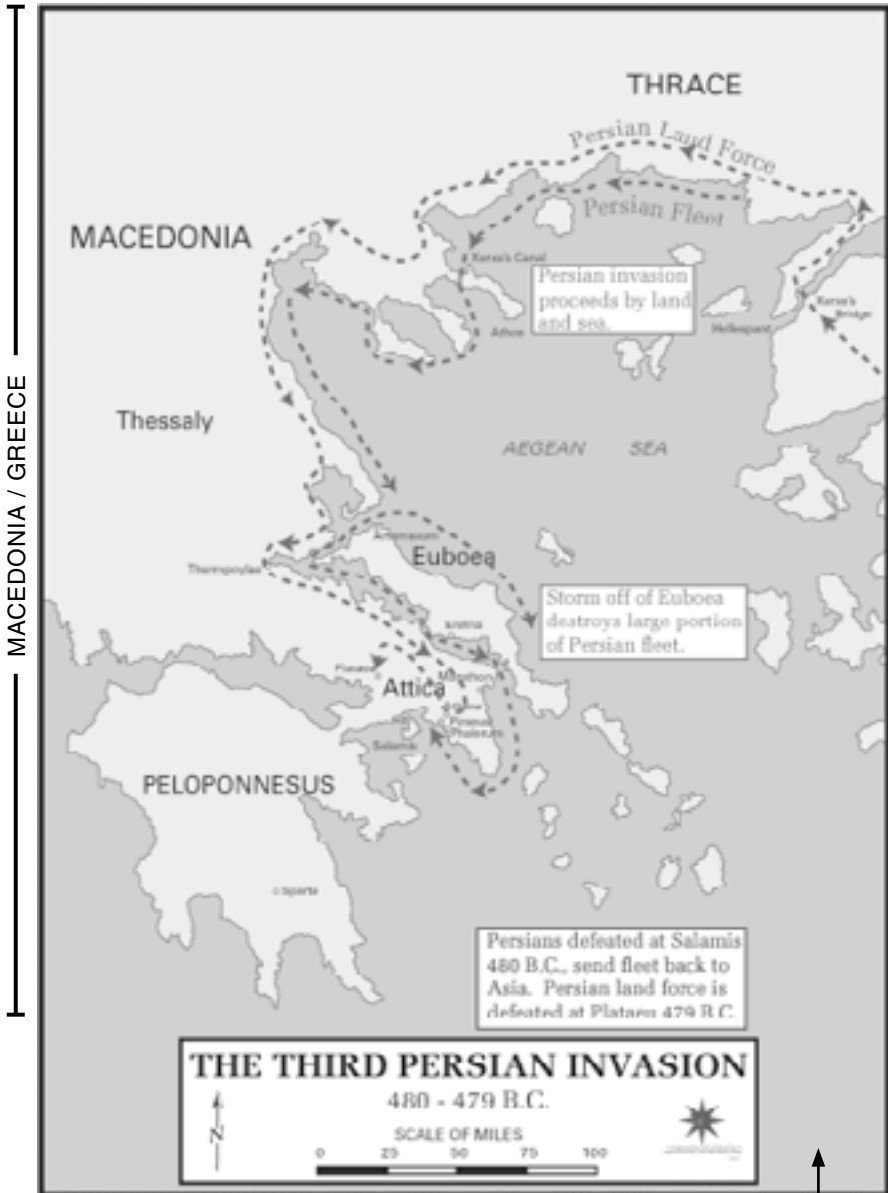


MACEDONIA / GREECE

The legend of “the 300” revolves around the ‘*last stand*’ of the Spartan Greeks under King Leonidas. Understanding that defeat by the Persians was inevitable, Leonidas had sent the great bulk of the 7,000–strong Greek defensive force back home to safety, electing only to delay the Persian advance utilizing his elite “300” (plus 1,100 allied soldiers) in a suicidal martyr–gambit to block the crucial Thermopylae Pass, entryway to Greece.

According to lore, “the (valiant) 300” essentially *held their ground* in the narrow pass. The Persians, however, maneuvered around them through a back–road pass, revealed to Xerxes’s troops by the traitorous Ephialtes. The Persians then attacked and slaughtered the “300” from two directions simultaneously.

The Persians won the battle of Thermopylae, but ultimately lost the war (Persian Invasion II). They also lost the next war (Persian Invasion III), approximately a year later.



Persian Invasion III

MEDITERRANEAN

- ***But where might the round and even “300” number have come from?***

The 300 warrior number may come straight from the saga of (Israelite Judge–Warrior) Gideon (c. 1150 BCE), whose super–elite 300–man Israelite strike force – trumpets blaring, torches flaring, clay jars shattering – psyched–out the Midianites, and put their much larger army to rout.

So, 670 years before Leonidas fielded his “300” at Thermopylae in Greece, Israelite Commander Gideon fielded his own “300” eastward in Canaan (Judaea).

“When the 300 trumpets [of Gideon’s troops] sounded, the Lord caused the men throughout the [Midianite] camp to turn on each other with their swords” (Judges/*Shoftim* 7:17)

- ***And, how does Xerxes relate to Jewish history, if at all?***

Xerxes I (reign: 485 BCE – 465 BCE) was most probably none other than Achashverosh (transliteration of Ahasuerus). Both names – Xerxes and Ahasuerus – derive directly from the Persian name *Khashayarsha*.

Achashverosh, was the Persian ruler who wed the legendary (Jewish Queen) Esther. She, in turn, saved the Jews, after some *fancy footwork* involving the king, from the evil Persian vizier Haman. The Jewish Holiday of Purim – celebrating the deliverance of the Jews from the evil Haman – is the result. [Purim is celebrated in March/April, always exactly four weeks before Passover.]

- ***What was the lineage of Xerxes?***

Xerxes I was the son of Darius the Great (reign 522–486 BCE), who had secured the throne of Cyrus the Great (reign 559–530 BCE) eight years after the death of Cyrus (530 BCE).

- ***And what is the context of Cyrus the Great here?***

Cyrus the Great (a.k.a Cyrus II) was the founder of the Achaemenid Persian Dynasty (559 BCE – 330 BCE), one of the world's great empires, not only in terms of land mass conquered, but in terms of contributions to civilization, as well. Among other contributions, the Persian Empire banned slavery in all its forms. As well, the *empire paradigm* followed by Cyrus (and later by Darius), assiduously respected the cultures and customs of the conquered peoples.

CYRUS THE GREAT

ILLUSTRATOR: ANGUS McBRIDE



Cyrus is introduced into Jewish history via the Book of Daniel. Trained in the Royal Court of Babylon, the young Jewish exile Daniel was called in by Belshazzar to decipher the *Writing on the Wall* (a.k.a. the Hand Writing on the Wall).

Prince Belshazzar was the son of Nabonidus (reign 556–540 BCE) destined to be the last king of Babylon. Nabonidus's predecessor Nebuchadnezzar (605–562 BCE), who died six years before Nabonidus assumed the throne – had destroyed (the Jewish) Temple I in Jerusalem – on the ninth Day of the lunar month of Av, 586 BCE.

Daniel 5:1–4 describes *Belshazzar's Feast*, wherein the Babylonian prince employed sacred vessels of the sacked Temple I of Jerusalem in a pagan feast. A disembodied hand then appeared writing on the wall. At loss to explain the cryptic meaning of the verses, Belshazzar summoned Daniel to interpret the writings, which Daniel did forthwith.

539 BCE: THE WRITING ON THE WALL

"THE FEAST OF BELSHAZZAR" (1635)

PAINTER: REMBRANDT



* “*Mene, Mene,
Tekel,
Upharsin,*”

* exact quote from Daniel

Addressing the Babylonian crown prince:

God has numbered the days of your kingdom
And brought them to an end;
You have been weighed on the scales – and found wanting;
Your kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and
Persians

– Book of Daniel 5:26–28

Belshazzar is slain shortly thereafter. Advance troops of Cyrus – emperor of the Medes & Persians – commence their military assault on the capital city of Babylon. On October 29, 540 BCE, the Imperial High Command Cyrus the Great himself entered the capital city of Babylon and detained Belshazzar’s father, Nabonidus, King of Babylon. The Babylonian Empire “was history.” The Persians would swallow the Babylonian Empire whole – 44 years after Babylon’s Nebuchadnezzar has sacked the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

Belshazzar

Dynasty XI of Babylon (Neo-Babylonian or Chaldean)

- Nabu-apla-usur (Nabopolassar) 626– 605 BCE
- Nabu-kudurri-usur (Nebuchadrezzar II (Nebuchadnezzar II) 605– 562 BCE
- Amel-Marduk 562– 560 BCE
- Nergal-šar-usur (Nergal-sharezer) 560– 556 BCE
- Labāši-Marduk 556 BCE
- Nabu-na'id (Nabonidus) 556– 539 BCE
(and his son Belshazzar in tandem)
- Cambyses 538– 522 BCE

>>>

In 539 BCE, Babylon was captured by Cyrus the Great of Persia, and lost its independence. His son, Cambyses, was crowned one year later formally as King of Babylonia.

- ***And how does Cyrus relate to Jewish history after his conquest of Babylon?***

Cyrus was indisputably the greatest ally and benefactor of the Jews in history – spanning the 3500 years of Jewish history.

Under Cyrus the Great of Persia, his *Edict of Restoration*, gave legal sanction to Jewish return to Jerusalem. In 538 BCE under the aegis of Cyrus's satrap, the legendary (Jewish) Zerubbabel (grandson of Judean King Jehoiachin) approximately 48 years after the Babylonian Exile (c. 586 BCE), approximately 42,000 Jews returned to Judea from Babylonia in this first wave of return.

Three years later, in 535 BCE, the rebuilding of the Temple (henceforth to be called Temple II) commenced under the aforementioned Persian Governor Zerubbabel. The rebuilding continued intermittently over the time span 535–515 BCE. The Jewish prophet Ezra, as well, oversaw the construction.

As noted above, Darius the Great (Darius I) had assumed the reigns of power of the Persian Empire in September 522 BCE, eight years after the death of Cyrus. Darius ratified the continued building of Temple II and was the emperor when Temple II was completed 516 BCE, and dedicated, 515 BCE.



Battle of Gaugamela, 331 BCE

- ***What was the denouement of the Achaemenid Dynasty?***

Down the road in Achaemenid Dynasty history, Darius III would fight 25-year-old Alexander the Great, who had marched eastward from Greece, at the Battle of Gaugamela (Persia) in 331 BCE. The historic battle resulted in a massive victory for the Macedonians (Greeks) and the fall of the Achaemenid Persian Empire. The empire of Alexander the Great's empire would unfold eastward, victory after victory, upon the heels of the pivotal victory at Gaugamela.

When Alexander's empire, in turn, devolved upon his death in 323 BCE, one of the major successor states, the (Greco-Syrian-Near Eastern) Seleucid Empire (312-63 BCE) ended up with control of Judea, among other territories in its vast domain. Antiochus (reign: 175-164 BCE), a.k.a. Antiochus IV Epiphanes, nemesis of the Maccabees (revolt: 167-142 BCE), would come from this Seleucid line.

The ultimate triumph of the Jewish forces over the Seleucids, in 142 BCE, after 25 years of revolt, is commemorated by the Jewish holiday of Chanukah.

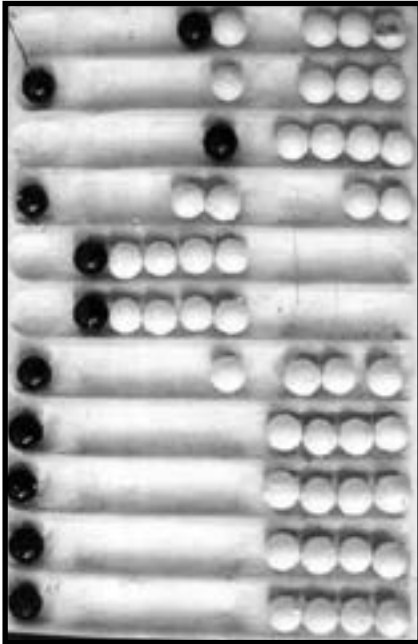
end of lead-in #1

480 BCE – 301 BCE

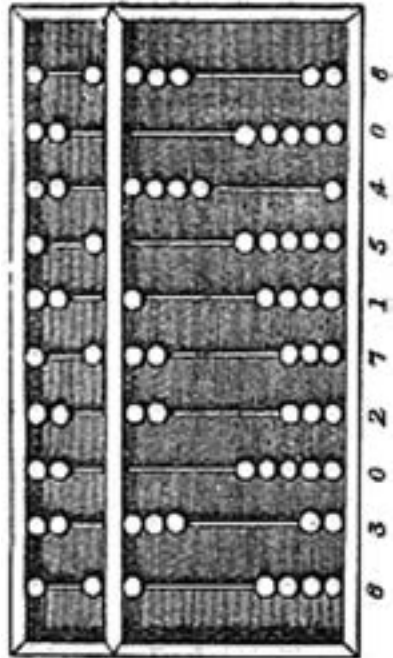
THE CRUCIFIXION



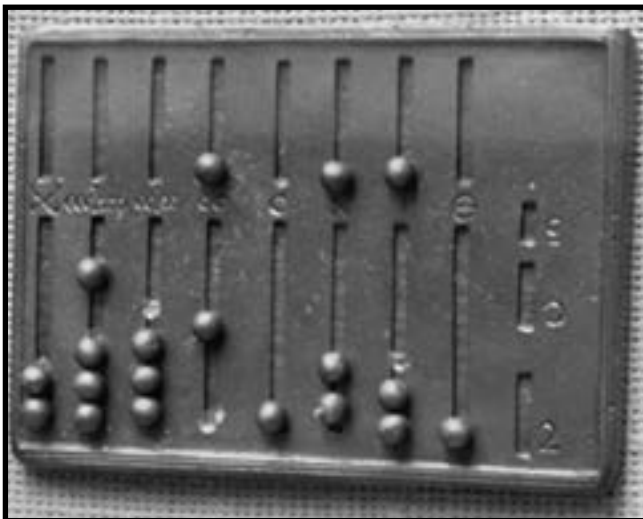
300 BCE: THE ABACUS



Older Abacus



Chinese Abacus



Roman Abacus

Lead-in #2
TimeLine
300 BCE – 1 BCE

300 BCE: EUCLID

Euclid, a Hellenist living in Alexandria, Egypt publishes *Elements*, a 13-volume treatise on geometry and the ancient Greek version of number theory.

Euclidean geometry employs, among other components:

- definitions
- postulates (axioms: highest level “laws”);
- propositions (theorems derived from postulates);
- proofs of theorems.

Euclidean geometry is a self-contained construct of mathematical and formal logic of elegance and perfection.

Elements has been revised in over 1,000 editions, and is considered the most successful “textbook” ever written.



300 BCE: THE ABACUS

The Babylonians invent the earliest calculator, the abacus, in Mesopotamia.

THE CRUCIFIXION



287 BCE: ARCHIMEDES

"ARCHIMEDES THOUGHTFUL"

Painter: DOMENICO FETTI



289 BCE: TROPHY LIGHT HOUSE

Ptolemy II of Egypt builds the first-known large lighthouse on an island at the mouth of the Nile. The lighthouse is 400 feet high, and according to lore, could be seen from 40 miles away.

[Author – Equations regarding “horizon” would confirm the 40 mile possibility, but only if a fire-beacon lit the top of the lighthouse, to further project its visibility.]

**287 BCE: ARCHIMEDES**

Britannica –

“The most famous mathematician and inventor of ancient Greece. Archimedes is especially important for his discovery of the relation between the surface and volume of a sphere and its circumscribing cylinder. He is known for his formulation of a hydrostatic principle (known as Archimedes’ principle) and a device for raising water, still used in developing countries, known as the Archimedes screw.

Far more details survive about the life of Archimedes than about any other ancient scientist, but they are largely anecdotal...

There are nine extant treatises by Archimedes in Greek: these include –

On Conoids and Spheroids deals with determining the volume.

On the Equilibrium of Planes (or *Centres of Gravity of Planes*; in two books) is mainly concerned with

THE CRUCIFIXION

△ 287 BCE: ARCHIMEDES



Archimedes is said to have remarked about **the lever**: “Give me a large enough lever*, and I will move the Earth.”

(an engraving from *Mechanics Magazine* published in London, 1824)

*and/or “a place to stand”

establishing the centers of gravity of various rectilinear plane figures *et al.*

The *Sand-Reckoner* is a small treatise that is a *jeu d'esprit* written for the layman—it is addressed to Gelon, son of Hieron—that nevertheless contains some profoundly original mathematics. Its object is to remedy the inadequacies of the Greek numerical notation system by showing how to express a huge number—the number of grains of sand that it would take to fill the whole of the universe.

Method Concerning Mechanical Theorems describes a process of discovery in mathematics. It is the sole surviving work from antiquity, and one of the few from any period, that deals with this topic. In it Archimedes recounts how he used a “mechanical” method to arrive at some of his key discoveries.

On Floating Bodies (in two books) survives only partly in Greek, the rest in Medieval Latin translation from the Greek. It is the first known work on hydrostatics, of which Archimedes is recognized as the founder.

Archimedes is known, from references of later authors, to have written a number of other works that have not survived. Of particular interest are treatises on catoptrics, in which he discussed, among other things, the phenomenon of refraction....

Archimedes' mathematical proofs and presentation exhibit great boldness and originality of thought on the one hand and extreme rigor on the other...

THE CRUCIFIXION

□ 280 BCE: "PYRRHIC VICTORY"



King Pyrrhus

In antiquity, Archimedes was also known as an outstanding astronomer.”

Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/32808/Archimedes> (accessed July 1, 2009)



280 BCE: PYRRHIC VICTORY

The term “Pyrrhic victory” enters into the military lexicon courtesy of King Pyrrhus of Epirus [currently Greece + Albania], whose ultimately victorious army suffers awesome casualties in his victory over the Romans at Heracles (280 BCE) and Asculum (279 BCE) during what comes to be known as the Pyrrhic War.

After his casualty-heavy victories, King Pyrrhus is reported by Plutarch and Dionysius to have caustically noted, “One more such victory will utterly undo me.”

Now, the obverse of a *Pyrrhic victory*, would be a **Pyrrhic loss** (with the term coined just now, here...*wink*).

For example: In 2007 (Palestinian wing) Fatah was unceremoniously routed from Gaza by (Palestinian wing) Hamas; the denouement (at least to date) has been that Fatah, delinked from international-*problem-child* Hamas, has “advanced” on the world stage from its newly defined center-of-gravity on the more pivotal West Bank, while Hamas has “twisted and turned” back in forlorn (under-siege) Gaza.

273 BCE: ASHOKA OF INDIA

Ashoka the Great (304–232 BCE) ascends as emperor of the Mauryan Empire. He then conquers and unifies most of South Asia, along with parts of Afghanistan and Iran. After conquering the adjacent kingdom of



250 BCE: THE SEPTUAGINT (THE SEVENTY)

ΣΙΝ ΕΤΩΝ ΕΒΔΟΜΗΚΑ
 ΑΡΤΑ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΟΝΤΟΣ ΚΥΡΟΥ
 ΠΕΡΣΩΝ ΕΤΟΥΣ ΠΡΩΤΟΥ
 ΤΟΥ ΕΙΣΣΥΝΤΕΛΕΙΑΝ
 ΡΗΜΑΤΟΣ ΚΥΡΟΥ ΕΝ ΣΤΟΜΑ
 ΤΙ ΙΕΡΕΜΙΟΥ ΗΓΕΙΡΕΝ
 ΚΑΙ ΤΟ ΠΝΕΥΜΑ ΚΥΡΟΥ
 ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΠΕΡΣΩΝ ΚΑΙ
 ΕΚΗΡΥΞΕΝ Ο ΛΗΤΗΣ ΒΑΝ
 ΛΕΙΑ ΑΥΤΟΥ ΚΑΤΑ ΜΑΔΙΑ
 ΓΡΑΠΤΩΝ ΛΕΓΩΝ ΤΑ
 ΔΕ ΛΕΓΕΙ Ο ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΠΕΡ
 ΣΩΝ ΚΥΡΟΣ ΕΜΕ ΑΝΕΒΑΝ
 ΞΕΝ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΤΗΣ ΟΙΚΟΥ
 ΜΕΝΗΣ Ο ΚΥΡΙΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΙΕ
 ΡΑΗΛ ΚΑΙ ΟΥΦΙΣΤΟΣ ΚΑΙ
 ΕΣΗΜΗΝΕΝ ΜΟΙ ΟΙΚΟ
 ΔΟΜΗΣ ΑΙ ΑΥΤΩ ΟΙΚΟΝ
 ΕΝ ΙΕΡΟΥΣΑΛΗΜ ΤΗΝ
 ΤΗ ΙΟΥΔΑΙΑ ΕΙΤΙΣ ΕΣΤΙ
 ΟΥΝ ΝΥΜΦΩΝ ΕΚ ΤΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ
 ΑΥΤΟΥ ΕΣΤΩ Ο ΚΑΛΥΤΗ
 ΜΕΤΑ ΑΥΤΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΑΝΔΡΑ
 ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΙΕΡΟΥΣΑΛΗΜ
 ΤΗΝ ΕΝ ΤΗ ΙΟΥΔΑΙΑ ΟΙΚΟ
 ΔΟΜΕΙ ΤΩ ΤΟΝ ΟΙΚΟΝ ΤΑ
 ΚΥ ΤΟΥ ΙΕΡΑΝ ΛΟΥΤΟΣ
 Ο ΚΑΙ ΚΑΤΑΣΚΗΝΩΣΑ
 ΕΝ ΙΕΡΟΥΣΑΛΗΜ ΟΣΟΙ
 ΟΥΝ ΚΑΤΑ ΤΟΥΣ ΤΟΠΟΥΣ
 ΟΙΚΟΥΣ ΙΝ ΕΘΗΤΩΣΑ
 ΑΥΤΩ ΟΙ ΕΝ ΤΩ ΤΟΠΩ
 ΑΥΤΟΥ ΕΝ ΧΡΥΣΩ ΚΑΙ
 ΕΝ ΑΡΓΥΡΩ ΚΑΙ ΕΝ ΔΑ
 ΣΕΟΙ ΗΜΕΘΙ ΠΩΣ ΚΑΙ
 ΚΤΗΝΩΝ ΣΥΝ ΤΟΙΣ Α
 ΛΟΙΣ ΤΟΙΣ ΚΑΤΕΥΧΑΣ
 ΠΡΟΣ ΤΕΘΘΗΜΕΝΟΙΣ ΕΙΣ
 ΤΟΙΣ ΕΡΟΝΤΟΥ ΚΥ ΤΟ ΕΝ Ι
 ΕΡΟΥΣΑΛΗΜ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΤΑ ΤΗ
 ΣΑΝΤΕΣ ΟΙ ΑΡΧΙΦΥΛΟΙ
 ΤΩΝ ΠΑΤΡΙΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΙΟΥΔΑ

The Septuagint: A column of uncial text from 1 Esdras in the *Codex Vaticanus*, the basis of Sir Lancelot Charles Lee Brenton's Greek edition and English translation.

source: Plate XII. "The S.S. Teacher's Edition: The Holy Bible." New York: Henry Frowde, Publisher to the University of Oxford, 1896.

Kalinga in 265 BCE, Ashoka has regrets over his warlike tendencies, adopts Buddhism, and makes it the official religion of the Mauryan Empire.

In the 260s BCE, Ashoka grants increasing religious and social tolerance, as well as animal rights. He builds hospitals for the poor and for animals, and treats his subjects as equals regardless of class or creed. He promotes non-violence and republicanism. His historical zenith is probably the *Edicts of Ashoka*, which codify his historic reforms.



250 BCE: THE SEPTUAGINT (THE SEVENTY)

Greek King of Egypt, Ptolemy II Philadelphus, has 72 Jewish scholars translate the Five Books of Moses (as well as other books from the *Tanach*) into Greek.

Note: The title “The Septuagint” (a.k.a. “The LXX”) comes from the Greek number 70 (rounded-off from 72).

One wonders...if they *rounded off* the precise number in their own title, whether they also *rounded off* the translations....

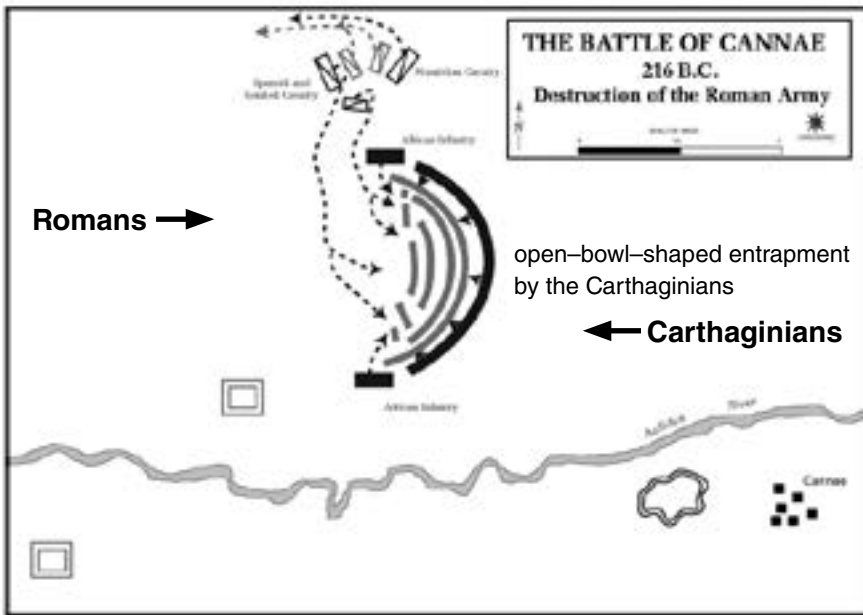
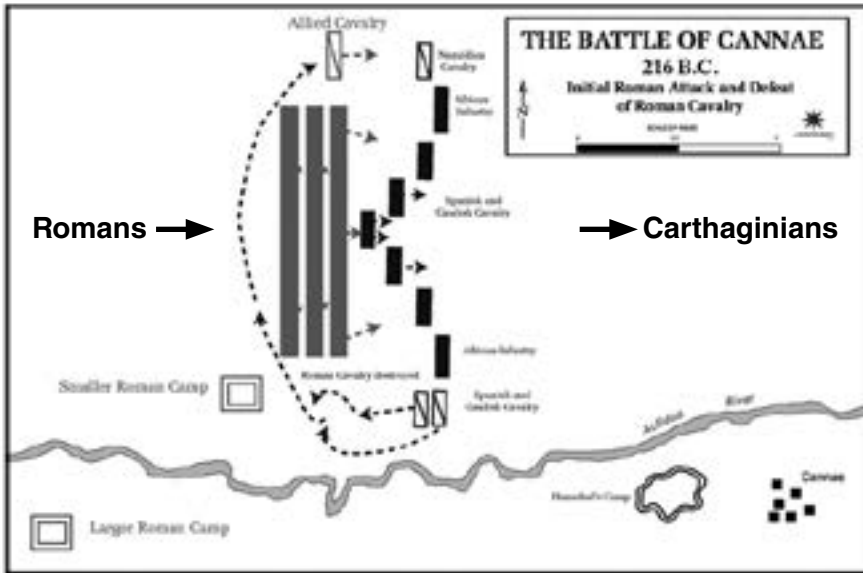
247 BCE: PARTHIA

Parthian kingdom, whose center of gravity is northeast Iran, founded in the Middle East and Near East during the Arsacid Dynasty.

Arch-enemy of the Roman Empire to the west, Parthia reaches its greatest extent around 150 BCE under Mithridates and lasts approximately 500 years. It was defeated in 224 CE by a vassal group, the Persians of the Sassanid Dynasty.

THE CRUCIFIXION

216 BCE: BATTLE OF CANNAE



source: The Department of History, United States Military Academy

230 BCE: ARISTARCHUS

Greek mathematician and astronomer from Samos, an island off ancient Greece.

The first recorded person to place the sun, moon and planets in correct orientation with each other (known as heliocentric theory). Although the proposal of Aristarchus was rejected as wrong and impious, the world eventually caught up with his thinking – about 1800 years later – when Copernicus proposed the same theory c.1543 in the year leading-into his death. The *heliocentric theory* was finally “accepted” about 100 years subsequent to the death of Copernicus.

221 BCE: THE (FIRST) GREAT WALL OF CHINA

First Emperor Qin Shi, regarded by many as the founding father of China, builds a wall along 1,200 miles of China’s northern border. The wall stands between 20 and 50 feet high and 18 and 30 feet wide. It has a roadway on top, along with many periodic stations and connecting towers.

The wall’s more muscular successor, the 4,000-mile-long Great Wall, is built seventeen centuries later under the extraordinary Ming Dynasty.

216 BCE: BATTLE OF CANNAE

Carthaginian (centered in what is now Tunisia) General-in-Chief Hannibal crosses the Italian Alps (after marching through Iberia and Gaul) in the winter with 30,000–40,000 men, 6,000 horses and some surviving elephants. Although he is vastly outnumbered,

THE CRUCIFIXION

216 BCE: BATTLE OF CANNAE



Hannibal's route of invasion

source: The Department of History, United States Military Academy

Hannibal annihilates the Romans' 87,000-man army at Cannae in southeast Italy, outside of Rome.

The Battle of Cannae is considered by many military historians, along with the Battle of Gaugamela (331 BCE), to be one of the greatest tactical feats in military history.

Rather than line up his forces head-to-head against the massed Romans, Hannibal assembles them in a V formation, with the point of the V pointing straight at the Romans.

When the Romans advance, Hannibal feigns weakness, and then gradually "collapses" the front of the V, steadily encircling the Romans. Hannibal then signals a full-scale attack from all directions. A massacre of the Romans ensues.

The extraordinary ignominious count of 50,000+ Romans killed in one day is a uniquely dark historic figure in military annals.

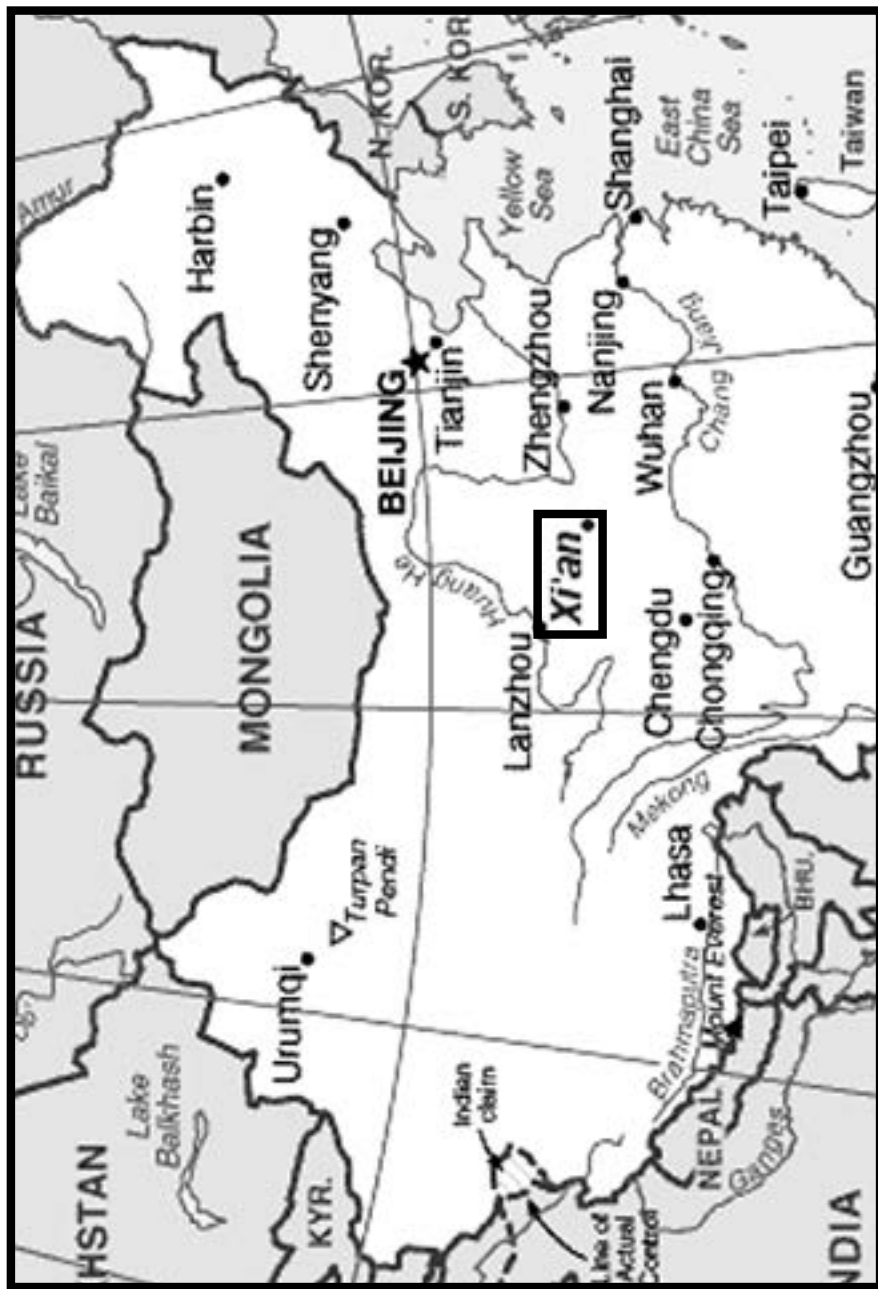
Eighty Roman senators, who came anticipating basking in the glory of a dramatic victory over Hannibal, were either killed or captured at Cannae.

Military historians speculate that if Hannibal had pressed his advantage and marched on nearby Rome itself, he would have prevailed. The weight of the evidence is, indeed, on that side of the argument. However, Hannibal paused, and Rome would not be caught vulnerable again for a long time.

Several Italian city-states hitherto aligned with Rome,

THE CRUCIFIXION

210 BCE: XIAN



CHINA

did defect to the Carthaginian side, however. They would ultimately regret that decision.

□ 210 BCE: XIAN

Emperor Qin Shi dies. Buried next to his mausoleum in the Shaanxi Province of China is the Xian necropolis (meaning “city of the dead”), life-size *terra cotta* replicas of Qin’s army.

Xian vies with Egypt’s pyramids as the preeminent (surviving) man-made “wonder of the Ancient World.”

The 8,000 clay replicas—in formation and in battle dress with weaponry and chariots—are believed to have taken 700,000 workers and craftsmen 38 years to complete.

The figurines, with an average height of about 6’ 2.5” are actually about 25 percent bigger than the actual size of the local humans at the time.

Each figure has a unique expression and facial details. The figures vary in height, uniform and hairstyle in accordance with rank.

The clay battalions were discovered in 1974 subsequent to some pottery-fragment discoveries by a local farmer.

190–120 BCE: HIPPARCHUS

Greece: One of the great astronomers of antiquity. He was involved in the development of trigonometry and the astrolabe, the earliest known star chart. He was also a geographer and mathematician. Hipparchus spent the latter part of his life in Rhodes.

210 BCE: XIAN



Terra Cotta Army

175 BCE: ANTIOCHUS IV EPHIPANES

—ascends to the Seleucid throne. Original name: Mithridates.

Greek–Syrian Seleucid king Antiochus IV Epiphanes, successor to the Egyptian Ptolemies (who, in turn, are successors to Alexander the Great).

His adversaries called him “The Mad One.”

(b. 215 BCE; d. 164 BCE)

168 BCE: “LINE IN THE SAND” / ANTIOCHUS

The Seleucid army from the east had invaded Roman Protectorate Egypt.

The Roman ambassador (Gaius Popillius Laenas) in Egypt confronts Seleucid King Antiochus IV and demands that Antiochus commit to withdraw from Egypt. The ambassador draws a circle in the sand around Antiochus. The Roman ambassador demands that Antiochus—prior to crossing the circle *line in the sand*—commit to withdrawing all his forces from Egypt, implying that Antiochus’s breach of the circle in the absence of a commitment to withdraw, would provoke war with Rome. Antiochus hesitates, but then capitulates and commits to withdraw from Egypt. The Roman ambassador shakes his hand and Antiochus exits the circle in the sand. Antiochus subsequently indeed withdraws his forces from Egypt.

169 BCE: ANTIOCHUS IV OVERSTEPS

Having been stymied in Egypt and compelled to withdraw, Antiochus turns his attention to Judea.

THE CRUCIFIXION



c. 167 BCE: THE MACCABEAN (HASMONEAN) REVOLT COMMENCES



JUDEA

Antiochus asserts strict control over Judea, plunders Jerusalem and its Temple, suppresses Jewish religious cultural and religious observances, and imposes Hellenistic practices.

On December 25th 169 BCE he profanes the Temple. Among other acts, he orders a statue of Zeus erected inside, provoking the Maccabees (the Hasmoneans) into rebellion.



c. 167–162 BCE: THE MACCABEAN (HASMONEAN) REVOLT COMMENCES

The revolt is sparked and led by the Maccabean family of Jewish priest Matisyahu and his five sons: Jochanan, Simon, Ezra, Jonathan and Judah.

Matisyahu refuses to allow anyone to sacrifice to the Greek gods—and slays a Hellenistic Jew who attempts to do so.

The revolt is on.

“Mi l’Adoshem, ai-lye”

“He who is for God, follow me!”

–Battle cry of Matisyahu the Maccabee

The Jews will follow him into battle, and will ultimately prevail, after two-and-a-half decades of battle.

167 BCE: MATISYAHU DIES

Son Judah succeeds him as preeminent leader of the revolutionary forces. While Matisyahu was more priest than commander, Judah is more commander than priest;

THE CRUCIFIXION



c. 167 BCE: THE MACCABEAN (HASMONEAN) REVOLT COMMENCES



“And he [the Maccabee brothers] crept under the elephant, and thrust him from beneath and slew it” (I Maccabees 6:48).

his actual taken name is “Judah the Hammer,” i.e. Judah the Maccabee.

Judah the Maccabee, revolutionary commander, recaptures Jerusalem and rededicates the Temple on December 14, 164 BCE (25 *Kislev*).

The Jews are offered a compromise by the Greek–Syrians: religious freedom but under continued Greek rule. The Maccabees decline the offer. They have heard that line *before*.

The Maccabean insurgency will continue another 23 years in the endeavor to shake off Greek–Syrian rule totally, and to achieve political independence. One after the other, the sons of Matisyahu—the Maccabean commanders—are killed in battle. Judah is killed in 160 BCE, and his successor Jonathan is killed in 142 BCE. Another son is crushed by a charging Greek–Syrian military elephant in battle. Finally, in the same year, under the command of Judah’s surviving brother Simon—priest, warrior and master statesman—the Greek–Syrians, now under Demetrius II, grant the Jews complete political independence (and religious freedom).

After 25 years of almost unrelenting battle against the regional successors of Alexander the Great, the Macabees have prevailed and secured total Jewish independence.

Under the command of Judah the Maccabee previously, the Jews had restored the Temple, complete with the miracle of the oil lamps. In commemoration of the miracle, Judah institutes the holiday Chanukah, when eight festive candles are lit for eight days each December (starting on the Hebrew calendar day *Kislev* 25).



142 BCE: ZUGOT PERIOD

from

Pirkei Avos

פִּרְקֵי אָבוֹת

The Wisdom of the Fathers

AVOS I:12

HILLEL AND SHAMMAI RECEIVED
THE TRADITION FROM THEM. HIL-
LEL SAYS: BE OF THE DISCIPLES OF
AARON, LOVING PEACE AND PUR-
SUING PEACE, LOVING YOUR FEL-
LOW MEN, AND DRAWING THEM NEAR TO THE TORAH.

הִלֵּל וְשַׁמַּי קִבְּלוּ מֵהֵם. הִלֵּל אוֹמֵר
הָיִי מַתְלַמְּדֵיךָ שֶׁל אַהֲרֹן אוֹהֵב
שְׁלוֹם וְרוֹדֵף שְׁלוֹם אוֹהֵב אֶת
הַבְּרִיּוֹת וְסוֹמְךָן לַתּוֹרָה:

Dedicated priest, faithful son, triumphant battle commander, leader of Israel and liberator of Jerusalem, re-dedicator of the Temple, then killed in battle, Judah the Maccabee bequeaths an extraordinary legacy for the ages.

144 BCE: ROMAN AQUEDUCTS

The Romans develop hydraulic cement, which does not dissolve in water, allowing them to build major large aqueducts bringing fresh water to Rome. Eleven aqueducts, constructed over a period of 500 years, ultimately supplied the city of Rome itself.

142 BCE–40 CE: ZUGOT PERIOD

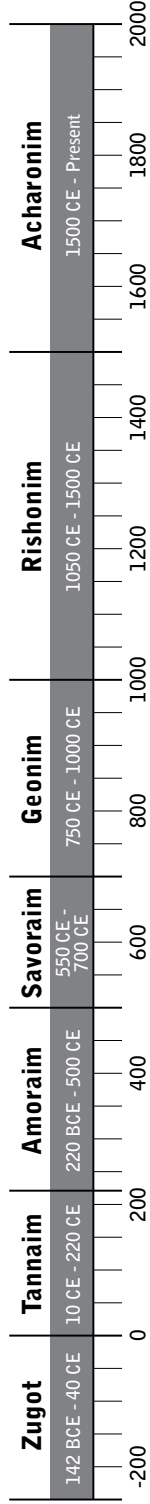
First rabbinical era; refers to the period when five successive pairs (*zugot*) of legal scholars ruled the *Beit Din HaGadol* (the Jewish supreme court).

The five pairs of *zugot* are:

- Jose ben Joezer + Jose ben Johanan
(Maccabean period)
- Joshua ben Perachyah + Nittai of Arbela
(John Hyrcanus period)
- Judah ben Tabai + Simeon ben Shetach
(Salome Alexandra period)
- Sh'maya + Abtalion
(Hyrcanus II period)
- Hillel + Shammai
(Herod the Great period)

142 BCE: ZUGOT PERIOD

THE CRUCIFIXION



The (macro) rabbinical eras (with some significant overlap) are:

Zugot – *just-described*

Tannaim

Amoraim

Savoraim

Geonim

Rishonim

Acharonim

135 BCE: HASMONEAN ASSASSINATION

Simon Maccabeus and his two sons are assassinated at the instigation of his son-in-law Ptolemy (the Judean, not the Roman general of the same name).

However, Simon Maccabeus's third son, John Hyrcanus, emerges from the maelstrom of the assassinations and assumes kingship. He incorporates an aggressive leadership style that includes the historically unusual forced conversion of the Idumeans (Edom) in the eastern regions of greater Israel, as well as a campaign against the Samaritans (in middle-northern greater Israel) including the destruction of their temple on Mt. Gerizim.

130 BCE: PHARISEES

The Pharisee thrust in Judaism begins to emerge. Meaning, Judaism periodically developed tributaries. Sometimes these tributaries “dried up” and sometimes they flourished (and flourish to this day), The Pharisee thrust flourished, leaving the Sadducee camp to ultimately wither.

The Pharisees, with Hillel to be their iconic standard-bearer, were less authoritarian and more humanistic on

THE CRUCIFIXION

130 BCE: HASMONEAN LEGACY



The coins of the Hasmoneans were filled on one side with text written in ancient Hebrew script, with the flip-side symbolizing their signature Menorah motif.

the ideological spectrum than the competing Sadducees.

The Pharisees were more into the “spirit of the law” than the technical dictates of the law. The so-called “Oral Law” – Rabbinic Law – Talmudic Law, is redacted (by Pharisee Judaism) from the so-called “Written Law” (of the Five Books of Moses). Of course, the “Oral Law” was ultimately written down—after it was debated—orally.

The Pharisees will eventually become essentially synonymous with Judaism post-Hillel, blossoming contemporaneously with the times of Jesus (who was himself a Pharisee).

Christian texts bizarrely invert the position of Jesus as *in opposition* to the mainstream and normative Jews, the Jewish-Pharisees. In reality, Jesus himself *was born and died a Pharisee*.

Furthermore, the Orthodox Jewish Pharisee Jesus followed precisely in the footsteps of—and precisely in the spirit of—the iconic humanistic Jewish-Pharisee sage Hillel (the Elder).

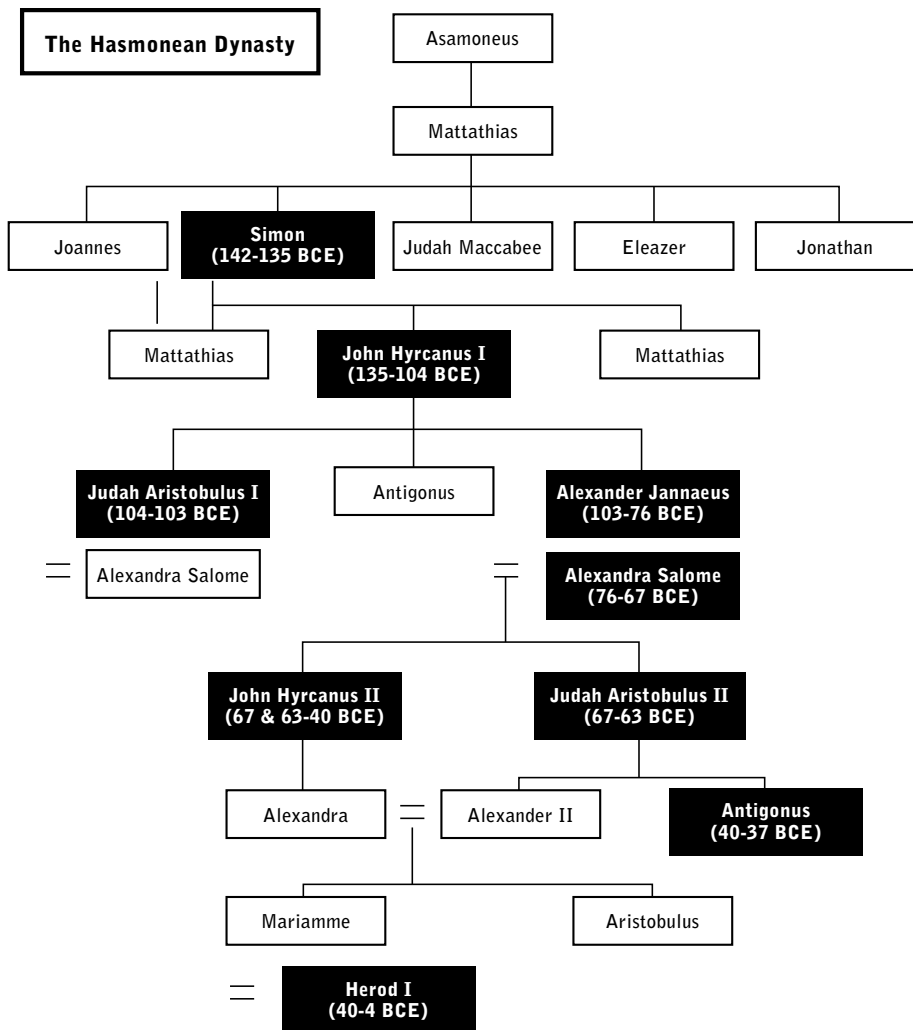
The sage Hillel (the Elder) preceded Jesus in the precise same locale—Greater Jerusalem—by precisely one generation.

Their respective humanistic ideologies are quite precisely *one and the same*. Verbatim.

The destruction of Temple II c. 70 CE, along with the destruction of the central Jewish authority and the subsequent ignominies unleashed by the Christianized Roman Empire post-Constantine, hundreds of years

THE CRUCIFIXION

130 BCE: HASMONEAN LEGACY



later, will give the development of the Talmud—a Pharisee centerpiece—more centrality and importance.



130 BCE: HASMONEAN LEGACY

The legacy of Judah the Maccabee—“Judas Macabees”—of extraordinary and victorious resistance and redemption—is so powerful that 250 years later the Romans will attempt to hunt down and slaughter all of his descendants in Judea in order to preclude another Maccabean leader from emerging to challenge them. The later demonization by the Church of the name Judas was possibly, as well, an attempt to undermine the Jewish icon of the same name, aside from the Jews as a whole.

In 145 BCE, two decades after Judas Maccabeus defeats Antiochus, his brother Simon Maccabeus sets up a Maccabean Dynasty.

Thus a revolutionary and priestly family shifts gears and asserts a royal claim to leadership, a claim far from universally welcome by the Jews. A corruption-plagued dynasty will then prevail for a hundred years before becoming a client kingdom of Rome in 37 BCE, with the installation of Rome-backed (technically non-Jewish) Herod the Great as King of Israel.

The Hasmonean dynasty was the only independent Jewish state in the four centuries after the destruction of the kingdom of Judah by the Babylonians in 586 BCE, and was essentially the last Jewish state prior to the modern state of Israel (founded in 1948).

Vicious civil war between Hyrcanus II and Aristobulus II, grandsons of Simon the Maccabee, presented political

130 BCE: HASMONEAN LEGACY

PAINTER: WOJCIECH STÄTTLER



THE CRUCIFIXION

The Romans dictating to the Jews (pre-rebellion), with the image of Mattisyahu approaching in the background.

and military vulnerability, which was then exploited by Roman general Pompey, who then adroitly and firmly secured control of Judea.

Later, when Pompey and Caesar die (48 BCE and 44 BCE, respectively), leading to yet another civil war in Rome, there is a brief Hasmonean resurgence backed by the Parthians, only to be crushed by Roman emperors Mark Antony and Octavian. By c. 6 CE, Rome will assert full control over Judea.

76 BCE: HER EXCELLENCY SHLOM-TZION

Commencement of the reign of *Shlom-Tzion* (Salome Alexandra), the only Jewish queen ever over Judea.

During her nine-year reign, Salome's son Hyrcanus II is named her successor and installed as High Priest. However, power apparently resided in the hands of his Machiavellian adviser, Antipater the Idumaeen.

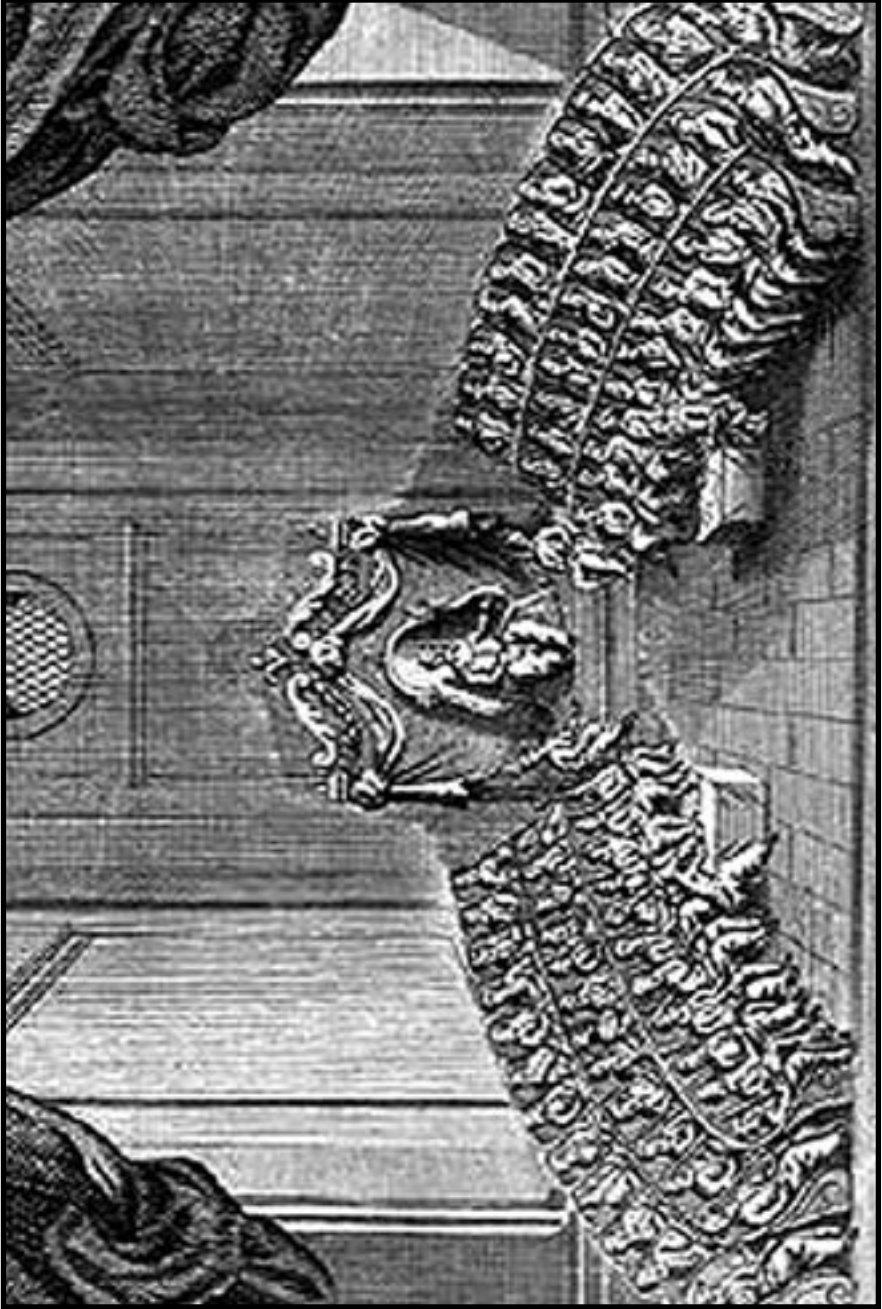
In sync with the Pharisees (Shimon ben Shetach, the head of the Pharisees, is said to have been Salome's brother) Salome reorganizes the Sanhedrin according to their (Pharisee/Sanhedrin) wishes.

This effectively re-morphs the Sanhedrin from a quasi *House of Lords* (of the aristocracy) which it had evolved into, back into a "supreme court" for the adjudication of religious matters, which was its very original mandate.

Salome was the last ruler to die as the head of a fully independent Jewish state in Israel until the formation of the modern state of Israel (2015 years later), in 1948.

THE CRUCIFIXION

68-63 BCE: ONE SPAN OF THE GREAT SANHEDRIN



source: www.campsci.com



73 BCE: SPARTACUS!

Former gladiator Spartacus leads a slave revolt back in Rome and initially defeats many Roman military forays at him.

Roman legions are brought home from abroad to deal with the insurgency.

After Spartacus is defeated and his army surrenders, all the insurgents are executed (crucified), with the 6,000 corpse-laden crucifixes lined-up along the Appian Way.

The Romans justify the execution of the surrendered army with the (spurious) assertion that “since the slaves had violated their employment contracts, they were liable for the death penalty.”

67 BCE: HYRCANUS II MARCHES

Hyrcanus II reigns as king of northern Judea from 67 to 63 BCE.

Allied with Aretas, King of the Nabataeans, he marches on Jerusalem—the stronghold of his adversary Aristobulus. Both Hyrcanus II and Aristobulus were from wings of the Maccabean dynasty.

During the siege of Jerusalem, the forces of Hyrcanus II commit two interrelated acts that incense the majority of the Jews and brand him forever:

- 1) The besieged forces in Jerusalem (under Aristobulus) had need of pascal lambs for the Passover rites, and negotiated the purchase of one* from the besieging forces—apparently for the huge sum of 1,000 drachmas. However, instead of

THE CRUCIFIXION

63 BCE: ROMAN GENERAL POMPEY...



Flight of Pompey from Pharsalia. [showing General Pompey in the Battle of Pharsalus (48 BCE): Caesar v. Pompey during “Caesar’s Civil War,” fifteen years after Pompey entered Judea]

sending a paschal lamb, the besieging Hyrcanus II forces malevolently and insultingly send a pig.

- 2) The pious ONI (Honi Hameagel), along for the march with the forces of Hyrcanus II, refuses to support Hyrcanus II after the pig incident and is consequently stoned to death by Hyrcanus II's forces.

The two actions in concert give Hyrcanus II a niche in infamy in Jewish lore. The internecine fighting also has other consequences—in that it gave the Roman General Ptolemy the opening he needed to soon *de facto* seize control of the country.

* Many rabbinic commentators say: **one/day** for each day of Passover, even though the parties were warring against each other. Some commentators go still further and say **one/day** was tendered ongoing to maintain the Temple rites.



68–63 BCE: ONE SPAN OF THE GREAT SANHEDRIN

Preeminent successor to the Great Assembly, noted above. An assembly of the 71 greatest Jewish judges and scholars of the time. Various Sanhedrins will appear periodically over a several hundred year span.

The august legislative–judicial–Halakhic body was one of the most esteemed institutions in Judaism's entire 3,000–year history.

According to both Roman and Jewish sources, the Sanhedrin ceased prosecuting capital cases after Rome asserted control over Jerusalem/Judea c. 6 CE.

When Rome co-opted the Sanhedrin c. 6 CE, by imposing the High Priest (which Rome selected) as head

THE CRUCIFIXION

57 BCE – 935 CE: SHILA (a.k.a. SILLA) DYNASTY



Shila (a.k.a. Silla) at its height in 576 CE.

of the Sanhedrin in lieu of the *nassi* (president), the prerogative of the Sanhedrin is effectively neutralized.

The co-opted and neutered Sanhedrin—shell of that era indeed later dissolves completely in 68 CE in the wake of the Roman military counter-onslaught, as the Jewish community in Judea implodes under Roman assault, destruction, and subsequent exile in the decade following—upon 68 CE.

63 BCE: ROMAN GENERAL POMPEY...

Roman general Pompey maneuvers for conquest of Judea.

He enters Judea with his forces and, allied for the moment with Hyrcanus II (of the Maccabean dynasty), captures Jerusalem from Aristobulus (also of the Maccabean Dynasty).

The internecine Jewish fighting between Hyrcanus II and Aristobulus had given General Pompey the opening to capture Jerusalem with minimal cost. The fighting was an offshoot of total Hasmonean squandering of the political capital bequeathed to them by Matisyahu and his son, Judah the Maccabee.

General Pompey first appoints (the weak) Hyrcanus II as a puppet-government symbol via the high priesthood, and dispatches Aristobulus, nemesis of Hyrcanus II and pretender to the Jewish throne, back to Rome in chains.

Meanwhile, the puppet Hyrcanus II not only has Pompey on his case, but the old intriguer Antipater. Twenty-three years later, in 40 BCE, Emperor Mark Antony will strip Hyrcanus II of all titles, and then bestow the kingship on Herod.



63 BCE: ROMAN RULERS: POMPEY >

Roman Rulers

**Early days Roman Empire
Emperors**

- > 63 BCE
Cicero and Antonius are the two Roman Consuls
[Gen. Pompey readily captures Jerusalem 63 BCE after adroit alliance with one of the two contending Jewish forces in the internal Jewish civil war]
- > Various Roman 2–Consul leaderships
63 BCE–60 BCE
- > The First Triumvirate
60 BCE–53 BCE
Caesar/Crassus/Pompey
- > Pompey
52 BCE–49 BCE
- > Caesar
49 BCE–44 BCE
[Caesar crosses the Rubicon (river) 49 BCE]
- > Mark Antony / Octavian (Augustus) / Lepidus
known as “The Second Triumvirate”
44 BCE–33 BCE
[Herod named tetrarch of Jerusalem 42 BCE]
- > Octavian (Augustus)
33 BCE–27 BCE
(but Octavian not ruling as emperor yet)
- > During subsequent period of Roman Empire:

continued (on next page)


63 BCE: ROMAN RULERS: POMPEY >
Latter days Roman Republic Rulers

And the Roman emperors:

- > Octavian (Augustus a.k.a. Caesar Augustus
a.k.a. Augustus Caesar)
27 BCE to 14 CE
[Herod dies 4 BCE; Jesus born c. 5 BCE]
- > Tiberius
14 CE to 37 CE
[Jesus crucified by Pontius Pilate 33 CE]
- > Caligula
37 CE to 41 CE
- > Claudius
41 CE to 54 CE
[“Letter to Alexandrians” (i.e. Alexandrian Jews)]
- > Nero
54 CE to 68 CE
[1st Jewish Revolt c. 67 CE;
General Vespasian dispatched to Judea]
- > [“Year of the Four Emperors”:
Galba; Otho; Vitellius...Vespasian 68 CE]
- > Vespasian
69 CE to 79 CE
[son Titus ends Jewish Revolt I in 70–73 CE]
- > Titus
79 CE to 81 CE
[Arch of Titus; Vesuvius erupts 79 CE;
Fire of Rome 80 CE;
multi-year notable public romance with (Jewish ‘royal’) Berenice]
- > Domitian
81 CE to 96 CE
- > Nerva
96 CE to 98 CE
- > Trajan
98 CE to 117 CE
[2nd Jewish Revolt (Kitos) 115 CE–117 CE]
- > Hadrian
117 CE to 138 CE
[3rd Jewish Revolt (*Bar Kochba*) 132 CE–136 CE]

continued (on next page)



63 BCE: ROMAN RULERS: POMPEY >

- > Antoninus Pius
138–161 CE
- > Lucius Aurelius Verus
161–169 CE
- > Marcus Aurelius
161–180 CE
- > Commodus
180–192 CE
- > Pertinax
193 CE
- > Didius Julian
193 CE
- > Septimius Severus
193–211 CE
- > Caracalla
211–217 CE
- > Geta
209–211 CE
- > Macrinus
217–218 CE
- > Elagabalus
218–222 CE
- > Alexander Severus
222–235 CE
- > Maximin
235–238 CE
- > Gordian I
238 CE
- > Gordian II
238 CE
- > Pupienus
238 CE
- > Balbinus
238 CE

continued (on next page)

**63 BCE: ROMAN RULERS: POMPEY >**

- > Gordian III
238–244 CE
- > Philipp "Arabs"
244–249 CE
- > Decius
249–251 CE
- > Hostilian
251 CE
- > Gallus
251–253 CE
- > Aemilian
253 CE
- > Valerian
253–259 CE
- > Gallienus
259–268 CE
- > Claudius II
268–270 CE
- > Quintillus
270 CE
- > Aurelian
270–275 CE
- > Tacitus
275–276 CE
- > Florian
276 CE
- > Probus
276–82 CE
- > Carus
282–283 CE
- > Numerian
283–284 CE
- > Carinus
283–285 CE

continued (on next page)



63 BCE: ROMAN RULERS: POMPEY >

- > Diocletian
284–305 CE
- > Maximian
286–305 CE
- > Constantius I
305–306 CE
- > Galerius
305–311 CE
- > Severus
306–307 CE
- > Maximian
306–308 CE
- > Maxentius
306–312 CE
- > Maximinus Daia
308–313 CE
- > Licinius
311–324 CE
- > Constantine I
311–337 CE
- > Constantine II
337–340 CE
- > Constantius II
337–361 CE
- > Constans
337–350 CE
- > Julian
361–363 CE
- > Jovian
363–364 CE
- > Valentinian I
364–375 CE
- > (East) Valens
364–378 CE

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**63 BCE: ROMAN RULERS: POMPEY >**

- > (West) Gratian
375–383 CE
- > (West) Valentinian II
375–392 CE
- > (West) Theodosius
379–395 CE
- > Maximus
383–388 CE
- > Eugenius
392–394 CE
- > (East) Arcadius
395–408 CE
- > (West) Honorius
395–423 CE
- > Constantius III
421 CE
- > Johannes
423–425 CE
- > (East) Theodosius II
408–450 CE
- > (West) Valentinian III
425–455 CE
- > (East) Marcian
450–457 CE
- > (West) Petronius
455 CE
- > (West) Avitus
455–456 CE
- > (West) Majorian
457–461 CE
- > (East) Leo I
457–474 CE
- > (West) Severus
461–465 CE

continued (on next page)



63 BCE: ROMAN RULERS: POMPEY >

- > (West) Anthemius
467–472 CE
- > (West) Olybrius
472 CE
- > (West) Glycerius
473 CE
- > (West) Julius Nepos
473–475 CE
- > (East) Leo II
473–474 CE
- > (East) Zeno
474–491 CE
- > (West) Romulus Augustulus
475–476 CE
- > (East) Zeno
474–491 CE
- > (East) Basiliscus
475–476 CE
- > (East) Anastasius I
491–518 CE
- > (East) Justin I
518–527 CE
- > Justinian
527–565 CE
- > Justin II
565–578 CE
- > Tiberius II
578–582 CE
- > Maurice
582–602 CE
- > Phocas I
602–610 CE
- > Heraclius I
610–641 CE

continued (on next page)

**63 BCE: ROMAN RULERS: POMPEY >**

- > Constantine III
641 CE
- > Heracleon
641 CE
- > Constans II
641–668 CE
- > Constantine IV
668–685 CE
- > Justinian II
685–695 CE
- > Leontius
695–698 CE
- > Tiberius II
698–705 CE
- > Justinian II
705–711 CE
- > Philippicus
711–713 CE
- > Anastasius II
713–715 CE
- > Theodosius III
715–717 CE
- > Leo III
717–741 CE
- > Constantine V
741–775 CE
- > Leo IV
775–780 CE
- > Constantine VI
780–797 CE
- > Irene
797–802 CE
- > Nicephorus I
802–811 CE

continued (on next page)



63 BCE: ROMAN RULERS: POMPEY >

- > Stauracius
811 CE
- > Michael I
811–813 CE
- > Leo V
813–820 CE
- > Michael II
820–829 CE
- > Theophilus I
829–842 CE
- > Michael III
842–867 CE
- > Basil I
867–886 CE
- > Leo VI
886–912 CE
- > Alexander II
912–913 CE
- > Constantine VII
912–959 CE
- > Romanus I
920–944 CE
- > Romanus II
959–963 CE
- > Nicephorus II
963–969 CE
- > John I
969–976 CE
- > Basil II
976–1025 CE
- > Constantine VIII
1025–1028 CE
- > Zoe
1028–1050 CE

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**63 BCE: ROMAN RULERS: POMPEY >**

- > Romanus III
1028–1034 CE
- > Michael IV
1034–1041 CE
- > Michael V
1041–1042 CE
- > Constantine IX
1042–1055 CE
- > Theodora
1055–1056 CE
- > Michael VI
1056–1057 CE
- > Isaac I
1057–1059 CE
- > Constantine X
1059–1067 CE
- > Romanus IV
1068–1071 CE
- > Michael VII
1071–1078 CE
- > Nicephorus III
1078–1081 CE
- > Alexius I
1081–1118 CE
- > John II
1118–1143 CE
- > Manuel I
1143–1180 CE
- > Alexius II
1180–1183 CE
- > Andronicus I
1183–1185 CE
- > Isaac II
1185–1195 CE

continued (on next page)



63 BCE: ROMAN RULERS: POMPEY >

- > Alexius III
1195–1203 CE
- > Isaac II
1203–1204 CE
- > Alexius IV
1203–1204 CE
- > Alexius V
1204 CE
- > (Latin) Baldwin I
1204–1205 CE
- > (Latin) Henry
1205–1216 CE
- > (Latin) Peter of Courtenay
1216–1217 CE
- > (Latin) Yolande
1217–1219 CE
- > (Latin) Robert of Courtenay
1219–1228 CE
- > (Latin) Baldwin II
1228–1261 CE
- > (Latin) John of Brienne
1231–1237 CE
- > (Nicean) Theodore I
1204–1222 CE
- > (Nicean) John III
1222–1254 CE
- > (Nicean) Theodore II
1254–1258 CE
- > (Nicean) John IV
1258–1261 CE

**63 BCE: ROMAN RULERS: POMPEY >**

- > (Nicean) Michael VIII
1259–1261 CE
- > Michael VIII
1261–1282 CE
- > Andronicus II
1282–1328 CE
- > Michael IX
1295–1320 CE
- > Andronicus III
1328–1341 CE
- > John V
1341–1347 CE
- > John VI
1347–1354 CE
- > John V
1355–1376 CE
- > Andronicus IV
1376–1379 CE
- > John V
1379–1391 CE
- > John VII
1390 CE
- > Manuel II
1391–1425 CE
- > John VIII
1425–1448 CE
- > Constantine XI
1448–1453 CE

44 BCE: JULIUS CAESAR

"DEATH OF JULIUS CAESAR"

PAINTER: VINCENZO CAMUCCINI



THE CRUCIFIXION

63 BCE: MACCABEEAN RULE CONTINUES

Maccabean (Hasmonean) rule continues, but under the protection and supervision of Rome.

**57 BCE – 935 CE: SHILA (a.k.a. SILLA) DYNASTY**

1000-year golden empire on the Korean peninsula stressing peace, spirituality, and learning, particularly during its 500-year zenith from the 400s CE to the 900s CE. [This one paragraph alone does no justice to this extraordinary dynasty – author]

49 BCE: CAESAR CROSSES THE RUBICON

Jan 10: Roman General Julius Caesar defies the Roman Senate and crosses the Rubicon River (in Northern Italy) enroute with his armies to Rome itself.

Caesar seizes power and reigns as “perpetual dictator” of Rome. This marks the transition from the 450-year-old “Roman Republic” to the commencement of the “Roman Empire.”

But Caesar’s reign is to be short-lived...

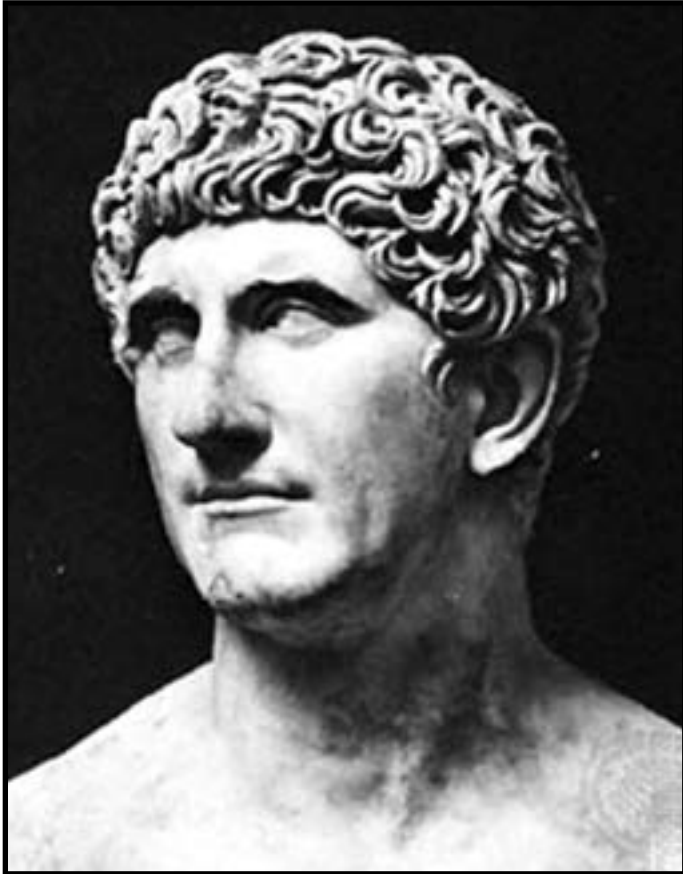
**44 BCE: JULIUS CAESAR**

The Emperor of Rome is assassinated on the “Ides of March” (March 15).

“*Et tu Brute?*” (“You as well, Brutus?”) exclaims Caesar to Brutus in Shakespeare’s play *Julius Caesar*. Brutus, once a friend of Caesar’s, had joined the rebels who assassinate Caesar, hoping to restore the Republic.

THE CRUCIFIXION

◎ 40 BCE: ROME



Mark Antony, details of a marble bust;

Vatican Museum, Rome

[There is an antecedent biblical parallel to the famous line “*Et tu Brute*” in Samuel I (*Shmuel Aleph*), written 900 years earlier:

“*Ha-gam Sha-ul ba-N’ veim?*” [“*Is (King) Saul as well with these false prophets?*”]

The rebels against Caesar are known as the *Liberatores* (“liberators”). After the initial knife thrust by a senator named Casca is deflected by Caesar, approximately sixty senators participate in the stabbing of the Emperor.

Although the assassins hoped to restore the Republic, the denouement is another civil war, which leads eventually to the (almost) permanent establishment of the Roman Empire (military dictatorship). Caesar’s adopted heir, Octavius (later to be called Augustus) becomes emperor.

Caesar is front-and-center on the stage of world history, with details of his life recorded by many historians, including Plutarch and Strabo.

Caesar authored the work *Commentaries* on his military campaigns.

Caesar was a political rival of the famous orator Cicero, and we know Caesar somewhat (filtered, of course) from Cicero’s oratory.

40 BCE: ROME

Emperor Mark Antony appoints Herod as King of Judea, but Herod assumes control only in 37 BCE, after Rome prevails in war against the invading Parthians.

40 BCE: ROME

"ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA" (1883)

PAINTER: SIR LAWRENCE ALMA-TADEMA



THE CRUCIFIXION

Mark Antony executes the leader of the Parthians, Antigonos.

Herod rises from a wealthy and influential Idumaeian family. (The Idumaeans were successors to the Edomites, descendants of Esau a.k.a. Esav) in eastern Judea/West Jordan.)

As noted above, when the Maccabean (Hasmonean) John Hyrcanus (Hyrcanus I) conquered Idumaea in 130–140 BCE, he required all Idumaeans to obey Jewish law or leave. Most Idumaeans apparently converted to Jewish practices at that point, but not necessarily including (*halachically* required) circumcision by the males.

Therefore, while King Herod identified himself as Jewish and was considered as such by much of contemporary Jewish society, nonetheless according to Jewish law he technically was not Jewish. Jewish history prefers to refer to him simply as Herod the Great.

In 40 BCE the Roman senate “elects” Herod as king of the Jews. Herod is, for sure, a kindred spirit to the Roman senate: He is power-crazed and homicidal, willing to murder his own children to advance his personal glory and power.

Ironically, the Romans, 73 years later, will mock Jesus with the same appellation. “King of the Jews” reads the placard placed around the neck of Jesus, as Pilate and functionaries crucify him.

In any event, matters come full-circle, with an Idumaeian–neo–Jew displacing a Hasmonean as king of the Jews and of Judea. Thus, in a bizarre twist of history, while the Edomites were sidelined by the patriarch Isaac way back in biblical times, an Edomite/Idumaeian ends up as ruler of the Jews.

THE CRUCIFIXION

31 BCE: THE BATTLE OF ACTIUM

“THE BATTLE OF ACTIUM”

PAINTER: LORENZO A. CASTRO



Note that, importantly, Herod was the second son of Antipater the Idumaeen, the Machiavellian manipulator of Hyrcanus II until Antipater was poisoned in 43 BCE (possibly by Herod himself).

A tax collector is pinned with the poisoning of Antipater and executed by Herod, but historians are not so sure that Herod himself was not the culprit. One would be wise not to bet against Herod being the culprit here. It would later be manifest that one of the most dangerous positions to be in, was to be part of Herod the Great's nuclear family.

In any event, Antipater, who pulled the strings behind Hyrcanus II's rule, now exerts dominion from his grave over Judea via his son Herod.

Herod's brother-in-law and competitor, Aristobulus III, the high priest, will mysteriously drown at a party, as well. With Herod's father and brother both dead, Herod is free to concentrate on being Herod the Great.



31 BCE: BATTLE OF ACTIUM

Roman power-player Octavian defeats Mark Antony in a decisive naval encounter on the Ionian Sea, off the Roman colony of Actium in Greece.

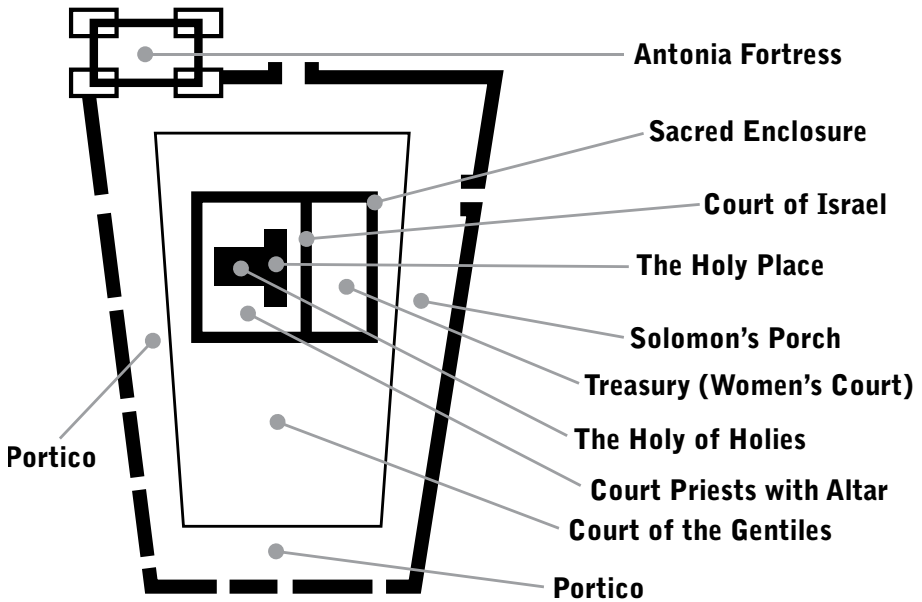
The pivotal battle is considered to mark the completion of the transition from the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire (essentially a military dictatorship).

Octavian's fleet is commanded by the legendary commander Agrippa. Mark Anthony is supported financially by his lover, Cleopatra VII, Queen of Ptolemaic Egypt.

THE CRUCIFIXION



c. 22 BCE: HEROD THE BUILDER



The Temple Area

Octavian's victory enables him to further consolidate his power. He accepts the designations *princeps* ("first citizen") and "Augustus" (meaning "August One").

The rule of Augustus initiates a two-century era of relative peace known as the "Pax Romana," or "Roman Peace." But note that the first Roman war against the Jews takes place during this (presumably *relatively* peaceful Roman) era.

Sextilis, the eighth month of the Roman calendar, is renamed *August* in his honor.

29 BCE: HEROD THE SON-IN-LAW

Herod has his mother-in-law, Alexandra, executed.

28 BCE: HEROD THE BROTHER-IN-LAW

Herod executes his brother-in-law, Kostobar.



c. 22 BCE: HEROD THE BUILDER

Herod commences major renovation and expansion of Temple II, rebuilt approximately 500 years earlier under the Persian satrap, the Jew Zerubavel.

The newly renovated complex is popularly called "Herod's Temple."

Herod's Temple complex will be somewhere between 5–15 times larger than Zerubavel's (approximately 500' x 165' complex).

With the entire Temple complex constructed on a perfectly horizontal carved-out plateau, and made of white stone, and with the central Temple itself

THE CRUCIFIXION



13 BCE: HEROD / THE OVER-ACHIEVER



Caesarea Maritima, Mediterranean coast, Israel, 2008



Model of Herod's Temple, Israel Museum, 2008

source: www.bokertov.typepad.com

constructed exclusively of glistening white marble, Herod's Temple will be one of the Wonders of the World.

Counterpoised against Herod's glistening white Temple, where doves are sacrificed to God, 1,426 miles to the west is the symbol of Rome, the gladiator amphitheatre, where human prisoners were pitted against each other and wild animals, for daytime entertainment. The Roman state-sponsored gore and sadism in the public amphitheatre would only be trumped by the licentiousness in the Palace itself.

Before Herod can commence (the grandiose-planned) construction, the wary Jewish priesthood authority requires Herod to quarry at least all the foundation and central Temple stone.

They had good reason to be wary of Herod's planned construction: the largest foundation bricks were to weigh 628 tons. (We know the weight because these bricks still exist in place today).

Inasmuch as only *Kohanim* (the Jewish priest class) are permitted to enter the central zones of the Temple, 1,000 *Kohanim* were trained as masons and stone-cutters.

It is not clear how long the entire process took from start to finish; estimates range from three years to twenty-five years. But Herod was good at completing projects and an experienced mastermind. So, the central Temple was probably complete within two years, with the entire Temple Complex essentially complete within fourteen years (by 8 BCE).

“He who has not seen the Temple of Herod,
has never seen anything truly beautiful.”

– First Century BCE saying

THE CRUCIFIXION

□ **12 BCE: EMPEROR AUGUSTUS INTERCEDES**



Bust of Augustus (Octavian), wearing the Civic Crown.

Glyptothek, Munich.

Note: Temple functions (including *karbanot*, or animal sacrifices) apparently continued uninterrupted throughout construction (somehow).

20–35 BCE: THE FLEETING MINI-STATE

Two brothers Hanilai and Hasinai (Anilaeus and Asineaus) establish a short-lived “Jewish State” in the region of Nehardea (Persia/Babylon).

13 BCE: HEROD THE OVER-ACHIEVER

Herod completes Caesarea Maritima, the port city of Caesarea (Judea), in honor of his patron Caesar in Rome, with another temple, this one dedicated to the divine spirit of Augustus. Thus, Herod shows that he is an “equal opportunity temple builder”: one for the Jews and one for the Romans.

12 BCE: EMPEROR AUGUSTUS INTERCEDES

Augustus stops Herod from putting both his sons (from his first marriage) on trial.

Herod executes them in 7 BCE anyway, as well as another son in 4 BCE.

And what of the Idumaeans (the Edomites)?

As if matters were not incredible enough, on the eve of the siege of Jerusalem by (Roman General) Titus around 69 CE, nearly 20,000 Idumaeans appeared before Jerusalem to fight on behalf of the (Jewish) Zealots.

The Idumaeans then subsequently apparently fade out of existence in the second century CE some time after

THE CRUCIFIXION



c. 10 BCE: HILLEL

PAINTER: ARTHUR SZYK



the multiple Jewish rebellions against Rome. Presumably, this fade-out of a loyal Jewish ally was not discouraged (if not actively aided and abetted) by Rome.

10 BCE: HEROD THE COMPLETER

Herod finishes adding an artificial harbor at Caesarea.



c. 10 BCE: HILLEL

Primacy of the Jewish sage Hillel (Hillel I), a.k.a. Hillel the Elder. Humanistic-focused Jewish sage and scholar, Hillel is one of the most important figures in Jewish history. Hillel is placed historically by chroniclers within at least three intersecting historical groupings of Jewish sages – the *Zugot*, the *Tannaim*, and the *Soferim*.

Cites “Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself” (Leviticus 19:18) as centerpiece dogma (as will Jesus in the generation right after him). Hillel is integral to the development of the Talmud and an intellectual/religious counter-point to Shammai.

“School of Hillel” (*Beit Hillel*) generally prevails in Talmudic debates.

Both Hillel and Shamai are sages in Jerusalem, their tenures and schools overlapping with the birth nearby of the to-be central icon of Christianity. Hillel’s teachings, whose “time has come,” are accepted and codified. Hillel: “That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow... That is the whole Torah: “all the rest is commentary.”



8 BCE: HEROD THE TRULY GREAT

Work is completed on the final outer courtyards of

THE CRUCIFIXION



8 BCE: HEROD THE TRULY GREAT



source: www.notablebiographies.com

Herod's new Temple, a cutting-edge achievement.

c. 4 BCE: JESUS IS BORN

- Jewish population “worldwide”: approximately 7 million (but heavily in the greater Mediterranean and Mesopotamian areas).
- Total world population: approximately 250 million
- So, the Jewish population as a percentage of total world population: approximately 2.8 percent. The vicissitudes of subsequent history will very significantly and steadily lower that percentage.
- Percentage of world's total Jewish population living in Herod's Judea: approximately 33 percent (2.31 million of the 7 million total “worldwide”)

The most sophisticated societies at this point in time in the Americas, are apparently located along the Andes Mountains of Peru and in the central valley of Mexico.

The ancient city of Teotihuacán (Mexico) was built—probably by the Totonac people—in central Mexico starting 200 BCE. The largest pyramid of the city, the Pyramid of the Sun, was completed by 100 CE. The city reaches its zenith around 150–450 CE, when it is the center of a powerful culture, possibly radiating well over a thousand miles.

At its peak, the city housed 150,000–250,000 people, covered over 11.5 square miles, was laid-out in very broad avenues at right angles, and had a sophisticated underground water-conduit system. Most interestingly, the city had no fortifications or military structures.

THE CRUCIFIXION

3 BCE: HEROD THE GREAT DIES



The burial place of Herod the Great – The Herodium

The city contained a special district for religious worship, with the above-noted Pyramid of the Sun—214 feet, or 17 stories high—dominating the horizon.

The religious district centerpiece is a spectacular “Avenue (in honor) of the Dead,” with an associated major plaza at its terminus, complete with architectural pond.

Note that the iconic Peruvian city of Machu Piccu (“the Lost City of the Incas”), with the nearby Cuzco administrative nexus, only comes into existence over a thousand years later, around 1450 CE.



3 BCE: HEROD THE GREAT DIES

3 BCE – 39 CE: HEROD ANTIPAS TETRARCH OF GALILEE

Whereas King Herod was relatively strong *vis à vis* Rome, his son Tetrarch Herod Antipas is weak—and successfully marginalized by Rome—and by the Roman procurator in Jerusalem. Herod Antipas’s capital was in Tiberias, on the Sea of Galilee in north east Judea...

Matters will now move apace.

end of lead-in #2

TimeLine

300 BCE - 1 BCE
